

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion for publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions 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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1897.

OUR MISSION.

It is customary, in coming before the public with a new publication, that the management should build a platform whereon to stand; and in compliance with this rule we feel it our duty to define the position we intend to occupy, that all may know, with our first appearance, the objects we have in view in the publication of this paper.

In the first place, we intend to give to the workmen of this Province a weekly newspaper, which we wish them to feel peculiarly their own; and no effort will be lost on our part to make it such.

Through the columns of this paper we shall endeavour to lay plainly before our working brethren the true cause of all the evils that labour complains of (and we believe justly), and shall endeavour, with equal plainness and fearlessness, to show that a simple and effectual remedy can be applied to the removal of the evils.

The WORKMAN shall oppose the creation of monopolies; as opposed to the best interests of the people at large, and calculated to sap the foundations of our liberties.

The monetary system, the legalized measure of value of our country, its nature, its uses, and influence upon the labour of the country, we shall also endeavour to discuss, as by it is determined, through the accumulating power given it, the portion labour shall retain of its own productions, and the portion that shall go to non-producing capital for its use. Much may be said about the identity of labour and capital, and the certainty remains unquestioned that the one cannot exist without the other. Yet it is equally true that in the operations of those two very necessary commodities, there appears to be a non-fusible difference, not flowing from any natural cause that could exist between the producer and the representative of what is produced, but from the selfishness of our natures that have created artificial means whereby wealth can be centralized in the hands of the few by unjust and unholy usury. Production drawn from its natural channel, the few pocket and control, the masses toil on and remain poor; and such will continue to be the case until the power of money to accumulate will be more in accordance with the natural increase of production; for while all the united energies of labour in this country can only show an annual increase of about three per cent., and while we pay for the measure of value the convenience used to facilitate labour in producing this increase at the rate of seven per cent., it does not require a great amount of knowledge to comprehend the reason why wealth centralizes. It not only absorbs all surplus production, but robs the labourer of four per cent. that naturally is his subsistence money.

The ONTARIO WORKMAN shall advocate the shortening of the hours of labour, because we, as workmen, believe that the knowledge and improvements of the age we live in have long enough been superceding labour instead of lightening the task of the actual producer; and the only way we can see by which the labourer can participate in the benefits flowing from this age of improvement is by giving more leisure—yes, more of God's sunlight—for his improvement and elevation.

A good sound apprenticeship system, whereby the master will be insured the services of those he undertakes to instruct in the mysteries of his craft for a reasonable length of time, and by which the boy may

be turned upon the world a finished workman, conversant with every branch of the calling he professes to understand, will be heartily supported by the ONTARIO WORKMAN.

The ONTARIO WORKMAN will know no party. The friends and the enemies of Labor are to be found in all parties; but we shall advance and support such reforms, irrespective of party, as directly concerns the laborers of our land. We shall advocate the repeal of all laws having a class tendency in their operation—such, for instance, as the present conspiracy law of this country as relates to workmen's combinations—while Gold rings, Provision rings, Trade rings, Whiskey rings, and all other combinations of capital are allowed to fix their own margins unquestioned. We shall also claim the Franchise for every intelligent male citizen who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and the ballot to protect him in the exercise of the privilege of a free man, holding that the first duty of Government is to insure man in his inherent rights of life and liberty. Then, Government founded on the untrammelled exercise of the liberties of a living and intelligent people, shall protect property in all its natural rights. In Politics, our motto, now and always, shall be, first, Man, and then Property.

The ONTARIO WORKMAN shall advocate the more general adoption of the system of arbitration in trade disputes—seeing that it has worked so well in many instances in Great Britain—instead of strikes, as heretofore; but we feel fully alive to the fact that the employers of Great Britain have been learning the lesson of arbitration for the past century in the unpleasant school of strikes, and have learned to acknowledge the rights of the employee to organize and have a voice as a body in fixing the conditions under which they shall work. This lesson, to a great extent, has yet to be learned by the employer of labor in this Canada of ours, and that they will have ample time to learn the bitter lesson we have no doubt; and when they have found the "stamping out" system unprofitable, and having an opposite tendency to their wishes, our employers will then be equally ready to submit to the arbitration of grievances with organized workmen.

A thorough and general system of education we consider to be one of the first duties of the State; to see that in all its branches it is placed as near as possible within the reach of every son and daughter of the land.

Organization we hold to be an all-important question with all producers under the present system of society; and we shall warmly support the principle of UNION among workmen, if for no other purpose than fraternity and mutual improvement associations.

Co-operation is a principle that has shone upon the world through the progress of intelligence, and that it will gradually grow with the growth of intelligence among the masses we have not the shadow of a doubt. It, or some like system, will gradually supersede the present system, as the present has superseded the serf system of the past. It remains a question of time, that may perhaps be hastened by those unpleasant strifes that ever and anon arise between the workmen and those who would lord it over them.

The ONTARIO WORKMAN shall furnish to its readers all the latest, most reliable, and important news from all parts of the world. A careful selection of the very best standard literature shall always be found in our pages, with a well selected and appropriate story.

A review of our market reports shall also appear in our columns weekly. The progress of science and the mechanical arts we shall closely watch; and all matters of interest to the workmen of our country shall be reported. The workmen throughout these Provinces shall also find interesting correspondence from able labor advocates, residents in all parts of the Dominion, the United States, and the mother countries.

In conclusion, we throw our pages open to the honorable discussion of both sides of all questions pertaining to the amelioration of the masses of our fellow men; but under no consideration will anything of an improper or immoral tendency find its way into the columns of the WORKMAN.

DURING the Newcastle strike the GLOBE spoke of the "ill-advised attempt of the Newcastle capitalists to import labour from the Continent." What has it to say on the ill-advised attempt of Mr. Geo. Brown and the Master Printers' Association to import all the simple country lads and lasses who have a knowledge of printing to Toronto, to keep back that same nine-hour movement that he then advocated?

PROGRESSIVE TENDENCY OF WORKINGMEN.

WHEN the existence of workingmen as a body is brought before the mind, it is surprising how the subject grows as it is contemplated. It tasks the imagination to take in its multifarious parts. The producing power of the country increases every hour. The working class is becoming the formidable class, not formidable as was formerly feared in the sense of being dangerous, but formidable in the sense of vastness and beneficence. It is the great creating class. It is quite time that an adequate periodical should exist to represent this ever-developing and stupendous interest.

Workingmen have opinions of their own, and they are capable of thinking to some purpose. One publication after another must emanate from their ranks, and will, undoubtedly, effect changes in due course. There is no reason why they should be the lower class in habits, in refinement, in delicacy, in education, in manners, or in comfort. They have only to realize their own power, and the sense to act in concert, and they will soon amend their present condition.

We have the strongest conviction of the power of self-elevation on the part of our workingmen to an extent unspeakably greater than has yet been realized—nay, we are convinced that they never will be elevated in any other way than by their own efforts; and the introduction of this paper into the literary world is a tangible symptom of the existing tendency which the workingmen of Canada have to promote their own interests by men of their own ranks.

We want to help one another, as far as lies in our power, to share more fully in the rich fund of edification, refinement and elevating enjoyment to be found in the literature of our age. We would fain open up in the columns of our journal a fair little pleasure ground, into which we may turn sometimes at the close of a weary day or week of toil, there to forget the cares and irritations of life, there to enjoy some happy excitement that will leave no sting behind, as we dwell among the scenes of other days, the stirring deeds of brave and honest men, and become familiar with the passing events of our times.

In these columns we will be invited now and then to turn aside from the turmoil and strife of the world, and find peaceful enjoyment. To forget for a while more important responsibilities, and so be enabled to return to the duties of daily life refreshed and better for the change. Many gracious and gentle influences, much stirring and heart-gladdening excitement await those who will accept it in the new and glorious literature of this young aspiring country of ours. We aim only at presenting a glimpse at its untold riches—preparing, inviting, guiding our brethren to enter into their inherited possessions.

In former ages men lived and died like savages. They have risen slowly, step by step, to the dignity and happiness of civilized men. Ages of struggle and conflict have been preparing for us—for every worker among us—preparing to help us to live higher and happier lives than our forefathers lived, whether savage or serf. Bravo, good men have done their part, let us now do ours. Men of genius lay their brightest offerings at our feet. For thousands of years the glorious work has been going on, accumulating treasures of wisdom, beauty and wonder. At last the whole of the rich and mighty stream of blessings comes down to us; let it be ours to embrace them? Come join with us to help all to use them worthily? Or will any of you say, "Leave us to the old ways, the pipe and the pot are all we require?" Notwithstanding the flood of books and periodicals which are being scattered freely among the masses, and the free access which is given to the choicest thoughts of the master spirits of other days, we are persuaded that the class which is most entitled to, and would fully appreciate the benefit which these privileges furnish, is the very class that is practically excluded from them. How is the hard working mechanic to avail himself of these? Under the present system of long hours of labour, his daily toil consisting of ten or twelve hours, which is frequently prolonged by a long road to travel to his home, where he has to content himself by resting his overtaken body by his own fireside.

Much has recently been said in reference to the shortening of the hours of labour, and much yet remains to be said and done before this great social reform is satisfactorily accomplished. Workingmen's enterprises have often failed, because of the very limited time at their command. The men who are most capable of management have generally their hands over-full, from the number of important and responsible duties pressed

upon them, as a consequence of their having won the confidence of their neighbours.

For many years past various measures have been brought before the public in different countries, by different classes of the community, for the purposes of shortening the hours of labour. Some of those have been successful, and it may, we think, be asserted that in every case where they have been granted, the capitalist has not suffered by the change. We are well aware that one universal measure could never be adopted that would remedy the evils of the existing system. Some trades are more injurious to health than others. Some require a greater amount of intelligence than others. It follows, then, as a necessary consequence, that the hours of labour in the various trades should in the main be regulated by these considerations. Health is, of all blessings, the first that should engage our attention in every effort for the amelioration of the workingman, for that is the capital on which, with his abilities as a workman, he has to depend. His wages are not large, and the fluctuations in trade render it almost an impossibility to make provision for old age. It is evident, then, that no effort should be spared by which his life may be prolonged.

In no country has the movement for reducing the hours of labour made greater or more rapid strides than in Britain. Scarcely twelve months have elapsed since this movement was introduced among the Sunderland and Newcastle-on-Tyne engineers, and today nine-hours is the acknowledged standard of a day's work; and throughout Scotland eight and a-half hours is all but generally established. Notwithstanding the somewhat bitter opposition held forth by a few English employers at the birth of the agitation, it is gratifying to learn that the reduction of the hours of labour has been attained without weakening the good feeling between employers and their workmen; in fact, it has been the means of strengthening the relative position of both, as an evidence of which we copy from the December report of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., the reply of Messrs. J. & W. Dudgeon, at present the largest employers of labour in the engineering trade in London, to a letter thanking the firm for spontaneously granting the nine hours:

10, London Street, Fenchurch Street, London, E. C., 1st December, 1871.

GENTLEMEN,—We have every reason to be greatly pleased with the address you have presented to us to-day, coming as it does from 1,570 of our workmen, and given not only an account of the Nine Hours' Movement, but also as the result of the good feeling that has always existed between us, there never arising any difference which we have not amicably settled.

We have summered and wintered together, and when times were not so prosperous as now, you all know, how in a season of utter depression, by dint of hard work, we carried our share of the Thames trade over, and may say have greatly assisted in bringing back the trade to this river.

The day of nine hours has never been a difficulty so far as we are concerned, because being workmen ourselves, we know practically what 10 hours a day is when the odd quarter day is added to it; and considering that I, the head of the firm, have walked from the middle of the Commercial Road to Seward's shop for a whole bitter winter, meaning 5 o'clock in the morning and 8.30 in the evening for labour, leaving the short balance of 2 hours for book and drawing-board, the gain of one hour in the evening for these purposes must be invaluable.

In taking this address from Mr. Childs, it is a matter of great personal pleasure to me, because Mr. Childs and I have each worked the big fire in a large engineering establishment, and I am sure we both believe we could do so again, should the necessity for it arise.

I now, gentlemen, hand this address to my eldest son, that when his day comes, he will be able to see how his Uncle and his Father did when questions of moment arose between them and their workmen.

Signed, JOHN DUDGEON.

Mr. A. J. Dudgeon said, that should the time arrive when he succeeded his Father, he would endeavour to do as his Father had done.

Numerous instances of a similar kind could be produced to illustrate the friendly feeling which this movement has developed in the mother country, forming a beautiful contrast with the unjustifiable and contemptuous treatment administered by the comparatively insignificant employers of Canada.

The workingmen of this country will continue to agitate this important question until the desired object is fully attained. They will co-operate and combine their forces until their power is realized.

The self-elevation of the working classes is one of the brightest hopes of our young and prosperous country. It is clear that the term "working man" is rapidly acquiring a higher and more national significance than it ever bore before; and it is doubtless destined to grow into yet greater respectability and universality of meaning. How has it come about that the labour of the working class has become so much more fruitful in later years than formerly? The answer is, by the infusion of thought into its ranks, and by the employment of thought in directing labour. The hand-worker never went far until the brain stepped in to counsel him.

We cannot—this journal cannot—give you shorter hours—would that we could! But we may be able to help you in procuring that and other blessings, which we long to see all men enjoying.

ROOKS AHEAD!

The past two weeks have been unusually pregnant with events of importance to workingmen, and within that time, in mass meeting and other means, they have been called upon to give an expression of opinion on matters more intimately connected perhaps with two bodies of our fellow-workmen—the printers and bookbinders—but which, at the same time, indirectly affected the entire working classes. So much has been said, and so much written in connection with the printer's strike, that it will hardly be necessary for us to review the matter at any great length. The course taken by the Typographical Union was the only one left open to them, in consequence of the high-handed and arbitrary action of the "Master Printers"—save the mark—in peremptorily refusing to entertain propositions more than once offered by the men, for a conference between employer and employed, with a view to an amicable settlement of the differences existing between them—and therefore, on the employers themselves, in the eyes of all unprejudiced men, must rest the onus of the present "lock-out," for we have not the slightest doubt but that, had the proposition made by the printers been met in a friendly spirit, some means would have been found for the settlement of all difficulties, without recourse to an alternative that has engendered such bitter feelings of hostility between the two parties.

Time and again have the workmen of this city been called upon to express sympathy with, and approval of, the course taken by the Typographical Union, and the grand demonstration on Monday, by the various Trades' Unions, (a full report of which will be found in another column,) was but another expression of such sympathy, and afforded indisputable evidence that the workingmen have made the cause of the printers and bookbinders their own. Nor has the sympathy been confined to this city, or to mere words; for from all parts of the Province—nay, from all parts of the Dominion—have come expressions of approval, accompanied with substantial tokens of sympathy.

But far as it was generally believed the "Master Printers" were prepared to go to crush the men, and endeavor to "stamp out" the principle which those men are advocating, it was hardly believed possible the employers would carry measures to the extreme they have done, in causing the arrest, on Tuesday morning, of a number of the prominent members of the Typographical Union, on the charge of "conspiracy," on the strength of the "legal opinion" given to the "Master Printers' Association," based on the absolute and defective laws claimed to prevail in Canada. Should it appear that these laws are anything more than a dead letter, their erasure from our statute books will soon be accomplished.

The news of the arrest spread like wildfire through the city, and in the evening the intense feelings of the operative classes found vent in a mass meeting held in the market square, where thousands of workmen gave expression, in no unmistakable terms, to their detestation of the unjust actions of the employers in tampering with the rights and liberties of citizens. The hearing of the case was fixed for Thursday morning, and we shall refrain from further remarks on this matter till our next issue.

JOURNALISTIC.

We have to thank the Hamilton Standard for its kindly notice of the incubation of the ONTARIO WORKMAN. Should we meet the same measure of approval as our lively contemporary we shall be fully repaid for our labours.

Toronto is keeping up its reputation as the Athens of Canada, and now stands pre-eminent—possessing the best daily newspaper published in the Dominion. We allude to the daily Mail, which since its first appearance, three weeks ago, has shown a spirit of enterprise most commendable, and which we have reason to believe the public are showing their appreciation of.

We note with pleasure the starting of a new paper for the benefit of the student and artisan—the Scientific Canadian, which we expect will receive the encouragement that the enterprise of its publishers deserves.

We are glad to see renewed signs of life in our contemporary the Journal of Commerce, the proprietor of which, in conjunction with some practical printers, has recently opened an office for printing and publishing his paper, instead of depending on others for publication. Good Company has also taken a like course,—and in both of the offices we are glad to learn that the principle of the Nine Hour principle is recognized by the men are working fifty-four hours a week.

Amongst the more powerful supporters of the nine hour movement may be mentioned the London (Eng.) Times, which bases arguments in favour of the principle on moral and sanitary grounds.