

# Ontario Workman

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

Vol. II.—No. 18.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1873.

No. 70

## THE LONGSHOREMEN'S EXCURSION

The Longshoremen's Union, of this city, had their first annual excursion to Port Credit yesterday, and notwithstanding the disadvantages of a shower of rain, the trip was a very pleasant one. About two hundred went in the morning on board the steamer Bouquet, and during the day about three hundred persons went by train. Consequently the gathering was a gratifying success, and everything connected with it passed off in the most creditable manner. Various games were participated in, under the direction of the President, Mr. John Finn, and the Committee of Management. The following is a list of prize winners:—Running jump—1st prize, T. McCann, \$4; 2nd, R. Harrison, \$3. Standing hop, step and jump—1st prize, R. Harrison, \$4; 2nd, T. Brennan, \$2 50; 3rd, T. Hartnett, \$1 50. Standing jump—1st prize, R. Harrison, \$6; 2nd, T. Hartnett, \$4; 3rd, Douglas, \$2 50. The party started for home in the evening, and reached Toronto safely about midnight, after spending a very pleasant time. The hardy and industrious longshoremen may be congratulated upon the very creditable character of this, their first annual excursion, and as they have commenced so well it is to be hoped their prosperity may continue.

## ORANGE YOUNG BRITONS PIC-NIC.

The Orange Young Britons of this city contemplate holding a grand picnic in the University grove on the civic holiday, Monday next, 18th inst. A choice programme of games has been arranged for the occasion, when a goodly number of money prizes will be given to the successful competitors; and everything that will tend to the amusement and comfort of the visitors shall be done by the committee. It is unnecessary to say that the grounds which have been selected are the best situated in the city. A grand procession (which will be joined by the True Blues, who have been invited to attend), will be formed at 10 a.m. at the Temperance Hall, and proceed through the principal streets to the above grounds. They will all appear in full regalia, and be accompanied by seven bands of music. Their annual excursion will not take place till 1st September next.

## ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

This place of amusement, is fast growing into public favor. It is conducted in a manner that would not jar the most fastidious from attending. Mr. Z. R. Triggane, the manager, strictly enforces the rules of the establishment, and allows no improper language to be used on the stage, nor admits any improper characters. This fact has, and will, secure him the support of respectable people. The manager has, for the past four or five weeks admitted ladies free, who were accompanied by gentlemen, and we were pleased to see, on our last visit, that the balcony was filled with ladies, who appeared delighted with the performance. Mr. Whettony, the stage manager, is thoroughly up in his business, and performs it in a gentlemanly manner. The gymnastic feats of Mlle Fontainebleau, would alone, fully repay a visit to the Academy during the present week. The other artists engaged are thus noticed by

### OUR POET.

I stood by the door while the orchestra played  
Then the curtain rolled slowly on high,  
And out came then those three funny men  
Who make people laugh till they cry;  
Till they cry? did I say, yes, for tears on their cheeks,  
Were nothing but symptoms of joy;  
I stood, and I sat, and I laughed until weak,  
At Melville, Ferguson, and Carle the old boy;  
We next have young Murphy, with Erin's sweet geins  
With Leslie those favorites of old,  
While Ainsley walks off on his toes just the same,  
And Pauline is still good as gold;  
And now of Mahretta the beautiful queen  
Like statues of marble she stands,  
Like a maiden in autumn you often have seen  
With the sickle and sheaf in her hand;  
More anon, W.

## TRADES UNION CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

A correspondence has recently passed between Mr. Howell, Secretary Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, and the Premier, which is of some importance to trade unionists. Mr. Gladstone was asked to receive a deputation representing the views of the committee upon "several questions appertaining to trade unions," but more particularly to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the Masters and Servants Act, especially the 14th clause; the conspiracy laws, and compensation to workmen and payment of wages. Mr. Gladstone replied stating that several of these subjects were of great importance, and some of them were of considerable complication and were under his own immediate management. A conversation, however, would at this stage be unprofitable, for he (the Premier) would not be able advantageously to discuss the views of the committee. If, however, he were furnished with the propositions which the committee desired to urge, he would communicate upon them with those members of the Government who were specially competent to deal with them. The committee rejoined at some length, pointing out that not only was the Criminal Law Amendment Act condemned by 700,000 unionists, but it had also been condemned by public meetings consisting of non-society as well as of society men. The committee complain that this Act does not accord with the spirit of the age, and they suggest that if legislation be necessary in order to meet such offences as rattening a provision should be inserted in the Malicious Injury to Property Act. The committee condemn coercion and intimidation, and suggest that those cases which are not met by the ordinary law of assault could be met by the existing provisions of the Offences Against the Person Act. They also strongly deprecate "picketing" being regarded as a criminal offence, and deny that it implies either coercion, force, or intimidation. As to conspiracy, the committee support Mr. Vernon Harcourt's Bill. They ask that the 14th clause shall be omitted from the Masters and Servants Act, so that breaches of contract may be deemed a civil and not a criminal offence. They also mention other subjects to which they might have extended their remarks if Mr. Gladstone could have favored them with a personal interview. Mr. Gladstone replied that he would communicate the views of the committee to such of his colleagues as were specially competent and conversant with those matters.

## LEEDS CLOTH DRESSERS.

At a meeting of cloth dressers held at Tate's Temperance Hotel, Briggate, lately, to consider the question of increase of wages and overtime, the following resolutions were passed:—

1. That, having used every endeavor to bring the disputes to an amicable settlement, it is now resolved that action be taken, and that we cease work at the end of this week.
2. Should any of the employers offer any terms short of 15 per cent., along with the extra pay for overtime, no settlement should be come to except through the committee.

A meeting of the men on strike in connection with the cloth-dressing trade was held at Woodhouse Moor, Leeds. A resolution was passed pledging those present to stand out for the desired advance of 15 per cent. A meeting of the masters was held in the afternoon, at the Victoria Hotel. For two firms, embracing those who are finishers only, and those who are merchants and finishers, have resolved to give notice that unless work is promptly resumed by those hands who have struck work they will close all the mills at the termination of the present week, except to those hands who will agree not to support those on strike or those who may be locked out by the employers.

## FOREIGN LABOR NOTES.

A great many items of news which have reached us this week from the French provinces testify to the growing force of the movement in favor of labor organizations. Last week we gave a brief sketch of the different vicissitudes experienced by the Marseilles bakers, and related how they had been finally driven to resort to a strike. The inhabitants of this great port have naturally been the victims of this trade dispute, for it was impossible to procure other bread than the coarse round loaves manufactured by the soldiers. The journeyman bakers persisted in their strike, notwithstanding the interference of the authorities, and have hit upon an expedient which will prove most advantageous to them. They have hired all the ovens they could find on the railroad from Aubagne to Marseilles, and from Arles to Marseilles. At these different places they have begun to bake the long loaves of white delicate bread in time to catch the early trains to Marseilles, and thus supply the town with its customary food. Three depots for the sale of this bread in Marseilles have already been established—one in the Rue Thiers, and the other two in the Rue des Dominicaines and the Cours du Chapitre. The public is of course indifferent as to who produces the bread as long as it is good and palatable, thus the master bakers are in imminent danger of finding their trade altogether superseded by the co-operative production which is resulting from the present strike.

While the bakers of Marseilles have accomplished this sudden progress at Autun a co-operative oven has been recently opened, which may gradually succeed in obtaining the complete support of the working classes of that town. A local paper, the *Morvan*, has explained the principles of co-operation and encouraged this movement, while, as a more central organ, the *Progres de Lyon* publishes daily accounts of the movement of the working classes in the South and centre of France. Thus we hear that at Montbard in the Cote-d'or, a new mutual benefit society has been constituted, and that the hairdressers of Paris, Lyons, and Bordeaux are endeavoring to form a professional union. Their objects are, first to establish a co-operative fund, then a pension fund for the old, sick, and infirm. They propose further establishing professional schools, and organizing the system of apprentices, and facilitating members to journey from one town to another.

At Lisieux the want of organization has led to some rioting which can but discredit those concerned in the disturbance. In this town the cloth-weavers are compelled to work for a miserable pittance some twelve or even thirteen hours. At one of the mills a slight reduction in the hours of labor has been accorded, and the workmen concluded that this measure should be extended to all employed in the trade. As they possessed no society representing their interests, they had no delegates able to negotiate the matter, and therefore the workmen proceeded in a body to petition their employers. The authorities called out the gendarmerie and military. It is thought that this unfortunate incident will teach the employers and the non alike the utility of establishing a board of arbitration. —*Labor News*, July 26th.

## THE LABOR QUESTION.

The labor question is one of present and permanent interest. The relations of employer and employed, of those who do the hard work and those who guide the great operations of numbers of people and supply the money, without which those operations cannot be conducted—these are matters lying at the very root of social organization, and upon their adjustment depend the success or failure and the happiness or misery of society.

And, however fanatics or demagogues may endeavour to disguise the truth, the interests of both classes are identical. The capitalist and the laborer are necessary to each other. The prosperity of the one is contingent with the prosperity of the other.

When their respective interests, instead of going harmoniously forward, are permitted to come into collision, the result is sure to be damaging and may be disastrous to both.

The wages of workingmen should not only be sufficient for their support—they should be as liberal as the conditions of trade or manufacture will allow. At the same time the fair profit of the capitalist must be considered, because unless a reasonable return for his investment be secured, the successful continuance of the business in which his men are engaged is impossible. On the one hand the employer who pursues a niggardly policy, towards workingmen, keeping them as nearly as possible at starvation wages, need not expect from them good and productive work. On the other hand, the intelligent workingman must concede that, unless the interests of his employer as well as his own are regarded, the partnership can not be advantageously maintained. For they are really united in a partnership.

The employer puts into the concern his money, his business experience, and often the exacting and exhausting work of management. The employed puts into the concern his labor. With this joint stock, affairs are carried on. Throughout society we find this partnership of capital and labor, of employer and employed. Without it large operations are impracticable.

Now, it is clearly the true policy of partners to co-operate cordially, and to work together harmoniously. If they become suspicious or antagonistic, their mutual prosperity is inevitably impaired. The wise course, then, for employers and employed is to settle differences about wages, working hours, and all other matters growing out of the relations of capital and labor, by intelligent discussion, friendly consultation, and mutual concession, each side having regard to the rights of the other.

## LABORERS' DWELLINGS.

I do not think good dwellings can be provided for the very poor in London earning only 10s. and 12s. a week at a remunerative rate. Permanent relief can only be given to the London poor by so training up the poor in the country that they will not resort, when in want, for chance work to London, but emigrate, and to the properly brought up emigration brings certain relief. There should be in London no poor man earning only 12s. a week, because such, when work fails, must be in want. They can't possibly on such wages save, and being in want, they become, in hard times, a source of danger to the better off, who must either relieve them or run the risk of being robbed, and justly so, for in so wealthy a country as England nothing but our vile social arrangements cause the poor to be so badly brought up that we have always dangerous classes in our large towns ready for any villany when hired by their more guilty instigators, as at Bath the other day. We must begin at the beginning, elevate the lowest stratum of labor, that of the agricultural laborer, whence all the other streams of labor are supplied, make the cultivation of the land what the Almighty intended it to be, and what it is, in my opinion, the first and best of all employments for 99 human beings out of 100, and then all will be well. The poor will not crowd into our cities and towns to live, as Lord Shaftesbury says, and as noted in your paper of the 28th, two, three, and even four families in one room. With less competition in London among unskilled workmen their wages will rise, and with improved habits they may save enough to retire in old age, if they wish it, to a cottage in the country, for, when rights in the soil, without which the condition of the country will not improve, are conceded, land in the country in small plots will be available to all desiring one for a home and garden. With a taste for the cultivation of the land the ranks of the mechanics and artisans will not be crowded with competitors for work as at present, and their positions will be permanently improved as well as those below them. God made Adam a gardener,

and a farmer should only be a gardener on a large scale, and gardening and farming must therefore, I hold, be the best of all employments, and when people in general think with me they will cease to be anxious about their families, the world being not yet half peopled, and there being within a few days sail of England ample room for all industrious deserving men.—*Henry Atherton, in The Bee-Hive*.

## THE METAL INDUSTRIES OF ANCIENT EGYPT.

A correspondent of the *Iron Age* gives some interesting facts regarding the metallurgical knowledge of the inhabitants of the Pharaohs. Iron is believed to have gradually superseded copper in the manufacture of the implements with which the great monuments were carved and hewn from the stone. The minuteness and finish with which the hieroglyphics are sculptured on obelisk and similar structures may also be considered as strong arguments that the workmen possessed steel chisels, quite as freely tempered as any we can at present manufacture.

The skill of the first smelters was evidently not great, much more care being bestowed upon working the metal obtained than upon gaining a fair product from the ore. In the ancient mines of gold and silver can be found the debris, worked over, which doubtless yield a rich harvest. Old Pharaohs' mines have been already discovered, and it is stated that large numbers of very fine stones have been extracted and sent to Europe. In the same locality a system of fortifications has been traced out, by which the Pharaohs protected their works and workmen, and what is still more wonderful, the remains of vast iron works have been found of such magnitude, that many thousand people must have been employed upon them, unless the plant used was on as grand a scale as the largest English furnaces. These works were commenced in very early times; each Pharaoh, as continued them, added a large engraved stone to indicate the labor completed. It is believed that the hieroglyphics on these monuments are still legible, and from them much valuable historical information may be gleaned.

## THE NINE HOURS BILL AND THE TEXTILE FABRIC OPERATIVES.

A meeting of delegates to the number of 150, from the various associations of textile fabric operatives in England and Scotland, was held in Manchester, recently, at the Britannia Hotel, Great Ancoats street, to hear the report on the prospects of the movement prepared by Messrs. John Middleton, of Dundee; Wm. McWeeny, of Bradford; and Thomas Birtwhistle, of Accrington; the deputation appointed to wait upon various members of the House of Commons and solicit their support for Mr. Mundella's Nine Hours Bill. They stated that there was every prospect that the bill would pass its second reading this session by a large majority; and the short time movement's affairs looked much better than they did a short time ago. The report was considered highly satisfactory, and it was decided to continue the agitation by all lawful modes. The meeting was perfectly unanimous throughout.

Use law and physic only in cases of necessity; they that use them otherwise abuse themselves into weak bodies and light purses; they are good remedies, but bad recreations. "Beauty," says Lord Kaimes, "is a dangerous property, tending to corrupt the mind of the wife, though it soon loses its influence over the husband. A figure agreeable and engaging, which inspires affection without the ebriety of love, is a much safer choice. The graces lose not their influence like beauty. At the end of thirty years, a virtuous woman who makes an agreeable companion, charms her husband more than at first. The comparison of love to fire holds good in one respect; that the fiercer it burns the sooner it is extinguished."

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