

**NOTICE.**  
We shall be pleased to receive orders of interest to  
bring to the notice of our readers from all parts of the Dominion  
Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries  
of Societies, &c. are invited to send us news relating  
to the general condition of trade, etc.

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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  
should 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.  
Printers, 1st and 3rd Monday.  
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.  
Carpenters, (159), every Tuesday.  
Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednes-  
days.  
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,  
(Rowe'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. 1, 1874.

**THE DISTRESS IN THE STATES.**

The rash, wild, and wicked specu-  
lations which have led to such disastrous  
results in the United States are showing  
their consequences in the usual way—  
want, hunger and suffering amongst the  
great masses of the people. It is the  
normal condition of our social system.  
The moneyed classes sit at the fountain  
of social life, and govern and direct all  
its actions free from responsibility.  
Absolute in power, influenced by no  
high motive, and greedy only for riches,  
they blindly rush into all the excesses  
of rash speculation, as if the wealth  
they monopolized were their own; and

when failure and disaster follow and  
plunge whole communities into ruin,  
the innocent only suffer, the guilty es-  
cape. The speculator who fails in his  
schemes and is said to be ruined, only  
suffers comparative ruin; he has not  
roaped millions. He retires defeated;  
but amply supplied against destitution,  
probably has secured out of his disaster  
sufficient to commence another cam-  
paign, to enter on another speculation,  
which may or may not spread sorrow  
and suffering around him. But he will  
not suffer. He is too clever a gamester  
to risk or to pay all he owns or owes;  
and however his speculation may end  
he never fails to retire with comfort,  
abundance, and luxury. It is the peo-  
ple—the working class, that an Ameri-  
can statesman insolently describes as  
the "class that labor most diligently  
and assiduously to obtain the largest  
amount of money for the smallest pre-  
tence of work"—that suffer all the  
dread consequences of these business  
failures and wicked money speculations.  
It is their homes that are made deso-  
late, their families that are prostrated  
by hunger, and sickness, and cold; and  
they have to pay in every form of suffer-  
ing and destitution the penalties which  
fraud, and the greed of wealth, and mad  
speculations impose on the community,  
and from which the prime criminals  
escape.

With the prospect of greater suffer-  
ing before them, the working classes of  
New York and Chicago have held pub-  
lic meetings, and have, probably in the  
blindness of most natural terrors, pro-  
posed remedies and uttered threats  
which alarm the timid and the luxuri-  
ous citizen, and indicate revolution and  
lawlessness. Amongst the most noted  
remedies, and which a city cotemporary  
has quoted as evidences of extreme  
ignorance and violence, were proposals  
that the destitute should be supplied  
out of the city treasury; that no salary  
should exceed \$5,000 a year, and that  
all accumulations beyond \$300,000 by  
any one individual should be forfeited  
to the State. No doubt all this has the  
appearance of extreme violence and  
communism. But under all these wild  
proposals we see a principle of justice  
and common sense, as well as indications  
of future legislation. The clear fact  
which the unlearned multitude see is  
this: that while they are suffering want,  
there are, on every side all the evidences  
of ample wealth and abundance. The  
harvests have been rich; the granaries  
and warehouses are loaded with human  
food; the farms and pastures teem with  
provisions; the money resources of the  
nation are boundless;—why must they  
who are ready to work perish of cold  
and hunger in the presence of such  
abundance? If the distress be univer-  
sal and famine stares a nation in the  
face, then, as on board of a ship, when  
provisions run short, let ALL, from the  
lowest on board to the captain of the  
ship, be brought on short allowance.  
It is a just principle that in no commu-  
nity ought one human being, able and  
willing to work, be allowed to starve;  
and this is in fact the meaning of all  
these violent proposals. The richest and  
most independent man in the commu-  
nity never made his wealth single-  
handed. So long as the community can  
do without his superabundance let him  
possess and enjoy it. But it is no more  
his own, for self enjoyment, to the ex-  
clusion of all benevolence, than the  
land which the aristocracies of the old  
world monopolize; and when want and  
destitution are brought upon a commu-  
nity by the extravagance or selfishness  
of any class it is right that that class  
shall be made to pay the penalty of its  
wickedness or its folly by disgorging  
for the public relief a part of its inor-  
dinate and unnecessary wealth.

Then, if the proposal that no man's  
income or personal property should  
exceed a certain sum be deemed vio-  
lent and impracticable, as it may appear,  
it assuredly suggests legislative control  
over the property and wealth of a  
country to such an extent as to prevent  
those financial catastrophes which  
plunge whole communities into misery  
and poverty. We know not what  
legislation may do in this respect. But  
as the "workingmen" are the class

upon whom the heaviest suffering in-  
variably fall, it is of the highest im-  
portance that they should have their  
representatives, powerful to control  
legislation, both in Parliament and in  
Congress. We do not say that indi-  
vidual wealth when it reaches a certain  
height should be forfeited to the State.  
But we can conceive that, in the legisla-  
tion of the future, laws may be enacted  
that will prevent men monopolizing  
wealth produced by labor and mechanical  
skill for their own selfish aggrandize-  
ment; that great capitalists may be made  
responsible to the community for the  
management and dispensing of inordi-  
nate wealth; or, better than all that,  
facilities may be opened for a wider  
and more just distribution of national  
wealth amongst the wealth-producing  
classes, and measures adopted so that  
no man can possess and exercise so  
terrible a power as that which immense  
riches now give to great capitalists.  
Whether this shall be accomplished by  
imposing heavier taxation on higher  
incomes; or by making great and rash  
failures, such as those which now afflict  
the people of the States, criminal; or  
by any other method of prevention, we  
shall not attempt to indicate. This,  
however, is clear to us. All those terri-  
ble calamities which periodically fall  
upon our great business communities  
are caused by the unskilfulness, ignor-  
ance, or selfishness of the men who rule  
the financial world, who control society,  
who sit to represent us in Parliament  
or Congress, and who, it is said, have  
all the necessary qualities for govern-  
ment. Workingmen, too, have their  
finances to manage. In Trades Unions  
and other combinations they control  
large sums of money, but while em-  
ployers and the ruling classes have  
always been anxious to show how ill-  
qualified the labor class is to manage  
financial affairs, that class has never  
yet committed such frauds, such blun-  
ders as the great moneyed and business  
classes whose failures now press so  
heavily on workingmen. The great  
commercial disasters of every country  
are caused by the great money holders  
of the world; but the actual sufferers  
everywhere are the laboring classes.  
Against such an evil the legislators of  
the future must make provision, so that  
the penalty shall fall not on the innocent  
but on the guilty; and to secure such  
just legislation, the classes who chiefly  
suffer from these financial calamities  
must have a special and exclusive rep-  
resentation in Congress and Parliament.

**CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.**

On Saturday afternoon, a public  
meeting was held in the St. Lawrence  
Hall, for the purpose of discussing ques-  
tions affecting the transportation of  
produce to the seaboard. The meeting  
had been called by the Mayor at the  
requisition of a large number of mer-  
chants; but the time at which the  
meeting was called was inconvenient for  
a large number, and the consequence  
was there was a comparatively small  
attendance considering the importance  
of the meeting. It was deemed ad-  
visable, however, to proceed with the  
meeting, and Mr. Kennedy, in a speech  
of much force and merit, moved, sec-  
onded by Mr. F. Turner, the first  
resolution, as follows:—  
"Whereas, a convention of the great  
producing interests of the United States  
has been convened in the city of Wash-  
ington for the 14th of January, 1874, to take  
into consideration and devise ways and  
means to secure a shorter and cheaper  
route of transport to the Atlantic seaboard;  
and whereas the interests of this Dominion  
are so intimately connected with this great  
question, owing to our geographical posi-  
tion, and our holding the gates of the St.  
Lawrence; Be it therefore Resolved, that our  
City Council be requested to appoint three  
delegates to be present, and support, as  
the shortest and best route for accomplish-  
ing the object of the said Convention, the  
proposed canal between Lakes Huron and  
Ontario."  
Mr. Finch was called upon to move  
the second resolution, which was sec-  
onded by Mr. J. A. Donaldson. He  
gave it as his opinion that the men who  
had signed the requisition asking for a  
meeting were pledged to support the  
object of such meeting. He moved: ]

"That whereas the great requirements  
of the West, not only of the vast and rich  
portions of the Western States, but also of  
our North-western territory, imperatively  
demand that the route to the Atlantic be  
shortened and improved; and whereas the  
route of the Ontario and Huron Ship  
Canal presents the most feasible and the  
shortest outlet by water practicable to meet  
this object, be it resolved, that this meeting  
sees in the construction of the Ontario and  
Huron Ship Canal the solution of the vexed  
question now agitating the producers of  
the West and the North-west, and a project  
which will give a mighty impetus to the  
power and greatness of this Dominion."

Mr. Hewitt moved the third resolu-  
tion, which was seconded by Mr. Mc-  
Murray, as follows:  
"Resolved, That this meeting call upon  
the representatives of the people in the  
Legislature of Ontario and in the House of  
Commons and in the Provincial and Do-  
minion Governments to render such assist-  
ance in aid of the construction of the Huron  
and Ontario Ship Canal, as its bearing  
upon the future greatness and prosperity  
of the Dominion will fully justify; and  
be it further resolved, that this meeting  
call upon other cities and municipalities to  
co-operate with this city in securing a good  
representation from this Dominion at the  
Washington Convention."

During the discussion of the various  
resolutions, the entire feasibility of the  
undertaking was pointed out, and it  
was shown that there was no country in  
the world possessed of a finer natural  
system of water communication, and in  
order to utilize it to the fullest extent,  
it would be necessary to make a cutting  
connecting Lakes Huron and Ontario.  
The necessity of such a canal seems to  
be beyond question. As Mr. Hewitt  
remarked, those who had studied the  
progress of the American continent  
could see that the railroads that could  
be constructed throughout the United  
States could never be any more than  
auxiliaries to the water communication.  
During the last forty years the richest  
and best portions of this continent, on  
both sides of the line, had been opened  
up; Canada had vast stores of mineral  
wealth, and what both we and the  
Americans required was a cheap water  
communication with the market for our  
goods, produce and mineral wealth.

The project, of course, does not affect  
Toronto alone, (though undoubtedly  
this city would benefit more largely by  
its completion than any one city), and  
therefore we hope to see Canadians gen-  
erally waking up to a consideration of  
their interests in the matter, and we  
also hope that not only Toronto, but  
other towns and cities will be represent-  
ed at the convention that is to be held  
in Washington on the 14th of January,  
for the purpose of considering the ques-  
tion of a better means of transport from  
the North-west of the United States to  
the seaboard.

**LET THE WIFE BE HEARD.**

It is often the province of women to  
give "wise" counsel, and he who con-  
sults his wife in his every day business  
is, as a general rule, successful.  
Would it not be well under existing  
circumstances for workingmen to con-  
sult their wives as to whether or not  
they should accept a reduction of wages  
and continue work during the winter  
season, or refuse, and pass the winter  
in idleness.  
It is the wife who has the manage-  
ment of the domestic affairs—it is her  
who has to study how long she must  
make the bag or barrel of flour last; she  
has to meet the butcher and the baker,  
and also the smile or the frown of the  
groceryman. The children have to be  
fed and clothed through a long, cheerless  
winter, and the mind of the mother is in  
a continual strain to provide for all the  
little wants of the family. Would it not  
we say, be the part of wisdom to consult  
her before any steps are taken which  
would involve her in a sea of troubles.  
It is safe to presume she would feel the  
importance of the situation, and in  
ninety-nine cases out of a hundred her  
advice would be sound and reliable.  
There are few women that would be  
willing to compromise their husbands—  
no true wife would—and the husband  
should not consider that he is compro-  
mising himself or losing any part of his  
dignity or manhood by consulting with

his wife in a matter in which she is so  
deeply interested.

Women have keener preception in  
such matters than men, and are more to  
be trusted in the conclusions which they  
arrive at. It is their business to know,  
and they make it their study. It will  
be found that the wife will be as reluct-  
ant to favor a reduction as the husband,  
because it is sure to cut off many a  
little luxury or nick-nack that he knows  
nothing about; they are the self-sacrific-  
ing part of our nature.

If workingmen consult them now  
and be guided by their counsel in the  
present crisis, they will find them ready  
and willing to lend a helping hand when  
the hour of duty calls them again to act.  
Again, we repeat to our workingmen,  
take your wife into counsel, and while  
she may not dictate to you, if you are  
guided by her counsel, whatsoever fol-  
lows, she will bear with a lighter  
heart.—Exchange.

**IRON.**

The Toronto Globe has at length wak-  
ened to the fact that iron may be made  
in Canada. It has discovered (what the  
Spectator has been telling the public for  
years) that Canada possesses "abund-  
ance of the finest iron ore," and that  
where this exists there is also plenty of  
wood. It believes that this ore can be  
smelted and the iron laid down in  
Toronto for \$19.50 per ton, while "the  
current charge for a like quantity of an  
inferior article brought from England is  
not less than \$35." It possibly has be-  
gun to dawn upon our cotemporary's  
mind that it is not a healthy state of  
things to have iron selling as low as \$20  
a ton at Philadelphia and at \$35 in  
Toronto; and the probability is that the  
foundrymen and other workers in iron  
have begun to make it understood that  
they cannot exist under such a state of  
things. Canada is overrun just now  
with drummers from the foundries of  
the United States offering goods at prices  
below the cost of manufacture in Canada;  
and this for two reasons: 1st, they are  
compelled to realize; and 2nd, they can  
get iron at little more than half what  
the same article costs the Canadian  
manufacturer. To a certain extent,  
this state of things is exceptional; but  
while it lasts our manufacturers are  
suffering great hardships, and some of  
the weaker of them may be compelled  
to go to the wall. And the same thing  
may occur again and again, causing all  
sorts of irregularities in our trade.

The Globe says Canadian charcoal iron  
can be made for \$19.50 while English  
iron of inferior quality costs \$35. Then  
let the manufacture be encouraged by a  
reasonable duty. Though the iron may  
finally be made at the price mentioned,  
that cannot be done at first. Iron manu-  
facture is not a business that can be  
lightly undertaken. Capital and ex-  
perience are required; men must be  
imported who understand the work;  
expensive furnaces must be erected, and  
for some years, until the business is  
firmly established, the cost of production  
will be greater than that of importation.  
In the United States a reasonable duty  
has been imposed, and now, while Scotch  
iron is quoted at \$40, American is sold  
as low as \$20. But that would not have  
been the case had not the manufacture  
been encouraged as it was. We can  
make good qualities of iron cheaper in  
Canada than the people of the United  
States can, but we have had no protec-  
tion, consequently no iron. If the Globe  
wants to see the manufacture estab-  
lished, let it advocate such measures of pro-  
tection as the desired industry requires.  
—Spectator.

**TRADES' ASSEMBLY.**

We would remind delegates to the Trades'  
Assembly that at the meeting on Friday  
night, the election of officers for the ensu-  
ing term will take place.

**HOUSEKEEPERS' COMPANION.**—We have re-  
ceived from the publishers, a copy of the  
"Housekeepers' Companion"—a most complete  
volume, containing not only a large number of  
very valuable recipes, but dairy and account  
sheets which are arranged in a form to show  
the outlay with the various tradesmen for each  
day in the year. Mr. Piddington, Yonge St.,  
is the Agent for the publishers.