

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items 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 their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertions, ten cents per line. Each subsequent insertion, five cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—	
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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—
 Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
 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.
 Varnishers and Polishers, 1st and 3rd 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.

Application for renting the halls for special meetings and other purposes to be made to Mr. Andrew Scott, 211 King Street East.

OUR PATRONS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK.

- Cough Balsam—Joseph David.
- Important Notice—James & Newcombe.
- Sale of Crown Lands—R. W. Scott.
- Mechanics, look out—G. Howson.
- Cheap Goods—R. Mackenzie.
- Groceries—McCulloch & Morton.
- Saturday Evening Entertainments.
- Groceries and Provisions—Wm. Wright.
- West End Furniture Store—James McQuillan.
- Christmas Groceries—James A. Sloan.
- The Central Family Grocery—C. Hunter.
- The \$25 Russell Watch—W. E. Cornell.
- Winter Clothing—Thos. H. Taylor.
- To the Electors of St. Andrew's Ward—Wm. Thomas.
- To the Electors of St. Lawrence Ward—Wm. Hamilton.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOV. 21 1872.

We desire to thank our fellow-workers of Montreal and Ottawa for the active assistance they have afforded us to extend the circulation of the WORKMAN in their localities; and shall endeavor, on our part, to make the paper an exponent of their opinion in matters of trade. We hope those interested will send us any items of news that may be of interest to workingmen; and in answer to one or two inquiries, shall always be glad to insert correspondence.

THE "CONSPIRACY" CASE.

We presume the incidents connected with the printer's strike, which took place in this city, in April last, will be fresh in the recollection of most of our readers. Before many weeks had elapsed after the strike took place, reports were freely circulated respecting intending action on the part of the employers, with the double purpose of attempting to arrest the progress of the movement that prompted the action of the men, and also to strike terror and alarm into the ranks of the "strikingists." Those rumors ultimately found realization in the arrest, on a charge of conspiracy, of twenty-two members of the Typographical Union. Then followed the repeal of the old conspiracy law, and the passage of an Act to legalize Trades' Unions.

Previous to the arrest, the Hon. Geo. Brown sent to Ottawa to engage a sharp and clever detective to work up the

case, and when it was considered sufficiently strong the steps spoken of were taken. It will not be necessary for us here to speak of the indignation "loud and deep" that was aroused, not only in this city, but all over the Province, when the arbitrary conduct of the Managing Director became known. To endeavor, if possible, to allay this storm of indignation, a "cock and bull story" of stone throwing, pistol shooting, and threats of destruction to property was trumped up and circulated through the columns of the *Globe*, and it was asserted that the arrest was not made under the provisions of the old Common Law of England that had been repealed, as the progress of the trial would prove.

In the meantime, the case was tried by the Police Magistrate, postponement taking place from week to week, and seemingly everything being done that could be to degrade the men in the eyes of their fellow citizens; and to endeavor to make the degradation more notorious the *Globe*, when having occasion to make reference to the case, or to speak of the parties concerned, universally making use of such terms as "one of the prisoners," "the prisoners out on bail," etc. After the men had been brought before the Police Magistrate several times, Mr. McNabb sent the case to the next Assizes, the men giving bail to the amount of \$400. Thus the matter stood till the Assizes, just closed, when the case was to have been tried, and according to the *Globe*, confirmation given of their assertion that the arrests were not made under the obsolete law, but for "acts of intimidation" committed. And now, what has been the result? Simply that the case has been allowed to go by default for want of sufficient evidence, because nobody, who has any knowledge of the *animus* of the prime mover, will believe that if there had been a shadow of a chance to prove the statements made in the *Globe*, the case would have been so quietly dropped.

The men have been charged—wilfully, wantonly charged—with the commission of offences of the gravest character; their names have been dragged through the records of the Police Court; the stigma of disgrace has been endeavored to be attached to their characters; and when the time came for the charges to be publicly proved or disproved, the prosecution has simply suffered the case to drop. In the eyes of the world, by the action of the prosecution, the men must stand forth without a stain upon their characters; and the Hon. George Brown stands convicted of having maliciously and wilfully endeavored to injure them in the eyes of their fellow citizens.

MARCH OF EVENTS.

Every epoch is characterized by some ruling principle or idea. At one time it is revolutionary and destructive; and at another conservative and centralizing. The last hundred years there has been a constant struggle—the government against those who claimed the right to govern—and for the last fifty years there has been a conflict, more or less manifest, between those who received wages and those who paid them. In fact, a present age is always in protest against the dogmas, modes, government, or usages of a preceding age. As the Barons of England threw off the yoke of the king, so the burgher in turn threw off the dominion of the nobles, and now, throughout the civilized world, the toiling masses are engaged in a struggle against the burghers. The conflict is between the wise principles of democracy and aristocracy, for there is an aristocracy of the counting-house, the mill and the workshop, as heartless and exacting as that found within the feudal hall.

The masses have not grasped the idea that they are warring against the existing social system, with its toils given to one class and its accumulations to another. Nor did the burgher, in their struggle for privileges, dream that they were arrayed against and would ultimately destroy the feudal system.

Now, as governments and paramount interests had no power to prevent their

own overthrow in times past, neither can these interests at the present day put down or subdue the labor movement. The present era of strikes, lockouts, and mutual ill-feeling and defiance, cannot last forever, it must soon come to a focus. Neither party realizes fully the immensity of the struggle, and the great social changes to grow out of it.

No wonder that the so-called statesmen of all countries look with dismay upon the present condition of things, and the growing power of labor. The desire is in the very vitals of republics as well as monarchies. So far as labor is concerned, one form of government has no pre-eminence above another, and the remedy cannot come from statesmen or politicians, but will be furnished by the people themselves.

Labor, as yet, is only learning to walk, and cannot realize the mighty stature it will obtain to. But it is awake, and its conflicts for little things will gradually take a broader view of its position, its necessities, and its future. Great changes come by degrees, and must so come, or they would be fatal to society and the individual, and the present conflict of labor is not to destroy but to recreate, to introduce new elements of civilization and progress.

The feudality of old times was necessary up to a certain point, and the feudality of labor to capital has been necessary up to the present times. Progress now demands changes that would have been destructive at an earlier period. Perfect liberty is of slow growth, and must be learned and earned like everything else.

THE MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

At the meeting of the Trades' Assembly on Friday night last, Mr. Whelms, who has been actively engaged in connection with the movement among the farm laborers of England—was present, and gave some interesting remarks bearing upon that subject. Mr. Whelms's object in coming to this country is for the purpose of obtaining information respecting emigration, with a view to advocating that step by the farm laborers as a solution of the difficulties of their situation at home. The resources of our country are vast, and a large influx of such a class of men is just what is needed to develop those resources; and we have every reason to believe that Mr. Whelms's visit will be productive of much good. The members of the Assembly passed a resolution of sympathy with those men in their efforts to ameliorate their condition, which will be forwarded to the proper authorities; and this resolution may be followed by action more practical.

UNORGANIZED TRADES.

In our peripatations around the city, we have come across several workingmen who say they belong to no organization, and when we put the question, "Why not?" we are invariably answered, "they are no use to me." This is a poor excuse for a mechanic to plead who is not a member of a trades' union. Were it not for the presence of trades' unions in our midst, unorganized labor would not to-day be receiving one-half the pay for their labor that they are now getting, and yet these men fail to see the benefit to be derived from organized labor. It is not our desire to impute this short-sightedness to ignorance, as much as to a degree of selfishness, which prevents men from seeing into, or participating in anything outside their immediate selves. The day is not far distant when these very men will regret they do not belong to, or have no organization to fall back on. Let those men fall into line before it is too late.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

It is a too common practice with the non-producing classes to assert that the "Law of Supply and Demand" regulates alike the price of labor and its products. While it is not our purpose to deny this proposition; we propose to show that its operations have been partial, and its benefits withheld from the great mass of our industrial or producing classes.

From the days of Adam Smith (whom we believe was one of the first political economists to illustrate the operation of this law) every economist, and political essayist, has subsequently endeavored to construe this law—a natural law, in itself—to the interests of the non-producing classes, and giving them the benefits of all advantages to be derived from its operations.

The great mass of our people—the toiling millions—have been by these writers considered to have no right to make an application of this law to themselves, but to be the mere objects upon which it was to operate.

For instance, Mathews, a French economist, makes the following impious proposition: "Whenever the working people become too numerous, the nation should go to war, so that their numbers should be reduced." * * * Again, he says: "It is better that one-half of the laborers should starve to death, in order that the other half should live." Very humane indeed. And our English and American theorists, though not so radical, hold similar views. Many of them in their efforts to solve the labor problem, have fallen into the erroneous idea of erecting alms-houses, asylums, jails and penitentiaries for unemployed labor. We do not hesitate to assert that these false theories arise from a narrow and contracted view of the law of supply and demand, which confines its operations to the products of labor, and excludes labor from its benefit.

If the law of supply and demand be a natural law, which it is claimed to be, its operations should be alike effective, and as applicable to labor, as the products of labor; and we further claim that the possessor of labor has an equal right to apply this law to his commodity as the merchant or manufacturer has to his accumulated products.

But the law of Supply and Demand, like many other laws of nature, is susceptible to the innovations of modern civilization; and to-day we find it is so burthened with superfluities, that the natural law, of which we hear so much, is held in abeyance; and consequently that we are working entirely on a superficial structure. Let us illustrate: nature when left to herself is an unerring monitor and regulator. She supplies both producer and consumer, and between them establishes an equipoise. But science and civilization follow, and by an artificial medium, destroys the equilibrium. The cupidity and ambition of our poor human nature have led to the establishment of institutions which throw mother nature into the shade, and created an artificial "law of supply and demand," which is entirely under their control. For instance, A. B. and C. find they have bought or manufactured more goods than they can dispose of in the local market. These parties find they have a superabundance, and they have more supply than demand. What application do they make of the law? Do they reduce the prices of these commodities? No. They dispense with the laborer, or producer, for a time, and ship their surplus commodities to San Jacinto or a market, and thus sustain their local prices, and then re-employ labor at a cheaper rate.—*Workingmen's Advocate.*

WORKING MEN IN AMERICA.

Consul-General Archibald, in a report to the Foreign-office on the industrial classes in the State of New York, observes that there has been during the past two years an increased demand for skilled labour in certain trades. This he attributes in some measure to the influence of the Franco-German war in diminishing the immigration of that class of operatives. The wages of skilled labour, however, has not increased. In some trades they have decreased, but there has been a corresponding decline in the price of certain provisions, fuel, and other commodities. There has been fair employment in the various branches of manufacture, more especially in those of iron, which are at present the most prosperous. Woollen manufactures are not very flourishing, owing to the pressure of the high tariff on the raw material. Cotton, and

other general manufactures, can also hardly be said to be in a prosperous condition. Of unskilled labour the supply has exceeded the demand in large cities and especially in New York. The discontinuance of labour on the public works, and improvements undertaken by the late costly city government, has thrown large numbers of ordinary labourers out of employment; and has produced no little distress among them. Some relief is afforded by the demand for farm labourers in the Southern States—the cost of conveyance being defrayed by the employers; but there is an unwillingness on the part of immigrants, more particularly from the North of Europe, to proceed to the Southern States. They generally prefer to remain, so long as there is a prospect of employment, in the North. During the year 1871 the Labour Office at Castle Garden procured employment for 31,384 immigrants—of whom 20,507 were males, and 10,677 females. Of the males, 4,639 were mechanics, 15,868 agricultural and common labourers. Of the females, 506 were skilled labourers, and 10,371 were common house servants. As a rule, native Americans never employ themselves as domestic servants in the cities; though, in rural districts and country hotels, females are occasionally found in the character of helps. Comparatively few Americans, also, are found engaged as farm labourers. The demand for good domestic servants is always greater than the supply, and their rate of remuneration is in general higher, in proportion, than that of any other class of unskilled labour. In the city of New York, remarks Mr. Archibald, no class of labour is so well paid, and, all things considered, the condition of none is so prosperous as that of domestic servants who have been two or three years in the country. Among other proofs, they form the largest class of depositors in savings banks.

COOLIE LABOR.

A correspondent to the *Workingman's Advocate*, from the Pacific slope, discourses thus upon a question which is engaging serious attention among American workmen:

"The time has come in our country when the issue lies between capital and labor; either there must come a struggle for victory between the two and that soon, or labor will quietly succumb. Chinese and Coolies will swarm over our land like the locusts of Egypt, and what is to become of the poor white trash, we must leave for the future to determine, for nothing is plainer than that. When the time does come, that there is a free and unrestricted importation of Chinese operatives, without fear of the laboring element of this country, white men and women will find but few opportunities for remunerative employment. Like the Georgia crackers, under the slave oligarchy of the South, who were compelled to retire to the pine barrens, where the land was too poor even for slaves to cultivate, the poor white men and women of this country will be compelled to locate themselves in barren wilds to eke out a miserable existence.

"What else can be the inevitable result toward which we are now fast progressing? Capital utterly ignores the rights of our own laborers to the first chance of employment. Capital claims the right, as did Sampson the shoemaker of Massachusetts, to go abroad for laborers and leave his own countrymen at home to starve.

"Capital claims that there must be no limit set to the profits of those who own it; while to labor they are willing to concede only a bare subsistence, and boastingly proclaim their determination to employ those laborers who can subsist upon the scantiest pittance and therefore afford to work the cheapest."

The WHITE HART, corner of Yonge and Elm Street, is conducted by Bell Belmont, on the good old English principle, which gives the greatest satisfaction to its numerous patrons. The bar is most tastefully decorated, and pronounced by the press to be the Prince of Bars. Under the entire management of Mrs. E. Belmont, who is always proud to attend to the customer's wants. A spacious billiard room, and attentive waiters, render the WHITE HART a popular place of resort. Adv