

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive orders of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion or publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to organizations, condition of trade, etc.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street or Post Office Box 1025.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes. All communications must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MacMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.

- Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
- Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
- Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
- K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
- Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
- Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Printers, 1st Saturday.
- Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD, BROS.,
Newsdealers, No. 6 Market Square, Hamilton, are Agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity, who will deliver papers to all parts of the city.

MR. J. PRYKE, "Workingman's Boot Store," will also continue to supply papers.

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, MAY 29, 1873.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

The course of events point very conclusively to the fact that the workingmen of the Mother Country are determined to lose no time or opportunity in agitating for the direct representation of labor in the British Parliament. From information which we have already imparted on this subject, it will be remembered that some seven or eight bona fide workingmen are already in the field, making their preparations for the coming contest. The conclusion has been forced upon the minds of the operatives that only by means of such direct representation can the evils that have so strikingly marked the class legislation of the past be remedied—that only by such means can the country be made acquainted with the sentiments and desires that actuate the mass of society—that only by such means will measures be framed and laws enacted that will bear with equal force upon employer and employed alike—that only by such means will the anomaly of one law for the "master" and another for the "man" be rectified, and men in all states be made equal in the eye of the law. That this is not so at present the occurrences of the past abundantly bear record; that it shall be so as speedily as possible appear to be the ultimatum of the working party. And looking toward the accomplishment of this purpose, the work of thorough organization goes bravely on, and every possible agency is eagerly taken advantage of. The very con-

siderable extension of the suffrage enjoyed by the miners of Cornwall will be used to assist in securing the return of a workingman, and in many parts of England, in order that their full weight may be brought to bear upon the elections, the principle of "manhood suffrage" is being advocated and pressed with a force and vigor that almost presages success. A few weeks ago, we gave the particulars of an immense demonstration that was made in its favor at Newcastle, and in the present issue we have re-produced a stirring circular that has been issued by the Durham Franchise Association.

But the consideration of the question of direct representation is not alone confined to the operative classes. It is evidently a subject that is bound to make its way to the front, and the weight and importance to which it undoubtedly will attain is foreshadowed by the fact that already those in position deem it worthy of their attention. The Attorney-General of England, recently, at public debate in University College, on the subject, "Do the interests of the working classes require greater attention from the community than those of other members," stated that the question appeared to him to require attention for many reasons. He admitted that "the workingmen at the present time were not a weak class. There could be no doubt, since their Trades Union combinations had been forced upon public attention, they required notice, not because they were weak, but because they were strong. It was for them to see they did not misuse the strength they possessed, and that they had before them proper principles of action and proper principles of judgment, that it became so important their interests should be attended to, and that the attention of the community should be turned towards them. Those who were called the upper classes could perfectly well take care of themselves, could speak for themselves, and were in possession in various ways of the great organs of opinion. From time to time he had often wished, not from any Radical feeling, but from a Conservative feeling, to see two or three workingmen in the House of Commons. It would not be pleasant for the workingmen, but it would be of immense value, for then the House could hear from workingmen themselves what they wanted, and he was certain that both sides would be glad to advance legislation, and give them any aid in their power. As it was now, legislation often, without any intention, did that which was mischievous rather than that which was useful."

These are remarkable words coming from such a source, and tend to show how far the question of direct representation is taking hold of society. It certainly has an auspicious look that the wish of the Attorney-General may speedily be realized, and after the next election in England we believe it will be found that even more than two or three workingmen will have been returned for the House of Commons.

This action on the part of our English co-laborers should not be lost on the operatives of Canada. To some extent we can boast of an advantage over our trans-Atlantic brethren, but we can assure them they will have to look to their laurels if they wish to continue to wear them.

STRIKE AT OTTAWA.

We have received information that the sandstone cutters of Ottawa have struck for \$3 per day of nine hours. We have not yet received particulars, but, notification has been given all union stone-cutters to steer clear of Ottawa till the difficulty has been settled.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION EXCURSION.

It has been decided to hold the Excursion and Pic-nic of the Toronto Typographical Union at Paradise Grove, Niagara, on Saturday, June 14th. The committee are making strenuous efforts to render the pic-nic a first-class affair in every respect. Already a large number of prizes have been secured for com-

petition in the various games; and everything promises the most complete success. We understand the committee will meet again on Saturday evening next, at the same time and place as previously.

THE VIENNA EXHIBITION.

Numerous meetings of the French working classes corporations and societies have been held, which have been almost entirely engrossed with the question of sending delegates to Vienna. The refusal of the Government to vote a sum of money for the purpose, (on the considerations we mentioned a few weeks ago,) have not at all damped their ardour, but rather stimulated them to renewed activity in the matter; and the subscriptions to defray the expenses of the delegates are largely increasing. It is believed, however, that they will delay sending their delegates until the Vienna workmen themselves should have first visited the exhibition, and become acquainted with all its most interesting features before the arrival of foreign delegates, so that they may be the better able to guide these latter, and introduce them to the representatives of the industries with which they are most concerned.

A number of the most prominent and leading workingmen have also urged upon the French co-operative societies to send delegates to Vienna, as the co-operative system has been making rapid strides of late in that country, and therefore deserves the careful study of all interested in the co-operative movement.

We make a note of these facts, considering they will be of interest in view of the recent action of the Ottawa Legislature in voting a sum of money to defray the expenses of three or four workingmen as delegates to the exhibition for the purpose of reporting upon industrial machines. We are glad to see this recognition of skilled industry on the part of the administration at Ottawa, and there can be no doubt but that the appointment of this commission will result in much practical good.

THE INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

For the first time in the history of the International Typographical Union its session will be held on Canadian soil, and we should judge, from the very tempting programme that has been arranged, the particulars of which will be found elsewhere, our American cousins will have no cause to regret their visit to Canada, unless it should be on account of the "killing kindness" of those who will entertain them.

We do not desire to dictate to the members of the Convention, but would urge upon their consideration the propriety of electing a Canadian representative to the position of President. We believe there are those amongst our Canadian representatives who would discharge the functions of that office with credit to themselves, and honor to the body they represent. But once has a Canadian filled the position of 1st Vice-President, and the duties of the office were then discharged with marked ability; and the impression grows amongst the typographers here that the position they occupy in the International Union entitles them to look for the honor of Presidency to be conferred upon a Canadian. We suggest the matter for their consideration.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

On Saturday, the 24th, the 54th anniversary of the natal day of Queen Victoria, was celebrated by our "truly loyal" citizens with even more than usual eclat. The weather was all that heart could have desired—"clear, bright and sunny." From the earliest dawn, even before "shrill chanticler proclaimed the approach of morn," till long after the "curtains of night" had been spread, and the

"Lamps had been lit in the parlors,
And the stars in the calm azure sky"
the sounds of rejoicings were heard. Every conceivable kind of amusement was indulged in,—Base Ball, Cricket, Lacrosse, Pic-Nics and Excursions ad

infinitum, etc. No accidents occurred to mar the pleasure of the day; the night closed in as the morning dawned, with sincere prayers from the hearts of thousands—God Save the Queen.

THE WAGES QUESTION.

At the present time there is, perhaps, no question affecting the relations of capital and labor which has bestowed upon it so large a share of thought and attention as that relating to wages. To the workingman this question must always be of paramount importance. To his wages he looks for the maintenance or himself and those dependent upon him. As the product of his labor—the only commodity he has to dispose of—he naturally looks upon them with a jealous eye; and while quick to resent, and, as far as lies in his power, to prevent any attempted encroachment upon them, he is not slow to take advantage of any opportunity that promises to augment them. In these two respects, as the reward of labor and the means of maintenance, the question of wages must at all times be to the working man an all-engrossing one.

But not to the workingman alone is the question of wages an important one: all sections of the community are more or less concerned in it. To the employer the question is one of a greater or less share of profits; while to general merchants and dealers the question is one affecting the sale of the various commodities in which they deal; but to the workingman, so far as his existence as a citizen is concerned, its importance is by far the greatest. As a purchasing medium it is impossible to overrate the importance of wages; and this must always be a matter for serious consideration and thought. To the workingman it is everything, as it affects his health, his strength, and his comfort in a great many respects.

As to this matter there is at present considerable diversity of opinion, not only among workingmen themselves, but also among various other sections of the community. An opinion prevails to a large extent that, in respect to wages as a purchasing medium, the workingman instead of being advantaged by a high rate of wages, is a considerable loser. Now, we do not stop to inquire into the truth or fallacy of this opinion, but we maintain—and in doing so we believe we carry along with us the greater proportion of the intelligent public—that, if such is the case, a rise in the price of commodities is not the natural result, in any philosophical or scientific sense, of a rise in the rate of wages. Let us but consider how great a proportion of profits goes into the scale of wages as compared with what goes into the opposite scale of capital, and let us consider also to what extent the production of commodities is generally affected by an increase of wages, and then see wherein the proof lies for the belief that a rise of wages naturally produces an increase, or at least any considerable increase, in the value of property, and in the price of the necessaries of life. Wherever, then, the phenomenon of an increase of rents and a rise in the price of the necessaries of life is seen to accompany a rise in the rate of wages, it must—in the absence of any other cause—be laid down as an unfair advantage which is being taken of the working classes; and upon that account, if upon no other, we ought to bestir ourselves and use every endeavor in our power to defeat such usurious and monstrous extortion—for it is nothing less.

There is another question in relation to wages upon which there is also great diversity of opinion, viz., as to the mode in which the rate of wages ought to be regulated. Some maintain that this is a matter wholly of supply and demand, while others as strenuously if not so philosophically maintain that it is wholly a question between capital and labor, a question as to the division of profits—as determined somewhat upon the plan of,

"Let them take who have the power,
And let him keep who can."

Political economists and philosophical writers in general hold by the former proposition, while Trades Unionists and those who hold the principles of Trades Unionism hold by the latter. Now, as

we look at it, it appears to us that there is a certain amount of truth in both propositions. We cannot suppose any one can doubt that it is the natural result of supply and demand to effect the rise or fall of profits, they are therefore affected according as the supply of laborers stands to the demand for them. Still, there is another influence, and one which springs from the selfishness of human nature, always a strong motive power—and that is self-interest. Wherever in the ranks of men this is found to influence their actions—and where is the spot on earth in which it does not do so?—there must always exist an amount of jealousy and hatred between the several castes of society. And such is the case between capitalists and laborers—both are actuated and influenced by their self-interest; and, being so, the one naturally occupies a position hostile and antagonistic to the other; and while each is fighting for his own share of the "flesh-pots" they forget the higher and more Christian relation in which, as fellow beings, they stand to each other. On this fact alone can we account for the position in which capital and labor at the present time stand to each other; and so long as this is the case we suppose we must accept strikes and such like as "necessary evils."

One remedy, however, has been mooted, and it is not unworthy of serious attention, viz., co-operation. That this will yet be developed into some practical use is the hope of many; and that its fruits will be wholesome and good is doubted by few. Meanwhile there are evils enough and to spare in the condition of working men calling for the fullest exertion of all their powers, not the least of which is "the question of wages."

T. S.

Communication.

OSHAWA.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—Since I wrote last, I have been accused by Mr. A. Henderson of having slandered the "leading citizens" of Oshawa. And I believe he has said that "it is time this writing to the WORKMAN was stopped," and also I believe he intends to write me down. I requested him in the local paper here and over my own name to state what slanders I had committed against the leading citizens. In answer to me he states that I have been guilty of a base slander on the entire body of working men of Oshawa, because I quoted from Hood's "Song of the Shirt"—

"Work! work! work!
In poverty, rags, and dirt!"

in my letter to the WORKMAN on the 1st inst. I substituted the word "work" for "stitch" as in the song, and he has got excited over the affair. He gets off the following reasoning:

He says, "Why, sir, the very first thing which strikes the stranger on visiting Oshawa, and to which I have frequently heard them refer, is the large number of neat cottages, which meet the eye on nearly every street. This one fact most conclusively proves, that the workingmen of this village have been able to lay aside a sufficient sum with which to build for themselves comfortable houses where they may enjoy life." Such is the kind of twaddle with which he endeavors to prove that I have slandered "certain of the leading citizens of Oshawa."

I may mention that he is the same party who according to Mr. William Ramsay, acted as a kind of special emigration agent for the Hall Works, and who also according to the same gentleman endeavoured to create the impression that he was a partner in the company.

It is surmised that as Mr. Ramsay had the better of Mr. Henderson in their correspondence, Mr. Henderson wished to engage me in a controversy in order to get quit of Mr. Ramsay.

Mr. Henderson states that it is not true that some of the mechanics of the Hall works left on account of wages being under the average, but it is strange that several have had their wages raised since.

As I am to be "written down," if you don't hear from me shortly you may consider me "used up." I beg to enclose a copy of Mr. Henderson's reply to me, as a specimen of subtle reasoning, it is worthy of a place in the—waste basket.

I remain,
Yours respectfully,
HATHUR JOCK.

Oshawa, May 24th, 1873.