

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive... notice regarding subscriptions and terms.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

For Annual... Six Month... Single Copies... rates listed.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Each insertion, ten cents per line... Contract Advertisements... rates listed.

with it to be distinctly understood that we do not... responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

All communications should be addressed to the... Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1095.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN, 124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall... Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall... The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall... Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall... K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.

Messrs LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton: are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNENT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN.

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, DEC. 18, 1873.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

What to do with the poor and unemployed during the coming winter is now one of the most important and pressing questions agitating the public mind of the United States.

that prevails amongst the operative classes all over the Union it is hard, indeed, to conjecture; but the sickening details of the report of the committee appointed to examine into the number and condition of the unemployed people of New York city alone gives us a faint idea.

Many are the schemes and plans suggested for their relief. Some of the New York dailies, with much force, urge the acceptance by the national government of the plan suggested by the working people at a meeting held a few days ago.

One of the most influential of New York journals—the Graphic—sees no good reasons why, in times like the present,—when "from lack of confidence and timidity on the part of capitalists, the whole industrial system is thrown out of joint,—the Government cannot extend aid to the operative classes;" but whilst it favors the appeal of the workingmen to Congress for work, it refuses to endorse the proposition for the issuing of a national currency in sufficient quantities to place the control of money beyond the reach of monopolists and bankers.

Of course every one must know that productive labor supports everything. Wall Street itself thrives upon the labor of the men employed in the coal mines and workshops of the nation.

workingmen will soon ascertain from whence comes so much of their difficulty. All this is, no doubt, very true, but the effect following this cause is upon them, bearing in its train untold suffering and want, and one of the most immediate, difficult and knotty problems to solve is, how the poor and unemployed of New York and sister cities are to be kept from starvation during the winter.

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

At the present time, when with our unionists here, the question of the repeal or amendment of the Criminal Law Amendment Act is being considerably agitated, the account of an interview had by a deputation of trade unionists with Mr. Lowe, the British Home Secretary, will be read with interest.

Mr. Lowe's answer to the representations of the deputation was probably all that could have been expected from a Minister. He began with avowing that he had observed the partial working of the laws complained of, and, thanking the deputation for the brevity and clearness of their observations, assured them that the subject had engaged his serious attention, and that the whole matter was worthy the attention and consideration of the Government.

REORGANIZATION.

The Workingman's Advocate throws out some valuable suggestions on the above subject, and though the circumstances which have called them forth do not apply immediately to our country, yet they are worthy of the most careful consideration of our readers, as many of the suggestions may be acted upon with profit by them:—

"When any great enterprise partially fails in its accomplishment, it is not abandoned by its projectors. Investigation follows investigation, until the true cause of the partial failure is ascertained; then the institution is reorganized on a firmer basis than before, its constitution or charter is strengthened where it is weak, modified or amended in such a manner as will enable it to carry on the great work which it has undertaken.

We admit the panic has lessened the faith of the weak-kneed in our trades unions, because they did not accomplish impossibilities. In some instances they have yielded to employers—not because the latter had justice or right on their side,—but in the absence of labor being organized as it should be, and the present financial difficulties rendering labor very uncertain, it was deemed expedient to yield to their unjust demands, rather than involve thousands of their fellow workmen in strikes, at a season of the year when, above all others, strikes should be avoided.

Justice is not to be expected from the capitalist; for, as he is but the agent or distributor of capital, like Shylock, he must have his "pound of flesh," in the shape of interest, and that interest has to come out of the workingman.

Now, under these circumstances, we do not see why our workingmen, who are members of trades unions, and those who are not members of those unions, ought to take lessons from those who profess to be their rulers. (?) Let them, too, organize and reorganize. Under the late pressure, some of our weaker and more imperfect unions have gone under, but the revival of the times and of trade will afford them an opportunity to reorganize, and they ought to lose no time in doing so.

The present also affords an excellent opportunity for our working people to organize co-operative associations, whereby they can, in a measure, do away with a great amount of useless and unproductive labor. Our farmers are now ready and willing to co-operate with our mechanics and working people, and if a beneficial co-operative association could be organized, arrangements could be made with the farmers of the country whereby provisions could be obtained at lower rates than they can now be procured.

TRADES UNIONS.

There are persons who have prejudged these societies; and if they will read us, we beg them to reconsider.

Two things—if maintained—are sufficient to vindicate these societies wherever and however found. First, that the end in view is worthy, and secondly, the means fair, instituted to maintain it.

Now, can any sensible person contend that working men ought not to desire to keep up and in many instances raise up their wages? Capital is continually tending to put them down. Money lenders, and indeed men in all business departments of life, are constantly at work to improve their trades. Banks unite in keeping up their rates of interest. No poor person can go and induce the first one to discount in his favor below the established rate.

official services pay, object to the poor laborers for doing the same thing? Have they "no rights" which capitalists "are bound to respect?" Quite sure do we feel that a little sober thought will correct the prejudices so unjustly indulged against our working men for simply trying to do the best they can. Poor mechanics out of work, must have shelter and bread for their children. Capitalists easily take advantage of their necessities and employ them for the time at reduced wages. This not merely puts down the pay of the sufferer, but the whole craft for the future. Can there be any harm in his co-laborers uniting not only for his assistance, but in such a way as to avoid its recurrence? Is it not decidedly wise that the man himself and all like him, should go into a Union to sustain their prices and themselves, when out of work?

Let all bear in mind that we owe all we have or ever can have to the laborer. Then we should wish to see him in easy circumstances, happy and prosperous. All should certainly wish to see him well paid for his work. To effect this is the end and the only end of the Trades Unions. Hence it is worthy.

The means used to accomplish the end are simple and innocent. Workmen simply come together, as all other meetings, and adopt just and general rules for their regulation. They agree to stand out for what they consider reasonable time and pay for their work. To be overworked and underpaid, they regard as wrongs against which they have the right of self-defence. This it would seem none dare dispute. If an employer has the right to say how much he will give, the employee must have the same right to say how much he will take. This is all the Union proposes. In principle there is no difference between the rights exercised by these societies and those accorded to every man. The only distinction is that the associations act all together. They know, as we all do,—that in Union there is strength, and act accordingly. The only possible objection—of any reason—must arise from their prices being too high. As in all similar cases, the difference of opinion on this point comes from selfishness. The buyer says it is naught; while the seller lauds his wares to the skies. But there is certainly a stronger tendency from the power in the hand of the capitalists to depress than to unduly exact wages. The distinguished physician, the lawyer, the general, or the managing politician, may indeed get overpaid, but never the poor, patient, honest tailor. Let him therefore no more be censured for joining with his fellows to secure the best protection he can against the crushing weights of capital and monopoly.—Workingman's Advocate.

THE RUSSO-KHIVAN TREATY.

A Berlin correspondent has furnished the London Times the text of the treaty of peace made between General Von Kauffmann and the Khan of Khiva in August last. The treaty sets out the frontier between the Russian and Khivese territories as follows: From Kuerketh to the point where the most westerly branch of the Amu Darva leaves the main stream that river is to form the frontier. Further down the frontier runs along the most westerly branch of the river to the shore of Lake Aral, then proceeds along the shore to promontory of Urgu, and from the latter point follows the slope of the Use Urt plateau along the so called ancient bed of the Amu. All the land on the right bank of the Amu, with all inhabitants, both sedentary and nomadizing, are ceded by the Khan to Russia. In the event of the Emperor of Russia surrendering a portion of this territory on the right bank of the Amu to the Khan of Bokhara, the Khan of Khiva will acknowledge the latter sovereign as the legitimate proprietor of the districts thus ceded. Russian vessels are to have the exclusive right of free navigation on the Amu. The Russians are besides to have the right to construct any harbors, piers, factories and store houses on the left bank of the Amu, where they may