

Ontario Workman.

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1874.

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Labor Notes.

The wagon makers have recently formed an Amalgamated Society, which has now 500 members, and a fund of £250.

The Coach Harness Furniture operatives of Birmingham have formed a Union, with bright promises of success.

The trimmers and teamers of Tyno Dock are now out on strike for a reduction of the hours of labor. Hitherto they have worked 73 hours per week. They now wish to cease work on Saturdays at four o'clock. This still leaves a week's work of 65 hours, which is quite long enough.

About 1,000 engineers, moulders, and boiler makers attended a meeting at Stockton, Eng. on Saturday, March 7th, at which it was unanimously resolved to demand an advance of 15 per cent. on the present rates of wages, an advance of 5 per cent. to be given at once, another 5 per cent. in May, and a third 5 per cent. in August.

The Warwickshire and Leicestershire Miners' Association have issued a circular to the proprietors of the coal and ironstone mines of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, suggesting "the propriety of forming a joint committee (composed of an equal number of employers and employed or their representatives) for the amicable settlement of all differences that may at any time occur."

A general meeting of master builders was held in Birmingham on Thursday March 12th, to consider the demands of the laborers, stonemasons and plasterers, who have given notice to strike unless their demands are conceded. The laborers who now receive 4½d. per hour, claim 5½d., the employers offered 5d., subject to arbitration. It was resolved unanimously by the employers to make no further offer. It was the opinion of several masters that a strike would follow. The stonemasons had asked for another ¼d. per hour, which would make their wages 8d. per hour. The employers agreed to give the extra ¼d., but a disagreement had arisen about a rule binding on the stonemasons. The plasterers claimed another ¼d. per hour, but agreed to arbitration.

The tailors of the West-end of London following in the wake of many other trades, are making a praiseworthy effort to improve their condition intellectually, by the establishment of a tailors' institute or club. The inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday evening March 11, at Quebec Institution, Portman-square. The object in view as explained by Mr. Lewis, the chairman, Mr. Sykes, and other speakers, who addressed the meeting, and which originated, it was stated, with a tailors' society already in existence, bearing the somewhat imposing title of the "Anthropometrical Society," is to improve the condition of the men intellectually, by establishing an institute wherein they may meet and profitably employ a portion of their leisure time in the interchange of thought and acquisition of general knowledge and in the enjoyment of healthful recreation.

In the home labor market several of the great industries remain depressed. At the iron centres a want of orders is largely felt, and in the various mining districts a reduction of wages is taking place. In the Forest of Dean the reduction quoted is as high as 20 per cent., and elsewhere masters seem likely to insist on a lowering of the present scale of payment. In Cornwall the tin trade is very dull, and miners are moving away in considerable numbers. In Cambridgeshire, agricultural labor is again unsettled, and from several of the more poorly paid districts a considerable migration is going on. The textile trades are but partially employed, and in some branches a serious depression is expected.—*Labor Notes.*

CONFERENCE OF LONDON ENGINEERS.—On Saturday night, March 7th, a large meeting of engineers, including many delegates from some of the largest metropolitan shops took place at the Imperial Hotel, Southwark street, Blackfriars, when, some formal business having been transacted, Mr. J. Canham, President of the Conference, took the chair. Having briefly glanced at the present aspect of the East-end movement, which has already been before the public, the chairman proceeded to mention the fact that a rise in wages of 15 per cent. had been conceded by the Newcastle masters; that in many cases the London firms had given the 2s. rise as soon as it was applied for; and that the men were quite prepared to come out of some of the East-end shops unless their demands for a rise were complied with. The present movement had

been a success as far as it had gone, although it had been slow; but it had been the means, in many cases, of bringing about the 38s. minimum, and would ultimately carry the rise through the whole trade, if the men were only determined in the matter.

Three of the spring-knife cutlers in the employ of Messrs. Rodgers and Sons, the eminent cutlery manufacturers, at Sheffield, were on Monday, March 9th, summoned at the Town Hall, under the 4th section of the Masters and Servants Act, for breach of contract. The cases arose out of a strike of spring-knife cutlers employed at this firm against a reduction of one penny in the shilling on their wages, and were merely test cases; there being 400 men on strike. The men had proposed to the complainants to refer the matter to arbitration, but they rejected their proposal. They were now prepared to abide by that offer. An agreement to the effect that the matter be referred to Mr. T. Hughes, to say whether or not, under existing circumstances, the complainants were in a position to allow their spring-knife cutlers a penny in the shilling by way of "file" money, was drawn up. It contained a condition that the men should return to work, and that, whatever the award, it should take effect from the date on which the men recommenced, and that each party should bear their own costs.

THE LONDON CARMEN.—A meeting of about 1,000 railway and town carmen was held on Sunday afternoon, March 15th, in the New Hall of Science, Old-street (Dr. Baxter Langley in the chair), to consider the best mode of action for obtaining from the masters the concessions asked for in the memorial sent to the latter. It appeared by the statement of the general secretary, Mr. Shrivens, that the memorial asking a certain increase in wages and reduction in the hours of labor was sent to the masters on the 18th January, and a reply requested on or before the 14th February. No answer having been received, a second application was made on the 18th February, an answer being asked for on or before the 28th February. No notice having been taken of the memorial, the meeting of Sunday was convened. The general secretary read a series of resolutions, which he proposed should be passed at that meeting, and sent to the employers, to the chairmen of railway companies, and to the master carmen. Chief among them was the following:—"That should the application be again refused, or left unnoticed, we respectfully request the chairmen of the railway companies and the master town carriers to submit our just claims to the impartial tribunal of arbitration, such tribunal to consist of one representative for the whole of the railway companies, one for the master carmen of London and two for the railway and town carmen."

THE BENGAL FAMINE.

The *Times* remarks that a letter from Lord Lawrence which it published is substantially the first acknowledgement from an Anglo-Indian of the highest official rank that what we have to face in India is, not mere scarcity or limited distress, but actual and potent famine, and distress upon a scale which will task all the resources both of private benevolence and of the state. We have (the *Times* says) looked long and anxiously for such an expression of opinion from those who could tell us so much and tell it with such undoubted authority. We have scarcely been able to conceive it possible that men who know India intimately, and have enjoyed the advantage of an official training, could be misled as to the impending crisis. At length the natural, though unintentional, result of this silence, and of the course taken by the India office, is apparent. Some of our large provincial towns have held their Indian famine meetings, and have shown that they think the Government have either hung back when they ought to have moved forward with decision, thus neglecting a plain duty, or that they have never believed in what other persons deemed the huge and certain extent of the approaching distress. It is very evident that official confidence has checked private benevolence. Now Lord Lawrence pleads in a voice that will be sure not to be heard in vain, for private no less than public help for India. Private benevolence will probably reach further in some cases than even Government can reach at its best. But when all is said the Indian Government cannot be allowed to rest on any such expectation. The generosity of the public may be unbounded; but the Government must understand that the lives of the people

of India are not to depend upon any committee representing private funds. Public subscriptions may fill up gaps, and work great practical good. The vital action must be the Viceroy's.

THE CLAIMANT.

The *London Globe* says:—We have received, in the usual way, the following letter, which purports to be an avowal by Charles Orton, the brother of "the Claimant," of the fraud for which the latter stands condemned, and an identification of the prisoner. We have no means of verifying the authority of the letter, but give it for what it is worth:

March 18, 1874.

Sir,—will you insert this letter and you will do me a favour as Brother of the person stiled the Claimant and make this confession being no longer able to keep within my breast such a weight I hereby state that all the proceedings carried on for the last 10 months in the Court of Queen's Bench by a Person calling himself Sir R C D Tichborne is no other a person than yours humble Servants Brother.

CHARLES ORTON.

14, George-street, Wapping.

CO-OPERATIVE ITEMS.

The Darwen Mining Company (Limited), consisting of members of the Darwen Industrial Co-operative Society, have recently secured their first cob of coal, which weighs 26 cwt. The colliery is at White Birk, near Blackburn.

The Lurgan Manufacturing Company shares profits with labor, and intends to share it with customers.

A correspondent to the *Labor News*, writing to the *Ipswich Times* of February 28th, says co-operation is making great progress in Ipswich.

The managers of the Ohio City Iron and Nail Works, at Martin's Ferry, desiring to engage a good force of workmen, and to secure all parties interested against strikes and lock-outs, offer any puddler, heater, roller, miller, coal-miner, or their assistants, leave to subscribe to the capital stock to the amount of \$10,000.

THE FIRST JAPANESE RAILROAD.

A San Francisco paper thus describes it:—The eighteen miles in length, narrow gauge, single track, extends from Yokohama, and cost \$1,350,000, borrowed by the government from the Oriental Bank and English capitalists. This road is over a level country, and has two or three bridges. It is said that the earnings of the road are about \$17,000 per month. The general manager is an Englishman, who receives the handsome salary of \$36,000 a year for his services. The road has also twelve inspectors, each at a salary of \$1,500 per year. There is also a government surgeon, who receives \$3,000 per year. The cars are of three classes, after the English style. The first class contains three compartments each holding six people, and the fare is \$1.12. The second class are common box-closets, and the fare of these is 75 cents. The third class cars are like our cattle cars, in which the passenger pays 37½ cents for a ride. The Japanese are pleased with the road, but will, perhaps, find out after a while, that they are paying a little too much to operate it.

KOSSUTH.

Two accounts have lately been published of the present condition of Kossuth. In one he is found in a miserable attic in an Italian city. He is bent with age. His cheeks are wan and hollow, and his eyes utterly dimmed. He does not recognize an old friend, and he almost groans as he stands up to bid his visitors welcome. He is very poor, and he will give you a lesson in languages for a franc. Worse than all, he has no children left, and he is very lonesome. In the other account the illustrious exile is seen; not in a garret, but in a comfortably-furnished *salon* opening into a little garden, where he spends a good deal of his time. He has not lost all his children, for two "noble sons" are with him. He is not without friends; his old aide-de-camp is always by his side, and they often go together into Switzerland and the Tyrol in search of new plants for the garden at home. He remembered a visitor perfectly, and sprang from the chair in great readiness to greet him. There is no reason whatever to believe that he teaches languages, or that his sons would for

one moment hear of his earning his living in that way. Such are the substance the two accounts. The first was sent to *Appleton's Journal* by some one who had forged the signature of Max Schlesinger; the second has been written by Mr. Charles Gilpin to the *Times*. Readers must choose for themselves. The sham Dr. Schlesinger is more in harmony with the dramatic propensities; Mr. Gilpin's has a slight advantage in the way of literal truth.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The epizootic has broken out at various points on Staten Island. Nearly all the horses of one extensive brewery have been prostrated and refuse to take any food.

A good many collieries are being opened out in Russia, where the mineral deposits are very extensive, the coalfield north of Sea of Azof alone having an area of about 1,100 square miles.

Six persons have been fined for swearing in the streets of Blackburn, and other towns in England are about to follow the example. If the idea were acted upon here a goodly fund might be raised.

According to a Brussels paper, the health of the Empress Charlotte, widow of Maximilian, is excellent, but there is no improvement in her mental condition. She lives in constant fear of being poisoned.

A Vienna journal recently contained an advertisement offering the services of "Anna Agricola, sick nurse, watches dead bodies, repairs straw chairs, applies leeches, and makes pastry, desserts and delicacies."

The Massachusetts Legislature talks of a law prohibiting the catching of trout less than three inches in length. When anglers feel a bite, will they have to wade in and measure the trout before they land him!

The *Journal des Debats* confirms the statement that the understanding existing between Austria and Russia relative to the Eastern question is entirely pacific, and in no way tends to any dismemberment of Turkey.

Ann Eliza Young, 19th wife of the Mormon Prophet, is at the Astor House here. Her suit for divorce and alimony against Young is still pending. She has been offered \$15,000 to compromise the suit, but refused.

The President of the Brooklyn City Railway has issued an order prohibiting, under pain of dismissal, any of the drivers or conductors drinking any intoxicating liquor, or to live in or enter a house where liquor is sold.

The distress amongst the work people of New York appears to be subsiding, and a number of the soup kitchens opened by the Bureau of Charities, and other benevolent associations have been closed during the past week.

Much anxiety is felt concerning the fate of the Austrian Arctic Expedition ship *Tegothoff*. Nothing has been heard of the vessel since July 21, 1872, and none of the Norwegian fishers who last summer reached the northern coast of Nova Zembla saw any traces of the expedition.

Phoebe Cousins, Esq., of St. Louis, doesn't dress like her brothers of the bar. She wears a heavy silk with a polonaise richly trimmed with black lace, roses in her bosom, white frills around her neck, and a sparkling algetta in her hair. While pleading she wears a modest jacket with black velvet hat and plumes, which she often removes while speaking.

The French town of Issoudun boasts of the most wonderful *lusus nature* of the age. It is a young girl, fourteen years old, whose body, from the waist downwards, is double, and presents two parts acting independently of each other. The two legs she uses for walking belong each to a different trunk, whilst a third one is quite insensible to pain. She enjoys good health.

Barnum has shipped 300 ear loads of hippodrome paraphernalia on the steamship *Denmark*, for his exhibition in the United States. This shipment embraces lions, tigers, leopards, camels, elephants, and a large number of monkeys and other wild animals, besides a large collection of birds, etc. He has also engaged 200 performers. What a show he'll make when he goes around.

The Zoological Society of London have just made an important addition to their collection, in the shape of a Javan rhinoceros, which is the first specimen of the species ever brought alive to Europe. There were already repre-

sentatives of three species of these huge animals in the society's gardens. This makes a fourth, and renders the series nearly complete, only two other kinds of rhinoceroses being known to exist.

The increase of Co-operative Societies is surprising. Thus, in Great Britain, from 1866 to 1871, inclusive, the number of societies had increased from 839 to nearly 1,000 with an increase of membership from 174,993 to 262,188, and an increase of share capital from £1,046,800 to £2,305,961. The Societies in Germany, on a somewhat different principle, show equally favorable results, and were but little disturbed by the paralyzing effects of the war.

The Legislature of North Carolina has passed an Act entitled, "for the better security of human life." It provides that any person who manufactures, sell, or deals in spirituous liquors as a drink, of any name or kind, containing foreign properties or ingredients poisonous to the system, shall be punished with five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. The certificate of a competent chemist shall be *prima facie* evidence against the offender.

At Niederplanitz, near Zwickau, in Saxony, a vast bed of coal has been burning for over three thousand years. The ground above this subterranean bed of fire has become thoroughly warmed by this time, and an ingenious gardener has utilized it by planting upon it a large nursery garden. Here he raises tropical plants of all kinds, with exotic fruits which flourish with a vigor and luxuriance in the open air that the best forcing-houses could not insure.

Mr. Plimsoll's agitation in favor of "Poor Jack" bears fruit on all hands. In refusing an application to the effect that the sentence on the elder Quinn, the Belfast shipowner, might be altered, on the plea of his ill health, Judge Lawson declared that, since the case was disposed of, authentic information regarding some of the vessels owned by the Messrs. Quinn had reached him, and caused him some doubt whether the punishment he inflicted was commensurate with the offence.

Some fifty persons, including the Rev. Mr. Bergh, Professor J. W. Arnold, and Dr. C. Lorillard met to organize a cremation society in New York last week. Letters were read in favor of and in opposition to the proposed scheme, from Messrs. Dana, Fotheringham, Crolly, Stillison, and others. Resolutions were adopted for promoting cremation, and a society shall be founded on a broad basis without distinction as to creed, profession, or nationality.

The Indian papers contain accounts of the religious riots which have recently taken place in Bombay. It seems that the Moham-medans were greatly excited by the comments of one of their priests upon a translation of Washington Irving's *Life of Mahomet* which has been published by a Parsee. An offer was made to stop the sale of the book, and it was thought that the matter had been pacifically settled. However, serious riots occurred, a good deal of pillage took place, many arrests were made, and several persons were injured.

"The Claimant" seems to have left a heritage of trouble to those interested in his affairs. Dr. Kenealy, his counsel, is to be tried for alleged irregularities in his conduct of the case; and Mr. Whalley, M.P. has addressed a letter to the Benchers of Gray's inn, of which he is a member, announcing that, in consequence of the steps taken against Dr. Kenealy, he feels it his duty to appeal to the Benchers of the Middle Temple, of which Mr. Hawkins is a member, for an investigation into the conduct of that gentleman during the trial in charging him (Whalley) with conspiracy.

A number of highly respectable and strictly moral young gentlemen of St. Louis have organized an association whose object is to furnish young ladies who have no regular beat an escort to church, concerts, lectures and places of amusement. All members have to undergo a rigid examination as to character, &c., before they are admitted, and they obligate themselves to obey all orders of the Executive Committee. Any lady wishing an escort has only to apply to the President of the society, naming the evening, and a young man is detailed for the purpose. As soon as a young man becomes engaged he must withdraw from the organization.

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