

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 friends of the imprisoned gas-stokers have opened subscriptions for obtaining counsel's opinion as to the legality of Mr. Justice Brett's sentence. A large amount has already been collected.

According to the *Printers' Register*, the trade organ, there are published 112 daily newspapers, distributed as follows: London, 14; provinces, 64; Scotland, 11; Ireland, 20; Wales, 2; Channel Islands, 1.

Baltimore is to have a "working girl's home." Board can be obtained, with lodging and washing, for prices ranging from one to two dollars a week, and the girls will be cared for by watchful friends. The place is to be open until half-past ten o'clock at night.

A conference of the miners' delegates of Scotland was held at Glasgow, lately, at which a resolution was passed expressing entire disapproval of the line of policy pursued by the men of the Wishaw, Motherwell, and Holytown districts, who had been offered 9s a day, and then struck for 10s. The meeting advised them to return to their work immediately at 9s.

The *Scotsman* states that in Lanarkshire both employers and workmen remain firm, and the strike continues. The coalmasters in the Motherwell district give as a reason for refusing to concede the former rate of wages their conviction that the miners are prepared in that case to demand another advance. In some of the Wishaw collieries the men still at work have received notice of a further reduction in wages, while in others warning to cease work entirely has been given.

A strike took place recently at the Cotter Park Colliery, near Alfreton, when 180 men and boys turned out because the proprietors refused to sanction eight hours as a day's work. The men employed at the Morewood and other neighboring collieries are expected to follow the same course. The colliers at Bretby, in Lady Chesterfield's employ, struck work on Thursday. At Clay Cross the eight hours' movement has been conceded. At other places men are very discontented.

The quarterly report of the United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers, dated Dec. 5th, 1872, contains the following statistics:—In the September report we stood as follows: Number of members, 6,307; capital, £7,139 12s. 5d. December members, 6,404; capital, £8,178 4s. 1d. Gain on quarter in members, 97; in capital, £1,038 11s. 7d. In the December report of 1871 our members numbered 6,008, with a capital of £5,392 3s. 7d., which gives a clear gain for the past year of £2,786 0s. 5d., and 396 in members.

On December 24th a meeting of agricultural laborers was held at the Primitive Chapel, Swanbourne, kindly lent for the occasion. The chapel was full. We have a good number of members enrolled here belonging to the Marsley branch, who joined last May and stick well to the Union. The farmers said to the men that did not join the Union last May that they would have a ledge to go on and a shilling in their pockets, when the Unionists would never have one to bless themselves with; but it's the other way about now; the cry is now, "keep the Union men on," or we shall have them going off and leaving altogether. Messrs. Joseph Aldern (chairman), George Walters, Joseph Tattam, and Thos. Alderman addressed the meeting.

Some important meetings of delegates of the several branches of the Huntingdonshire agricultural laborers' union were held this month, at which Taylor, Arch, and others spoke. It was resolved to affiliate the union with the Warwickshire National Union. The recent charges against Mr. Lane, the founder of the movement, were voted to be slanderous and unfounded. A vote of confidence was passed in his leadership. Arrangements have been made for giving all the agricultural laborers who are looked out in Dorset, Essex, and Hereford, and under 50 years of age, 100 acres each

in the Brazilian colonies. They sail on the 8th and 15th, and will be supplied with a house and stock in trade at the expense of the Government, and be maintained for six months, till their first crops are gathered. They go out in charge of Mr. Alson, of Leamington.

A large meeting of ironworkers of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, was held at Wednesbury a short time ago. A resolution was passed expressive of the conviction that workmen are entitled to have their wages during the next six months based upon the selling price of iron during the last six months, but in consideration of the late fall in the price of finished iron, the high price of coal, and difficulties in the matter, those masters not colliery proprietors agreeing to surrender part of their claims, and wishing three months at present prices, provided wages for next six months be computed on the principle above, the men to recommence work. Should masters not agree to this, the men agreed to accept the masters' terms, and to continue to work at present wages, providing there be no increase in the selling price of iron, in which case they would claim a corresponding advance.

A crowded meeting of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Ironmasters' Association was held at Birmingham on Thursday afternoon, to consider the wages difficulty which has arisen with the ironworkers. Mr. G. T. Barker, Chairman of the Association, presided. The masters and workmen are at issue as to the system upon which wages are to be fixed. For some years past wages have been raised or lowered according to the selling price of iron. The last wages settlement came to an end with the year 1872, and the employers now contend that the *pro rata* principle is fallacious and unfair. They offered through their Committee, at a meeting with the delegates of the men on December 23, to pay the 12s. 6d. for puddling till the end of March or June; this offer was refused by the men at the Wednesbury mass meeting held on Monday. A long discussion took place, and it was ultimately resolved to abide by the offer of the Committee of the Association already alluded to. A strong desire was expressed by the masters that the Board of Conciliation connected with the South Staffordshire iron trade would take a suitable opportunity of arranging a scheme for adjusting wages in the future. The attention of the Association having been called to some very strong language used by Mr. Capper, the paid agent of the men at the Wednesbury meeting, a resolution was passed by the Association, setting forth that Mr. Capper was unworthy to continue a member of the Board of Conciliation. It is hoped that a strike may be averted; there is not any immediate danger of such a step.

LABOR CONQUERS ALL THINGS.

It is a well-established truth that labor conquers all things. Everything that we do has to have a certain amount of labor expended on it to bring it to a state of perfection. However difficult it may appear, however impossible it may seem to be, remember if you attack it with energy, and labor with all your might, your labors will be crowned with success. Inventive man, by the aid and application of labor, wins for himself a name that will always be honored, respected and remembered by his fellow-citizens. It has been truly said that no excellence is obtained without labor. Few persons conversant with the world have failed to discover that in the race of life, men of moderate means and attainments frequently outstrip competitors endowed equally with the smiles of fortune and the gifts of genius. Difference of talent will not solve it, for that difference is often found with the disappointed candidate. How often do we see issuing from the walls of the same college, nay, sometimes from the bosom of the same family, two young men, one of whom shall be admitted to genius of a high order, the other scarcely above mediocrity; yet you

may see the one sinking and perishing in poverty, obscurity and wretchedness, while, on the other hand, you will observe the latter toiling up the hill of life, gaining steadfast footing at every step, and mounting at last to distinction, an ornament to society and a blessing to his country.

THE GAS STOKERS.

A large and influentially-attended meeting of delegates representing the metropolitan trade societies, convened by the London Trades Council, was held on Tuesday night at the Sussex Hotel, Boulevard-street, Fleet-street, for the purpose of "considering the critical legal position of all trades societies and their officers, consequent upon the recent convictions of the London gas-stokers at the Central Criminal and police courts, and the steps necessary to be taken thereon." Odger, delegate from the West-end shoemakers, in the chair. The following resolutions were passed:—"That this meeting, composed of delegates from the various trade societies of London, expresses its astonishment and indignation at the unjust, cruel, and unprecedented sentence passed on the gas-stokers by Judge Brett at the Central Criminal Court, and feels convinced that if the employers of labor had been placed before him instead of workmen, no such violation of the law would have been attempted." "That this delegate meeting empowers the London Trades Council to convene, at the earliest possible date, an aggregate meeting of the London trades, for the purpose of protesting against the sentences passed on the gas-stokers, to request the Government to effect the immediate release of the imprisoned men, and to take such steps as may be found necessary in the interest of trades unions during the present crisis." "That this meeting empowers the London Trades Council to appeal at once to the public and to all trades societies for pecuniary aid on behalf of the convicted gas-stokers, and that Mr. King, of 38, Charterhouse-square, E. C., be appointed treasurer, to receive subscriptions."

Another meeting to protest against the sentence passed on the gas-stokers was held on Thursday night in the Working Men's Club, King's-road, Chelsea. Mr. Bartlett asserted that the conviction of the gas-stokers was one of the grossest outrages on the rights of labor and the laws of contract that had ever been perpetrated, and that it was the bounden duty of the working classes of the country by every means in their power—physical force not excepted—to obtain the release of the men in prison. Mr. Bickley said that if the Home Secretary refused to receive a deputation it would be the duty of the working classes to force the matter on his attention.

HINTS TO SHOEMAKERS.

PEG.—Don't give up; keep pegging away, and all will come right at last. Never try to stretch a boot beyond the confines of desperation. If you see that a man can't, by any possibility, get into the boot you have made for him, tell him that his foot is too large. If, on the contrary, the boot fits like a Chatham street coat, tell him that his foot is too small. If he gets mad, and says you ought to give him a decent fit, it is a good time to say something about the awkward shape of his foot.

PATENT LEATHER.—No. If you make me a boot, let it be understood that I am to be treated in a different manner from the rest of the victims. I have agonized over tight boots once, and the tortures of Inquisition were celestial joy compared to it. I felt that, in five minutes more, those boots would draw me completely through the soles, and I took them off. I had to use a knife in doing it, and walked on crutches for three mournful weeks. No tight boots for me, please!

GAITERS.—Shoemakers, as a general rule, do not run to poetry. Like their boots, poetry does not seem to fit. There is only one poem which I can remember that would

seem to apply to this much-cursed and well-deserving class, and I find it in the works of a fellow who figured around Europe a good deal—I think his name was Byron. The line I refer to is this:—

"The last, last, sole reward of so much love." So let it be.

AWL.—Don't let these customers fool with you. They are your natural prey, and no one has a better right to "beat" them than you have. If a man has a high instep, be sure and crush his foot into as low a boot as possible, and it will be fun for you when he swears. It always pleases a shoemaker to see a man dance around with a boot that fits like a mustard poultice.

STOGA.—Never keep your word with a customer, or he might not like it. If you promise to finish a job on Thursday for a man who is going to get married on Sunday, keep him trotting back and forth until Saturday night, and then tell him that you will finish the job on Monday. You can just bet your money he will love you for it. —Saturday Night.

THE BLUE LAWS.

Many of our readers who have often heard of the Connecticut "blue laws," have probably never had an opportunity of perusing that celebrated code. The territory now comprised in the State of Connecticut was formerly two colonies, Connecticut and New Haven. The colony of Connecticut was planted by emigrants from Massachusetts and Windsor, in 1633, and Hartford and Wethersfield, in 1635-36. The other colony, styled by its founders the dominion of New Haven, was founded by emigrants from England, in 1637. The two colonies were united in 1665. The statutes copied below, from an ancient volume relating to the history of the American colonies, were enacted by the people of the "Dominion of New Haven," and being printed on blue paper came to be known as blue laws:—

The Governor and magistrato, convened in general assembly, are the supreme power, under God, of this independent dominion.

From the determination of the assembly no appeal shall be made.

The Governor is amenable to the voice of the people.

The assembly of the people shall not be dismissed by the Governor, but shall dismiss itself.

Conspiracy against this dominion shall be punished with death.

Whoever says there is power and jurisdiction above and over this dominion shall suffer death and loss of property.

Whoever attempts to change or overturn the dominion shall suffer death.

The judges shall determine no controversies without a jury.

No one shall be a freeman, or give a vote, unless he be converted and a member of one of the churches allowed in the dominion.

Every freeman shall swear by the blessed God to bear true allegiance to this dominion, and that Jesus is the only King.

No quaker, or dissenter from the established worship of this dominion, shall be allowed to give a vote for the election of magistrates or any other officer.

No food or lodgings shall be offered to Quaker, Adamite or heretic.

If any person turns Quaker he shall be banished and not suffered to return but on pain of death.

No priest shall abide in the dominion; he shall be banished, and suffer death on his return.

Priests may be seized by any one without a warrant.

No one to cross a river but an authorized ferryman.

No one shall run on the Sabbath day, or walk in his garden, or elsewhere, except reverently, to and from meeting.

No one shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep house, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day.

No woman shall kiss her children on Sabbath or fasting day.

The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday.

To pick an ear of corn growing in a neighbor's garden shall be deemed theft.

A person accused of trespass in the night shall be judged guilty, unless he clears himself by his oath.

When it appears that the accused has con-

federates, and he refuses to discover them, he may be racked.

None shall buy or sell lands without the permission of the selectmen.

A drunkard shall have a master appointed by the select men, who are to bar him from the liberty of buying and selling.

Whoever publishes a lie, to the prejudice of his neighbor, shall be set in the stocks, or be whipped ten stripes.

No minister shall keep a school.

Every rateable person who refuses to pay his proportion to support the minister of the town or parish, shall be fined by court 51d. and 41s. every quarter until he or she pay the rate of the minister.

Men stealers shall suffer death.

Whoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver or bone lace, above 1s per yard, shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectmen shall tax the offender £300 estate.

A debtor in prison, swearing he has no estate, shall be let out, and sold to make satisfaction.

Whoever sets a fire in the woods, and it burns a house, shall suffer death; and persons suspected of this crime shall be imprisoned without benefit of bail.

Whoever brings card or dice into this dominion shall pay a fine of £5.

No one shall read common prayer-books, keep Christmas or set days, eat mince pies, dance, play cards, or play any instrument of music except the drum, trumpet and Jew's harp.

No gospel minister shall join people in marriage. The magistrate only shall join people in marriage, as he may do with less scandal to Christ's church.

When parents refuse their children convenient marriages the magistrates shall determine the point.

The selectmen, on finding children ignorant, may take them away from their parents, and put them in better hands at the expense of the parents.

Fornication shall be punished by compelling marriage, or as the court shall think proper.

Adultery shall be punished with death.

A man that strikes his wife shall pay a fine of £10.

A woman that strikes her husband shall be punished as the law directs.

A woman shall be deemed good evidence against her husband.

No man shall court a maid in person or by letter, without first obtaining consent of her parents; £5 penalty for the first offence, £10 for the second, and for the third, imprisonment during the pleasure of the court.

Married persons must live together or be imprisoned.

Every male must have his hair cut round according to his cap.

WHAT HOME IS.

Home is the only place in all this world where hearts are sure of each other. It is the place of confidence. It is the place where we tear off the mask of guarded and suspicious coldness which the world forces us to wear in self defence, and where we pour out the unreserved communications of full and confiding hearts. It is the spot where expressions of tenderness gush out without any sensation of awkwardness and without any dread of ridicule. Let a man travel where he will, home is the place to which his heart fondly returns. He is to double all pleasure there. He is to divide all pain. A happy home is the single spot of rest which a man has upon this earth for the cultivation of his noblest sensibilities. And now, my brethren, if that be a description of home, is God's place of rest your home? Walk abroad and alone by night. That awful other world in the stillness and solemn deep of the eternities above, is that your home? Those graves that lie beneath you, holding in them the infinite secret, and stamping upon all earthly loveliness the mark of frailty and change and fleetness—aro those graves the prospect to which you can, in bright days and dark days, turn without dismay? God in His splendors—dare we feel with him affectionate and familiar, so that trial comes softened by this feeling? It is my Father, and enjoyment can be taken with frank feeling; my Father has given it me without grudging, to make me happy. All that is having a home in God. Are we at home there?