

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest for publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

INVARIABLE IN ADVANCE.

Per Annum \$2 00
Six Months 1 00
Single Copies 5c

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Each insertion, ten cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates—
column, for one year \$150 00
Half " 75 00
Quarter " 35 00

column, for 6 months 80 00
Half " 40 00
Quarter " 20 00

column, for 3 months 50 00
Half " 25 00
Quarter " 12 00

wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not
ur responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

All communications should be addressed to the
Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.
Our columns are open for the discussion of all ques-
tions affecting the working classes. All communications
must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not
necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good
faith.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall,
King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mon-
days.

Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.

Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.

Crippins, (150), every Tuesday.

Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednesdays.

Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.

Iron Moulders, every Thursday.

Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.

Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.

Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.

Printers, 1st Saturday.

Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c.,
meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and
Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.

The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temper-
ance Hall, on the 1st Monday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Join-
ers meets in the Temperance Hall, Temper-
ance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance
Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall,
(Roué's Block), Rideau street, in the follow-
ing order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.

Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.

Trades' Council, 1st Friday.

Printers, 1st Saturday.

Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.

Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in
the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.

Tailors, 2nd Monday.

Coopers, 4th Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers,
No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents
for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNANT, Niagara Street, St.
Catharines, will receive subscriptions and
give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties
calling on Mr. Ternant will please state if
they wish the paper continued.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers
regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving
notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124
Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JAN., 1874.

MR. CLAYDEN AND TRADES' UNIONS.

Some of our English exchanges have
given a short report of a meeting of
the Executive Council of the National
Laborers' Union of England, in which
hard words were exchanged between
Mr. Clayden and certain other members
of the Council, as to certain passages in
his letters to England whilst on a visit
to this country, in company with Mr.
Arch. Mr. Clayden, it seems, thought
proper in alluding, in some of his letters,
to certain leaders of Trades' Unions to
style them "pig-headed" and "blatant
demagogues." How much further than
this Mr. Clayden may have gone, we

are not in a position to say; but con-
sidering his connection with a Laborers'
Union this, we imagine, is quite suffi-
cient to make clear two things, either
of which, to our mind, would disqualify
that gentleman as a helper in any
organized movement connected with the
condition of the English Agricultural
Laborers.

In the first place, he did not seem to
understand his own position in connec-
tion with the body for which he acted;
and, in the next place, he is, as one of
our exchanges say, profoundly ignor-
ant of the Trade Unions of England
and their leaders. Now, we presume,
will venture to deny the right to Mr.
Clayden of his individual opinion, even
should he consider Trades Union
leaders "pig-headed," nor would
any one, for a single moment,
desire to control the expression of his
belief that they are "blatant dema-
gogues." Dull, indeed, would be the
world, if our controversies could not
occasionally be spiced with peppery ad-
jectives. Mr. Clayden, however, would
have had us in Canada, at least, believe
that he was a friend of unionism, and—
considering on what mission he came
here, and that he was in the company of
one whose words have always been of a
"certain sound," and whose actions
have ever been upright and straight-
forward in connection with his great
life work—we were prepared to regard
him as such; but we respectfully sub-
mit that such epithets as those used by
Mr. Clayden should be left to the ene-
mies of associated trade movements. Such
language is not that of friendship; and,
what is worse, it is not the language of
truth; and wherever it is used in the
name of honesty and candor, it will, as
a rule, turn out to be little better than
a gratuitous insult.

Though, however, Mr. Clayden's
course cannot be justified, yet there may
be some excuse found for him. An
English paper says:—

"From the first a number of gentlemen,
who have given excellent and profitable
patronage to the laborers' union, have ex-
hibited a fear of trades unionism, which,
perhaps, was natural enough on their parts,
but which, at the same time, was likely
enough to foster such prejudices as those
entertained and given expression to by Mr.
Clayden. At the meeting which took place
in London at Willis's Rooms, the trades
unionists mustered strongly, and if the ar-
rangement suggested there had been carried
out as an auxiliary force, co-operating with
the Leamington action, an immense im-
petus would have been given to the labor-
ers' movement, and great pecuniary help
might also have been secured through the
instrumentality of trades unions. The
London movement, however, was knocked
on the head by the refusal of nearly every
gentleman, not a trade unionist, refusing
co-operation, and thus an organization,
which might have done good work, was ef-
fectually strangled in its birth."

This statement, we are told, is not
made at random, nor with any desire to
prejudice those who acted in the manner
described, but simply to state the facts
to explain a lurking dislike to trades'
unions, such as that exhibited by Mr.
Clayden in some of his letters; and such,
no doubt, as more than one of the
gentlemen acting in connection with the
Leamington movement may honestly
feel.

The situation of the parties associated
together at Leamington, under the
circumstances, will probably render it
somewhat difficult to maintain good
temper and practical cordiality; and yet,
for the sake of the progress of the cause,
it is to be hoped that there will be for-
bearance on both sides in reference to
the case in hand. Trades Unionists are
bound to give advice and assistance to
the laborers—no duty lying outside
their own immediate objects can be of so
much importance as this. It has been
well observed, that—

"As the more comfort and independence
can be put into the lines of the unskilled
workers, the less liable skilled artisans will
be to the irregular and dangerous pressure
now so frequently put on them by these
men. On grounds of justice and humanity,
the men of the fields have a direct claim
on the men of the workshops; but in addition
to this, and as a sound industrial policy,
every possible help should be given by the
trades' unions to the agricultural laborers
of the country."

On the other hand, all possible allow-
ance should be made for the prejudice
of those who, though disliking trades
unions, sympathize with the agricultural
laborers, and are willing to do what they
can to assure them better treatment as
workers. Mr. Arch, we believe, has
sense enough to see that honest help
should be accepted; and that men who
agree to assist him and his fellows should,
perhaps, be not too nicely treated as to
whether in all particulars they are in
full accord with each other. It is cer-
tainly hard to cordially co-operate with
those who abuse you, and who by harsh
epithets damage the cause it is their
duty to serve; but if such a spirit as
that displayed by Mr. Clayden is, to any
extent, prevalent amongst the friends of
the agricultural laborers, it had better
be leniently dealt with. In all proba-
bility a continuance of the struggle
will tend to set matters right. There is
no escape for the workers of England
from the miseries produced by an un-
regulated competition but union, man-
aged in a wise spirit. The "pig-
headed" and "blatant demagogues"
are doing their work—which may be ac-
complished in a shorter time than many
expect. It may, possibly, be found,
that they have effected more for the
moral and material advancement of the
masses than many of those wise and
acute critics, who look down on them
and call them names.

Since the foregoing was written, we
have perused a letter from Mr. Clayden,
in which he says:—

The other points of my critics I will not
touch upon, further than to say that I
should consider it an insult to the intelligent
leaders of the trades' unions to suppose
that they would construe a reference to a
pig-headed trades unionist of Toronto into
a reflection on trades' unionists in general,
either here or there.

This is bringing his previous sweep-
ing generalities to a fine point, and
"particularizing" with a vengeance.
We should like the gentlemen now to
go a step further, and furnish the name
of the "pig-headed trade unionist of
Toronto," and the circumstances and
occasion upon which that opinion was
based.

INTEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION.

The questions of intemperance and
prohibition especially affect working
men. Intemperance, no doubt, prevails
more or less amongst all classes.
Wealth cannot protect its possessors
from the temptations and the miseries
of this vice. It assails, it degrades, it
enslaves its victims in every rank of
life. But the wealthier classes have not
the same temptation to become the vic-
tims of intemperance as the working
classes. They are surrounded by luxu-
ries; they have a thousand resources
to soothe their anxieties and cares;
they have also had the best advantage
of education and superior early train-
ing; they have the stronger motives
of high social position and the respect
of their fellow men; and finally, how-
ever guilty they may be in this respect,
they have every facility to conceal their
guilt from the public eye. But the
habits of life of working men naturally
induce the craving and the necessity
for excitement. The monotony, wear-
iness, and drudgery of incessant labor
—to sustain which is no doubt manly
and morally invigorating, but, leaving
the physical and mental faculties pros-
trated, too often drives the sufferer to
seek for relief in the excitement of intem-
perance. It is the relief the easiest
obtained, the quickest in its results;
for while it assuredly leads to deeper
prostration of body and mind and
certain ultimate misery, it secures at
once either the madness of delusive
hopes, and dreams, or the torpor which
brings oblivion of present sorrow or
care. Public opinion often restrains a
wealthy man or a professional man from
intemperance; but the working man
who expects but little from public re-
spect, or fears but little from his loss,
and who finds so many of his fellows
ready to join with him in a drinking
carouse, is in greater peril from the
temptations of this destructive vice,

and needs all the protection, and safe
guards, and inducements to subdue the
diseased appetite and to aim at a higher
moral life, that benevolence and law can
supply.

It is in this view that a Prohibitory
Law becomes a public necessity and a
public good. All medical opinion has
fully shown that intoxicating drinks
are injurious to health, and statistics
prove that drunkenness is the cause of
three-fourths of the vices, the poverty,
and the crimes that afflict society. As
we have said, no class is free from this
vice nor from its terrible consequences.
But above all, it is the working classes
that suffer the most. An immense por-
tion of their earnings of too many is wasted
in gratifying this degrading and ruin-
ous appetite. Sums of money that seem
almost fabulous—millions of dollars
per annum—capital that would set up
great co-operative factories, capable of
giving employment to every man on
strike or out of work—that would build
cities of comfortable houses and make
them the property of working men—all
is wasted annually upon the distiller
and the publican—both classes of men
that the community gains nothing by,
and who get rich on the vices, and
miseries, and poverty of their custom-
ers. We reassert that while this sub-
ject concerns the well-being of every
class, it is emphatically and especially
the great question on which the interests
of Labor depend. Self-made men who
rise from the ranks instinctively know
that their success must depend on
temperance. Well, we care nothing for
self-made men who escape from the
ranks. We wish to behold the whole
mass—not a particle here and there—
uplifted. But rigid temperance is
the element that secures the success of
one, so it is the element necessary to
the success of all.

Sobriety, entire abstinence from the
vice that sinks and enslaves, is the
instrument of salvation. The saving in
mere money would add the revenue of
a State to the resources of the
laborer, and give his class a new and
mighty power to assert his claims and
advance his cause. But there would
follow the mightier power of moral
forces. The energy now consumed by
strong drink would then be concen-
trated in combating with the injustice
and selfishness which now profit and
grow strong by the weakness and dis-
union which intemperance nourishes.
A low excitement now fills the place
which if that excitement were utterly
destroyed would be occupied by the
higher excitement which comes from
virtue, intelligence, and private and
public usefulness. While the new re-
sources, which the saving of so much
wealth would leave to the working
classes, would open up to them new
means of enjoyment. It is impossible
to suggest all the good even in the
direction of mere enjoyment that would
be the fruit of such a glorious reform.
It would embrace not only better
and more luxurious homes, higher
social happiness, but public institutions
for recreation and mental enjoyment
and ample means and time for relaxa-
tion and excursions to new lands and
scenes, which are now supposed to be
beyond the reach of all but the wealthy.

There is then no question more deep-
ly touching the future of the working
men than this one of Prohibition. It
is vain to trust to moral suasion alone.
Moral suasion has done all it can do,
and, discouraged, and almost exhausted,
it now demands the alliance of the
State. It says emphatically—"Stop
the supplies." This is the cry in all
Christian communities. In England,
it is advancing and gathering new
strength every year. But while mem-
bers of parliament, statesmen, clergy
men and medical men are joining its
forces, with no class is it more popular,
amongst none does it grow faster than
the working class. They are learning
that not only can they save money by
abstinence, but that they will gain great
moral and consequently political
strength; and so the cry goes up to the
government—"Take away the tempta-
tion which weakens and impoverishes us,
prohibit the manufacture of all intoxi-
cating drinks, and then in our diffi-

ties, and sorrows, and trials, we shall
not be tempted to our ruin by the vice
of drunkenness."

The cause of temperance is just as
much the people's cause in Canada as it
is in England. While we agitate for
greater parliamentary power, then, let
us not fail to show by our earnest desire
for moral excellence that we are worthy
of that power; and, as this question will
no doubt be brought again and again
before the country and the parliament,
let workingmen not fail to give their
sympathy, their aid, and their votes to
all who seek to remove an evil which
degrades their class and weakens their
best efforts for its advancement.

INTIMIDATION.

During the recent Parliamentary elec-
tion for West Toronto, rumors were rife
that the rights of certain workmen en-
gaged on the Central Prison were
tampered with, and penalties they were
told, would follow did any of them
exercise their franchise against the
government candidate, Mr. Moss. For
so doing, however, some two men, who
voted for Mr. Bickford, were discharged.
Mr. Bickford took up their case, and
addressed the following letter to Hon.
A. McKellar, Commissioner of Public
Works:—

Sir, I write to ask if you will kindly put
on again at work on the Central Prison,
James Smith, carpenter, 178 Strachan St.,
and Wm. Tucker, 57 Robinson street, who,
among others, were threatened with dis-
missal and afterward discharged because
they dared to exercise their rights as free-
men and vote as their consciences dictated
in the late election in West Toronto. Though
warned by the foreman what the conse-
quence would be if they persisted, they
disbelieved that the Government, through
its Commissioner, would use its power to
crush a poor workman for exercising his
right of franchise until they really found
themselves discharged for their persistence
and the means of obtaining bread for their
large families suddenly taken from them.
They are now fully repentant and regret
mistake. They have large families depend-
ent upon them, and are really suffering for
want of bread in the depth of winter. Work
they must get in some form if they would
not adopt one of two alternatives and beg
or starve.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedi-
ent servant,

E. O. BICKFORD.

Toronto, Dec. 30th, 1873.

We have not seen the reply of Mr.
McKellar to this letter, but find the
following letter bearing upon the subject
in the Mail of Tuesday.

Hon. A. McKellar, Commissioner of Public
Works.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of
31st Dec.; in reply to mine of 30th ult., in
which you say that "this is the first intimation
I have received of anyone having been inter-
fered with for voting according to their consciences
at the last election."

I note with some surprise that you are not
aware of the improper influence used over the
men employed on the Central Prison works for
the purpose of inducing them to vote for Mr.
Thomas Moss, "the Government candidate"
in that election.

2nd. That you are not aware that they did
taken from their work at eleven a.m., on
nomination day, to be present at the hustings
and "give Moss a good cheer, by order of the
Commissioner," as stated by a foreman.

3rd. That you are not aware that they did
so do, and that all those who voted, or who
expressed a willingness to vote as directed,
were paid out of the people's money, as if they
had performed a full day's work; while those
who stubbornly refused to vote for the Govern-
ment candidate, were not only refused payment
for their day at the hustings on nomination
day, but were discharged the Saturday pre-
vious to the election.

4th. I note with satisfaction that you are
determined to investigate the matter, and if
found true you will deeply regret it.

For the purpose of assisting your investiga-
tions in search of the truth, I enclose you one
affidavit from among several I have, which
may be useful in your researches. It is that
of Mr. Smith, 198 Strachan street.

I note with more satisfaction that William
Tucker, 57 Robinson street, has been forgiven
and taken on again, as appears from a letter
from him published in this morning's Globe,
though I was before aware of the fact.

For obvious reasons, I will not trouble you
with a copy of his deposition, and am glad to
learn from his letter that it is now discovered
by him that his dismissal was not in conse-
quence of his expressed determination to vote
as he thought proper, but by reason of some
misunderstanding with the foreman. He is at
work again, and my object in mentioning his
name is secured.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,

E. O. BICKFORD.

The following is the affidavit made
by Mr. J. Johnson Smith:—