

Ontario Workman.

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

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Labor Notes.

The slaters of Newcastle struck work on Monday morning March 2, for an advance of wages. The masters have offered 3s per week extra on present wages, making 36s, and piece price in proportion. This was refused.

On the first Tuesday in May, the State Executive Committee of the Workingman's Labor Union of Tennessee will meet in Nashville, for the purpose of organizing and determining upon a time for a State committee to select a candidate for Governor, and make such other arrangements as they may deem necessary for the success of the party in that State.

The cutlers employed by the well-known firm of Joseph Rodgers and Sons, cutlery manufacturers, Sheffield, have turned out on strike. Shortly before Christmas the firm gave notice of a reduction of 1d. in the shilling in the wages of the men, who refused to accept it. The firm have since been completing orders on the old terms, but on Wednesday, expressed their determination to enforce the reduction. The men thereupon refused to take out work. Their idleness will soon affect other branches of the trade.

The report of the registrar of trades unions of England for the year ending 31st, December, 1872, just issued, shows the growth of these societies since the passing of the Act on the 29th, June, 1871. During 1872, 66 unions were registered, making 63 since the passing of the Act. Of these, 65 returns were made. The funds of these amounted to £112,298, with an annual income of £121,488, received from 217,128 members.

A conference of representative working men coming from the principal towns of the west of England and South Wales was held at Bristol March 9th, in favor of international arbitration. The number of delegates present was upwards of seventy, and they came from trades unions and other organizations of working men, numbering on the whole upwards of 80,000. Resolutions approving of arbitration as a substitute for war were unanimously adopted, and a petition to Parliament agreed upon.

The *Locomotive Engineers' Advocate* of Pittsburgh says:

Taken altogether, the strike on the Erie Railway has been the most wide-spread of any since the commencement of the present labor difficulties. Among the strikers now, and within the past thirty days, on that road, were the freight brakemen, carpenters, track hands and freight handlers, and all they ask for is their back pay—what is justly their own. At a meeting in Buffalo, large additions were made to the number of strikers, until there are no brakemen, carpenters, painters, or freight house employees of the road on this division. It was stated at the meeting that all they demanded was to be paid arrearage and have a fixed time set for payment of wages, and be promptly paid. A resolution was passed denouncing any attempt to interfere with passenger trains. The different organizations refuse to return to work until a part of their number is restored the amount paid before the reduction, which was from \$1 75 and \$1 50 to \$1 40 and \$1 25 per day. The strike has since been settled.

On Monday March 9th a general conference of Scotch miners' delegates was held in Glasgow, when it was reported that in all the districts the employers had caused notices to be put up stating that in some cases after the 14th, and in others after the 21st, there would be a reduction of wages. The amount was not stated but the general idea was that it would be more than 1s. a day; it was reported the miners of Lifford and Clackmannon were already working at a reduction of 1s. Mr. Macdonald, M.P., then addressed the meeting, and, after dealing with the criticisms of some of the Scotch and English papers, counselled the men to consider their position well and set their house in order as a reduction in the rate of wages was inevitable. It was then unanimously agreed that a friendly conference should be asked with the employers in order to settle the matter without coming to any dispute. A committee was appointed to correspond with the miners-owners, and arrange if possible, on a conference.

The *Chicago Workingman's Advocate* of the 27th March, says:—The Crispins of Chicago are now engaged in an unequal contest with their employers. It is right vs. might. Their

cause is the cause of the oppressed. In time gone by, their purse strings have never been drawn when an appeal for help was made to them. They now ask not only of their fellow craftsmen, but of workmen in general, that that succor which they afforded in the past will be extended to them in their emergency. We know the merits of the case, and we have no hesitancy in stating that a more just cause of complaint against petty tyranny was never presented. In fact, no labor organization can afford to see them crushed. They are good, true, No. 1, reliable union mechanics, fighting in a cause that every man with a grain of self-respect in his composition would fight for. All contributions will be greatly acknowledged by John Roche, No. 130, Forquar St., Chicago, to whom all communications should be addressed.

MR. D. J. O'DONOGHUE, M. P., ON THE FRANCHISE.

We had intended publishing the following speech of Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, M. P. for Ottawa, in our last issue, but were unable to do so. After various members had spoken upon the Income Franchise Bill, Mr. O'Donoghue said:—

MR. SPEAKER.—This measure is one that I am called upon to offer a few remarks upon before it goes to a vote in this House. I have been struck with surprise at the action of the Conservative party in this House, in reference to this very necessary measure in the interests of the workmen of this Province. This party, so far as it is represented on the floor of this House, by the Hon. member for Lincoln, as well as the Hon. member for North York and North Leeds, I find is totally opposed to such legislation. Well, Mr. Speaker, I feel very much disappointed by their action. I was one among the workmen who believed that the Conservative party in Ontario was the party from whom would emanate the measures which were to elevate the political status of our class. But a charge has come over the spirit of my dreams in this respect, for what do I find. I find, Sir, that this House has paid particular attention to the capital interest of the country—Banking, Railways and Legal Legislation—notably in exempting Bank Stock from taxation, as well as substantially and in effect depriving the people of this Province of the right of trial by jury; but, the Franchise Bill—a measure of the utmost importance to the laboring classes is sought to be forced through the House at this late hour of the session, thereby preventing a full and comprehensive discussion of its merits and demerits.

Mr. Speaker I feel satisfied in saying from this, my place in the House, that the workmen of the Province will make a note of this opposition to and neglect of measure calculated to improve their status in the community in a political point of view. It has been asserted, by the Hon. member for North York, that the effect of this measure would be to give the right of franchise to laboring men. Now, I ask why should laboring men not have a vote? Are they not good citizens; are they not educated enough to exercise the franchise intelligently? If supposed to be disqualified on either of the above grounds, I think I will be able in a few short remarks, to show that these grounds are not tenable. In the first place, I may ask when the country was threatened with invasion, who was it that composed and from what class was the great body of the Volunteers drawn on that occasion? Was it from the ranks of the legal profession? I think not. Was it from the Bankers and Mercantile classes? Again I say, no Sir. The country is well aware that it was not, but rather from the workmen of the Province—laborers, mechanics, and others of their class—and from the rental population. Oh, no, sir, the legal profession had to stay at home to mind the law and the profits—they are firm believers in the adage that "he who does not fight but runs away, may live to fight another day." Now, Mr. Speaker, there is still another little item to which I wish to draw the attention of gentlemen representing rural constituencies on the floor of the House, and it is this, whenever one of their class takes the floor to express his opinion, a perceptible sneer is always apparent on the countenances of the other Hon. gentlemen who compose this Hon. body. I also have noticed that the members of the legal profession, in all their remarks would lead the country at large to believe that workmen are mere tools in the hands of skilful manipulators who drive them

to the polls to vote just as they are told; that in fact they are not capable of, or are not competent to judge as to who was fittest to be sent to Parliament to legislate for the best interests of the country. Now from an intimate knowledge of that class, I am prepared to assert, that on all questions affecting the welfare of the country, they are just as competent to offer a pretty correct opinion as any other class of the community, because, Sir, nearly every workman in our country is a reader of a newspaper, and consequently has learned to judge of persons and things as they find them. The best evidence of the interest of the workmen in the welfare of the country, is supplied by the fact that as a rule they are not migratory. Now, Mr. Speaker, with regard to this measure itself, and as to whom it will affect, I may as well here say, that it will not meet the end which it was brought down. What the country wants is a franchise bill based on income. Now it is a well-known fact that the consumers of the imports of the country are the persons who pay all the taxes on such imports. I myself am altogether opposed to assessing the little income of the producers of the capital of the country; but since the necessities of the country are such as to require its taxation, we are willing to pay taxes as by statute now provided on an income really required to feed our families—but we want the right to vote based on what we earn, and not based on the moiety which may be assessed. We base this claim on the fact too, that every cent we earn is, by the fact of its distribution as soon as earned, for the benefit of the country at large; while bank stock for instance is locked up and exempt from taxes. The reason for this exemption is stated to be that, if not exempt, capitalists would remove to other countries. Mr. Speaker, I feel satisfied that the same argument is a sound one to urge, as to why the income of workmen should not be taxed, as this taxing of the poor man's wages will certainly tend to drive him out of the country. However, Rome was not built in a day, and as coming events cast their shadows before, I feel satisfied the time is fast approaching, when the right of franchise will be extended to all subjects of Her Majesty, who are of age, based on intelligence, as advocated by the Hon. member for London, and it only is waiting a Government who will be progressive enough to see that such is the case, and take up the question. I am also perfectly satisfied, that no ill would result to the country by the adoption of the system of Manhood suffrage, and for this reason, that its effect would only be materially felt in cities and towns, and that, under whatever form of franchise, the rural constituencies will always have a preponderating influence on the floor of this House, and, as a consequence, act as a check on any legislation that may be held to be detrimental to their interests—not that I anticipate any such legislation emanating from the representatives of workmen in this House. This measure, Mr. Speaker, is a very crude one, and was brought down at this late hour of the session, I take it, merely to fulfil the letter of the Address from the Throne. I am sorry to find that it does not display the care shown in the preparation of the Ballot Bill; and I have no hesitation in saying that the laboring classes will repudiate this bill *in toto*, and will not feel complimented by this measure of the Government. They will not be satisfied with such ill digested legislation—in fact a shadow only of what is required; and I sincerely hope the Government will see fit to withdraw this Bill and come down to the House next session, with a measure bearing evidence of sincerity in their efforts to improve the political status of the workmen, and embodying such a basis as I have here indicated. If still forced, however, Mr. Speaker, I will feel it my duty to vote for this measure—not because it is what is required, but because I wish to record my approval of the principle of voting based on income.

MEETING OF WORKINGMEN AT MONTREAL.

On Friday evening last, a meeting of workmen was held in Perry's Hall, Montreal to hear an address from Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, M.P. for Ottawa, first vice-president of the Canadian Labor League.

Mr. A. Macdonald occupied the chair, and briefly introduced Mr. O'Donoghue, who was warmly welcomed by those present. His address consists of an exposition of the principles and utility of trade organizations, and had

special reference to the work performed by the Canada Labor League. Although approving of trades unions, he deprecated strikes which, he said, always proved injurious to employers and employed. He pointed out the advantages that must accrue to the workers by sending representatives of labor to our legislative assemblies, and gave some shrewd and practical suggestions in regard to the selection of workmen's candidates. It was unwise to look to matters of creed on this point—whatever good result followed the improvement of the laws it applied alike to Protestants and Catholics. The great thing was to get a man who possessed sound principles, and one who would not swerve from their advocacy. Then all creeds of workmen should combine for the common welfare to elect him as their representative. As encouragement to Montreal to move in the matter, he stated that at the next general election in Ontario several more workmen would be elected. Mr. O'Donoghue touched also upon the emigration question, and stated that the result of his efforts in the Ontario Legislative Assembly had been to abolish the six dollar grant to skilled artisans who come into the Province. Canada had quite enough of skilled labor, and this money only induced persons to immigrate who drove established workmen out of the country. There was plenty of room for agricultural laborers and domestic servants, and he would almost agree with these classes being brought to the country by entirely free passages. In conclusion he gave some practical suggestions concerning the establishment of unions, and trusted that at the next conference of the Canada Labor League, representatives of labor would be present from Montreal. In moving a vote of thanks to the speaker, Mr. James Howley delivered an exhaustive address on the representation of labour question, in the course of which he made some excellent suggestions as to the method by which the workmen of the country should seek to advance themselves. It reflected great credit on the working classes of England that when the opportunity was afforded of electing representatives they chose men of not only mental capacity, but also of unblemished character. Mr. Odger and Mr. Bradlaugh were rejected with scorn, whilst Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Burt were triumphantly returned, proving conclusively that however other classes or political parties might disregard personal character or attainments, these were indispensable requisites for the suffrages of the real workingmen. Mr. Howley also warned workmen against the whole race of election "bummers"—none of whom, it was particularly impressed, are workmen—who are the bane of elections, and if not destroyed are likely to become the ruin of representative institutions.—The vote of thanks was cordially rendered to Mr. O'Donoghue, and after a similar compliment had been paid to the Chairman, the meeting closed.

CURRENT EVENTS.

It is rumored that there is trouble between Roumania and Turkey, growing out of the action of the former in fixing customs tariffs with other European powers.

Several deputies have presented resolutions in the Lower House of the Reichsrath, requiring the Government to expel from the country the Jesuits and all orders affiliated therewith.

Two negroes were executed in Sumter, S.C., on Friday for the brutal murder of a young white man about eight weeks ago. One of the deceased men died bravely while the other was terribly frightened and cried for mercy in the most piteous manner.

On Tuesday an old man, named Ames, was killed at Lawrence, K., by his son-in-law, named Pierce; the result of family trouble. Pierce was arrested and confined in the Calaboose until the next morning, when the mob took him out and hung him.

It is reported that King Victor Emmanuel burned an address sent to him from a number of citizens of Trieste because it contained treasonable sentiments towards Austria, and that he will send to the Austrian Government a formal disavowal of sympathy with the address.

Hon. Marshall Jewell, the United States Minister, has signed a declaration respecting trade marks. It gives to American manufacturers equal rights with those of Russia, thus completely protecting the interests of Americans. This is the first treaty signed in both the Russian and English languages.

A society of temperate drinkers has been formed at Ottawa. It is against their rules to drink except sparingly, and treating is not allowed. Each man must pay for his own drink. This is undoubtedly a move in the right direction. The absurd system of "treating" everybody, and getting "treated" in return, is a fruitful source of immoderate indulgence.

After the water was drawn off the Welland Canal, on Saturday, the body of a man was found with his hands tied behind him. Foul play is consequently suspected. The deceased presented the appearance of having been a contractor—perhaps robbed and murdered. The body of an infant, confined in a pine box, was also found in the canal.

Marshall Serrano, in a dispatch to the War Office, says his loss in an engagement yesterday was 188 men killed and wounded. His troops maintain the positions they captured from the Carlist insurgents. Having massed, he relinquished his intention of carrying the town of Pedro Abanto till the movement now being performed by his right wing is completed.

The Washington House of Commons on Foreign Relations, on Saturday voted to report and recommend the House to pass a resolution requesting the President to intercede with the Government of Great Britain for the pardon and release of John Coupar of Ohio, who is now confined in jail in England under sentence of life imprisonment for participating in Fenian raids.

A conference of representative workmen coming from the principal towns of the West of England and South Wales was held at Bristol recently, in favor of the principal of international arbitration. The number of delegates present was upwards of 70, and they came from trades unions and other organizations of workmen on the whole upwards of 80,000. Resolutions approving of arbitration as a substitute for war were unanimously adopted, and a petition to Parliament agreed upon.

Under the caption of "The Woman of the Future," the *New York Commercial Advertiser* says:—"The women of New York are undergoing treatment at the hands of sundry lady lecturers of the medical persuasion. They have received a good deal of sound advice, and much valuable instruction in hygiene, diet &c., has been imparted. But occasionally something is said which bids us pause and wonder what is signified by these alarming words. Thus when we are told that woman should be able to say, 'I won't,' and 'I will,' and that in proportion as they are strong they control, we see the potents of a coming revolution, in which 'the woman of the future' will assert her natural superiority, and dominate the race. The little hints, also, about cultivating the 'left' hand, are very suspicious.

The good people of Philadelphia are getting anxious about the proposed Exposition to be held in that city, in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birthday of the great American nation. The city of Brethely Love has promised a million dollars and is asked for another million; the State will give a million and two millions will be raised by subscription. Congress is also asked for an appropriation. But what troubles the promoters of the Exposition is not how to raise the necessary funds but whether Congress will give it an international character. When that is decided it is evident that the managers will not lack for funds to go on with the buildings even if Congress refuses an appropriation.

In the English House of Commons on Thursday, Mr. Anderson asked how many Fenian convicts were still undergoing imprisonment, where they were imprisoned, and whether Government was or was not of opinion that the time had come for their release. Mr. Cross, replied that the total number of these prisoners was sixteen. Two were now undergoing sentences for [the Manchester murder, but none for the Clerkenwell outrage. Two others were under sentence of imprisonment for fifteen years, one for seven years, and eleven who had been soldiers were sentenced for life, having been convicted of supplying arms to and otherwise assisting the insurgents. They were distributed as follows: Three were in England, eight in one part of Australia and two in another, and three in Ireland. Mr. Cross ended by declaring that the Government had no intention of interfering with the execution of their sentences. This announcement was received by the House with cheers.