

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.

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The attention of our readers is drawn to the following new advertisements in our columns, and are requested to have them in remembrance when "out shopping."

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ronto. 6

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1872.

The debate on the Treaty of Washington has proved to be the debate of the session—a debate, perhaps, in many respects the most remarkable that has taken place in the House of Commons since the Confederation of the British Provinces of North America was consummated. It has been discussed from every point of view represented by the different shades of politics in the House, and unusual ability was displayed on both sides. But under the phase in which the question is now presented between England and the United States—the high contracting parties—its further discussion is unnecessary. The two powers have now agreed to procure a postponement of the sittings of the Tribunal at Geneva until such time as the Treaty has been supplemented by an additional one, which shall meet the difficulty with regard to the disputed consequential damages, claimed by the Americans, but repudiated by Great Britain. It is questionable whether it is advisable for Canada to carry into effect the fishery clauses, while it is yet possible that the whole may prove abortive. If a solution of the point at issue with regard to consequential damages, cannot be found, then the Treaty must be regarded as a failure, and, therefore, be abandoned. It will require considerable time to secure the additional Treaty, and in the mean time our Parliament will turn its attention to the many important internal questions now before the House.

There is, however, another light in which the matter should be viewed, and that is, that the people will now have a direct opportunity of voting on the treaty. Had Great Britain and America ratified the treaty as it stands, then the sooner it would be rendered comple by the sanction of our Government the better. But the Ministry now have an opportunity of carrying the question to the highest authority in the land. If the people are in favor of ratifying the Treaty, they maintain the Government. If, on the contrary, they are in

favor of pursuing a policy antagonistic to that of the Imperial Government, then they will endorse the Opposition.

Perhaps by means of a *plebiscitum* directly accepting the responsibility of the Treaty, will be most certainly ascertained what truth there may be in the loud assertions of many who repeat that the interests of Canada have been sacrificed to the cupidity of the Americans and to the necessities of Great Britain.

A perusal of the draft of the Bill presented by Sir John A. Macdonald, to legalize Trades' Unions, will have convinced the reader that while, in some respects, the Bill is open to grave exceptions, and that there is plenty of room for amendments, yet, as the time is too short to accomplish anything this session, the Bill, as a whole, will prove acceptable to the workmen of the Dominion, who will watch its further progress with considerable interest. But, we understand, as a sort of supplement to this Bill, Sir John has brought forward another, entitled, "An Act to amend the original law relating to Violence, Threats and Molestation." From its provisions we believe it is nothing more than a copy of the "Criminal Law Amendment Act" of England, a bill which the working classes there have long been, and are now, endeavoring to have repealed. In respect to this matter we notice from an English exchange, that the Trade Societies of the United Kingdom have had forwarded, for their consideration, a printed circular requesting pecuniary aid towards carrying out the purposes for which a Parliamentary Committee was appointed by a recent Trades' Union Congress. The paper goes on to say :—

“The programme sketched out in this circular by that Committee is both an extensive and important one, and must commend itself to the sympathies of every trades union in the country. It is proposed first to endeavour to effect the repeal of the obnoxious ‘Criminal Law Amendment Act,’ which, as the Committee remark, has already ‘cost some of our societies hundreds of pounds in cases of appeal, and will yet cost much more unless it is repealed.’ The Act, indeed, if often put in force, seems fated to beggar many Trade Societies in the kingdom by profitless legal expenses; and as the Council certainly are of opinion that the funds of the Association can be spent to better purposes, than in feeing lawyers, they share to the full in the desire which every trade organization has evinced to erase this arbitrary piece of legislation from the statute-book. And there seems good reason to suppose that such an effort will prove uphill work, only to be effected by steady unanimity and considerable expenditure of money on the part of those affected by its operation; the more so as the Home Secretary only the other day informed a deputation from the late Congress that Government could not consent to repeal the law, nor yet would they be justified in seeking to repeal the Lords’ amendments, in face of the large majority in the Commons which had affirmed them.”

We would suggest that the various Trades Unions should take this matter into careful consideration, and bring all their influence to bear against the passage of this supplementary bill.

We have already alluded to the advice offered by Mr. Brown at a recent meeting of employers—that should the operatives dare to continue the agitation for the shortening of the hours of labor, the employers should shut down their works, and starve the men into submission. That advice has borne fruit in the presentment of the documents binding men for a specified term. This plan failing to accomplish its desired effect, the more recent one of posting the following notice in the different shops has been adopted:—

"From and after this date the following rules will be in force in this establishment, viz:—

"No. 1.—No outside interference in the internal affairs of this establishment will be permitted.

"No. 2.—No workman known either to *agitate or support* the agitation for reducing the number (10) of hours now constituting a days work, will be retained in our employ.

"No. 3.—No workman shall leave our employ without giving us at least ONE WEEK'S NOTICE. And after he shall have received one pay, but not before, he shall be entitled to the same notice.

"Any violation, however, of these rules will render him liable to dismissal at once. "Employees please note and govern themselves accordingly."

This notice first appeared in the foundries of Hamilton, and the following reply was given thereto :—

As regards the first notice of the three, as to interfering with the internal management of the business of any firm, we have not done such a thing, and have no intention of doing so in this or any other case; but we feel, as men enjoying the right to think and speak for ourselves, we cannot accept the second and third notice.

By order. WILLIAM F. T. ROY,
Secretary, pro tem., Moulders' Union.
Hamilton, May 18, 1872.

On Saturday the same notice was posted up in Dickey, Neil & Co.'s Soho Foundry, signed by the firm. Of course the men refused to work under any such rules and regulations, and left the premises, and have also, we believe, taken steps to withdraw the men from the country, where they were sent to work on special contracts. We believe the workmen will show such employers that these efforts to frighten them into submission will not have much effect, and prove that they have to deal with a body of men who will not tamely submit thus to have their liberties trampled in the dust. Perhaps we shall yet have to ask these magnates whether we may possess a political or religious opinion different to their own! Who knows?

We publish elsewhere a synopsis of the agitation for short hours going on in the neighboring Republic. It is gratifying to know that a striking characteristic of the various movements is the absence of the intimidation that formerly characterized similar ones. Instead of having recourse to the bludgeon and the brickbat, the workmen are content to employ argument and persuasion, relying upon the justice of their demands and the public sentiment that is always universally in their favor. The rioting and disgraceful destruction of property that, in years gone by, have cast a slur upon Trades Unions, is now ignored by the strikers, and the money that once was spent for drink is now devoted to the advancement of the interests of the tradesmen. If the workingmen continue in this course, there is but little fear for their ultimate success.

The statements of the Secretary of War sent to the Senate, in which he enumerates the benefits that have ensued from the introduction of the eight hours system into the Springfield Armory and the Rock Island Arsenal, have considerably helped the promoters of the movement. The employees have shown a disposition in both places under government control to work more cheerfully, willingly and intelligently, and instead of the amount of work done being lessened, the country has actually gained by the change, including a large saving in gas and fuel. The tide is rolling on and cannot be stayed.

We have obtained permission from Mr. M. A. Foran, President of the Cooper's International Union, to publish his new and startling Trades' Union story, entitled "The Other Side." In this story Mr. Foran very ably combats the false impressions of Trades' Unionism sought to be conveyed by Mr. Reade in his novel, entitled "Put Yourself in His Place," by placing the principles that actuate the intelligent organized workmen of the day in their proper light before the reading public in an able, intelligent and really pleasing and entertaining form. Something of this kind is what we have long wanted, as the whole field of story writing has been occupied and controlled in class interests, and every workman should hail with joy the advent of one of themselves into the literary world who is not only well able to use his pen in the field of fiction, but is willing to take up the cause of labor, and battle for its rights with literary ability against the acknowledged champions in this great and powerful range of thought.

We intend to commence the publication of this story early next month, and hope that every workingman and woman will read and judge of the merits of this great story, founded on facts, for themselves. We shall refer to this story again, and more fully, before we commence its publication.

The printers who have been several times before the Police Court on the charge of conspiracy, appeared on Saturday last for the final decision of the Police Magistrate. Mr. MacNabb briefly stated that a *prima facie* case of conspiracy had been established, and he therefore sent the trial to the next Assizes, admitting the men to bail in their own recognizance in the sum of \$400. At the first appearance of the men before him, the Magistrate stated that a "strong case of conspiracy" was made out; but since that time, by some process, his opinions have undergone a changing process, and on Saturday, in answer to the prosecuting counsel's request that the men be required to furnish strong bail, the Police Magistrate stated their own recognizance was sufficient, that the case was not a strong one, and that in all probability before the case came on the law would be changed. It will be remembered that the original warrant included some twenty-two names, and we have been asked how it is that only thirteen were committed for trial. We are unable to answer the question, except that it be owing to the peculiar manner of administering justice adopted by the Police Magistrate.

Mr. Ryan, of Hamilton, denies the statement in the *Globe* of the 17th, that Beckett & Co., Engineers, have decided not to give the nine hours to their men, and says:—


Messrs. Beckett have, since the commencement of the agitation, remained true to their promises and fulfilled to the letter their promise to the men. There is no quarrel between them and their men. The men are now working under the Nine Hours System. The men are indignant at the libel cast upon their employers. There are not two dozen men out of work, all who are working are under the nine hours.

JAMES RYAN,
Secretary Hamilton League.

We alluded last week to the formation of a new political party in London, Ont. The "Workingmen's Progressive Political Party" held a meeting recently, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and adopted, the report of the Committee on the formation of a platform was submitted. On motion the clauses of the platform were taken up one by one and discussed. The following is the platform adopted as amended.

1. Household Suffrage.
2. An Income Franchise of \$300.
3. Vote by Ballot.
4. No Property Qualifications for members.
5. An Elective Senate, Elected by the people.
6. A Liberal Land Policy.

There is no limit to the variety of unions, lockouts and strikes, except the capacity of mankind to engage in different occupations. Consequently no surprise need be felt whenever they make their appearance in new and unexpected directions. The latest manifestation of the sort is among the servant girls in Dundee, Scotland, who have formed a union of their own. The object of the movement is a half-holiday and free Sabbath every fortnight, restriction of hours of labor to from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m., and the avoidance of unnecessary work on Sunday. Dress, too, was an important subject before the meeting at which these matters were discussed, and it was resolved that the mistress had no right to interfere with apparel or jewellery so long as they were paid for. Besides this, the stringency with which characters are investigated, was condemned, on the ground that it gave employers undue control over the servants' career. The organization formed proposes to secure information not only regarding the character, but the general temper and conduct of these employers. How far the movement is likely to extend does not appear, but apparently these canny lassies mean business.

 The workmen employed in the Machine shop of Messrs. W. Hamilton & Son's foundry, to the number of about seventy, ceased work on Saturday until such time as the nine hours system is conceded to them.

We have been requested to convey the thanks of those carpenters who had their tools saved from the effects of the late fire at J. B. Smith's, to the friends who so willingly exerted themselves in securing their safety.

WORKINGMEN'S RIGHTS.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

DEAR SIR,—I feel delighted at the establishment of a newspaper in Toronto for and under the control of the workmen of Ontario. It will be the legitimate advocate of the legitimate rights and aspirations of the working people of this corner of the world. It will be their exponent; it will sound forth their views; and from its columns we will learn the true state of the struggle between capital and labor, between freedom and white slavery, between the forces of a greedy, grasping and selfish money-ocracy, or rather money-grubbers, and the hard-fisted sons of toil. Such an organ—such an advocate—was an absolute necessity for the workmen and workwomen of Ontario.

The proprietor of the *Leader* is entitled to the lasting gratitude of the working men for the noble stand it (the *Leader*) took as an advocate of the rights of labor, and freely opening its columns as a vehicle whereby the public might know what the printers and others had to say in favor of the Nine Hour Movement and other cognate topics. Nevertheless, a workingman's newspaper proper, an organ of *their own* in Toronto, was a desideratum which is now fully supplied.

In reading over your first issue I was glad to see that one of the planks of the platform on which you take your stand was, "man first, property afterwards." This one position includes the whole philosophy of the questions at issue. It is because governments (notably that of England) have reversed this position that workingmen are placed at a disadvantage, both socially and politically. The line of action that has been taken by the rich and ruling classes everywhere is, "property first and man afterwards," or, more properly speaking, "man nowhere;" hence there are "trades unions," "strikes," and all the turmoil of man battling for his legitimate rights. God made the earth for man, and placed him (I mean the whole human race, not a few of the race), at the head of creation.

The Almighty only stipulated that man should labor, should till and sow and reap, and then enjoy the full fruits of his labor. But our aristocracies, our money-cracies say No, you shall not enjoy the full fruits of your labor, you shall only have a margin, just as much as we in our wisdom (save the mark) shall allow you ; the balance of the value of your labor we—the aristocrats and money-grubbers—will have to ourselves. We, the employers of labor, and you your masters, you are our servants, and we have the right to dictate to you the terms upon which you shall labor and live or exist. This is literally the true state of things ; all the laws of England are framed on this very basis. The commercial laws, the banking laws, the marine laws, the trade laws, in fact the entire code, civil and criminal, have been made with the view of carrying out the doctrine or dogma of “property first and man afterwards.” Man is systematically robbed—robbed by Act of Parliament. Man is held cheap, and only fit to be worked, linked with machinery and steam power for the benefit of a few.

The very term "master" is an abomination, and found throughout the whole jargon of these laws made in the interests of the so-called "masters." We have a number of such "masters" in Toronto. At their head is the redoubtable George Brown and the newspaper he calls the *Globe*. He says he is the prince of "reformers;" and the term *Globe* is a wonderfully wide name to give a sheet which expounds such narrow, selfish and one-sided ideas as are found therein, to the benighted inhabitants of Ontario.

George Brown, we may suppose, is a representative man of his nation, the "canny" Scotch—we know they are "unco pawkie." A certain class of their nationality take credit to themselves for more than the ordinary share of the wisdom that falls to the lot of mankind. Indeed, they believe that wisdom and prudence, and truth and righteousness will live and die with them only. Yes, these precious qualities will become defunct or take their final leave of the world, when "George Brown," and the "*Globe*," and the "reform party" are numbered with the things that were. Alas for the mutation of all terrestrial things. Or will it be the final absorption of the delectables we have just mentioned in the celestial order of the universe?

Mr. Editor, we are astounded at the amount of assumption, or what is vulgarly termed "cheek," that is put forth by some people. Here is a newspaper calling itself the *Globe*, the columns of which are eternally filled with the iteration and re-iteration of some mind which has nothing in it but one of the narrowest of narrow ideas, namely, the building up of the fortunes of