NOTICE.

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All communications should be addressed to the Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1635. umns are epen for the discussion of all quee one affecting the working classes. All communications must be accompanied by the manes of the writers, not security for publication, but as a guarantee of good

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 Mondays.

Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday. Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday. Orispins, (159), every Tuesday. Amalga:nated Carpenters, alternate Wednes'ys. Saborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Iron Moulders, every Thursday. Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday. Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday. Osopers, 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 Hackmens' Union meets in the Temper ance Hall, on the 1st Monday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAW &

Tectory are held in the Michanics' Hall, (Rowe's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:-

Free stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Lime stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Masons and Bricklavers, 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, 4rd Tuesday.

Mesars Lancefield Brothers, Newsdealers No. 6 Market square, Hamilton: are agents for the Workman in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNENT, Niagara Street, St. 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, 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. Although to some to give professional thieves and burglars extent the money market is more easy than it was a" month or so ago, and and depositories for valuables." The there may be a prospect of its become circulating medium, it holds, should be ing still easier, and a healthier state in the control of the producers of wealth, may be expected to prevail commer- and not of those who live by extracting cially, yet the probabilities are that from the producer, the fruits of his probusiness will not revive sufficiently to ductions.

that prevalls amongst the operative elasses 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

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. The resolutions passed on that occasion say, in effect, that the workingmen and workingwomen are thrown out of employment, and that many are already suffering from actual 30 00 want, and that this is likely to continue and largely increase; that the present suffering has resulted neither from combinations nor conspiracies among the operatives, nor yet from any overtrading in the commercial community, but has grown largely out of the combina tions of men of capital and the conspiracies of monopolists, who, controlling the financial interests of the country. have moulded them to the end that the products of labor may be diverted from its legitimate ends to the aggrandisement of the unproductive few. The resolutions further say that as the national government has made one of its chief policies the protection and care of the national wealth of the nation, that they consider the time has come when the interests of labor demand protection and relief, and that the government shall furnish means for the relief of the suffering of so large a class of citizens. The recommendations made by the meeting were the issuing of national currency in sufficient quantities to place it beyond the control of gold gamblers and money lenders; also, that the government shall do all in its power to give employment to the unemployed, and demand that public works should be at once proceeded with.

Une 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. The New Haven Union-an earnest advocate of labor reform-considers, however, that in this proposition is contained the solution of the labor problem, and an effectual barrier against panics, and contends that if the Government would do what is right by the people, it would issue currency direct to them on at least as good terms as it issues it now to the national banks. These corporations, it Catharines, will receive subscriptions and states, "now gets money at the rate of give receipts for the Workman. Parties one per cent.; the people contribute calling on Mr. Ternant will please state if twenty million dollars every year to swell the profits of these institutions, and also allows them to charge exorbitant rates of interest for the money which the Government gives at one per

Of cousse 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. Middlemen, such as merchants, brokers and all who only act as agents or distributors for labor, are supported by the farmers and producers of all kinds; and the Union considers that "to give that class of men the control of the circulating medium is just as insane and foolish as the keys and guardianship of bank vauits

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 AMEND-MENT 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 consider. ably 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. At that interview the objections to those laws on the part of the toilers were, as the saying is, "placed in a nut shell." The exceptional character of the legislation complained of, in each of the statutes affecting workingmen, was clearly and tirmly exposed by Mr. George Howell, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Daniel Guile and Mr. George Odger —names with which most of our readers are familiar-who joined in asking the total repeal or amendment of the acts referred to. It was plainly shown that the laws, as they now stand, bind the men but leave the employer free, and while clothing the local magistrate with powers which they too often cannot, or will not, impartially exercise, make innocent men criminal offenders when they have manifestly nooriminal thought or intention. It is a pleasing fact to know that the views and demands of the deputation were supported, without any qualification whatever, by Mr. Mundella, M.P., and also by Mr. Hinde Palmer, M.P.

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. He intimated his intention to review the facts placed before him, and he trusted that some conclusion satisfactory to them and their interests would be come to.

REORGANIZATION.

The Workingman's Advocate throws out some valuable suggestions on the above subject, and though the circum. stances which have called them forth do not apply immediately to our country yet they are worthy of the most care ful 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 tollows 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. This may occur once, twice, or thrice, or as often as the faith and earnestness of the parties may deem it expedient to carry out the work in hand. Does an army, becoming routed or defeated, give up the cause? No. The General in command calls his staff around him, and, after consultation, the army is reorganized, favor below the established rate. Railand marches on to victory. So it is in roads, mills, and factories all over the our banking, commercial, mercantile, land unite in the same way in keeping and manufacturing establishments. When they are overtaken by a general depression, instead of yielding, they put their houses in order, and once more enter the contest for an existence. Even holders and the officers not of one, but our political parties, when they become of all the lines have a Trades Union; demoralized, reorganize., Why do not

faith of the weak-knowd in our trades laborers for adoing the same thing? 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 presont financial difficulties rendering labor very uncertain, it was deemed expedient to yield to their unjust demands, rather than involve thousands of their fellow workingmen in strikes, at a season of the year when, above all others, strikes should be avoided. These concessions have been made to employers on their assurances that money could not be obtained to carry on business, etc. But as the money with which the business of the country has been conducted for the last fifteen yearsi. c., greenbacks and national bank notes —is still in the country; and as the reat bulk of it is not entitled to draw interest, it is therefore useless in the coffers of those who are hoarding it up, and must in a short time seek investment in the regular channels of agriculture, trade, and commerce. Then, what has been granted as a concession will be demanded as a right, and upon the same principle, the wages of the laborer will be still further reduced. When the time for re-employment comes, the employer of labor will hire at the lowest possible figure, and the laborer, in his isolated and disorganised condition, will be compelled to accept.

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 where ever and however found. First, that the end in view is worthy, and secondly, the means fair, instituted to maintain

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 up the prices for their services and articles. No man however poor and worthy. can go and get a passage to New York, below the established rates. The shareto keep up the fare to the very last give employment to the thousands of affine labor journals generally consider our trade organizations, and working cent. And so of the later mills and Amu. The Russians are besides to have people generally, available thousands of the later who are out of that here the whole riot of the trouble people generally, available thousands and their same system, and reap the bories throughout our trade organizations, and working cent. And so of the mills and Amu. The Russians are besides to have people generally, available throughout our trade organizations, and working cent. And so of the mills and their throughout of the right to construct any harbors, same system, and reap the bories throughout of the right to construct any harbors, the full extent of the misdry and want mandal question, in all its bearings, thoroughly organized system of labor? bining to make their money and their left bank of the Amu, where they may

We admit the panic has lessened the official services pay, object to the poor Have they "no rights" which capitalists " are bound to respect ?" Quite sure do we feel that a little sober thought will correct the prejudices sounjustly indulged against our working men for simply trying to do the bestthey 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-laberers uniting not only for his assistance, but in such a way as to avoid its recurrence? Is it not decidedly wise that the mun himself and all like him, should go into a Union tosustain 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. Toeffect 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. Workmensimply come together, as all other meetings, and adopt just and general rules for their regulation. They agree tostand out for what they consider reasonable time and pay for their work. Tobe 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 overpay, 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 Kukerth to the point where the mostwesterly branch of the Amu Darva leaves the main stream that river is toform 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 atter 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