

Ontario Workman.

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALES SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

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Labor Notes.

The miners of Wigan district, Lancashire, have struck for an advance of wages and a reduction of hours. The movement does not have the sanction or sympathy of the trades' unions.

POLICE STRIKE.—On the 25th ult., the member of the Dundee (Scotland) police force gave in their resignation, which by statute will not take effect for one month. The force numbers about 140, and 100 names are attached to the resignation sheet.

An interview took place between Captain Douglas, Earl Fitzwilliam's steward, and three of the men formerly employed at the Low Stubbin colliery, when the dispute was brought to an end by the men accepting the terms offered by his lordship, and work was resumed on Monday 9th ult., the lockout having lasted nine weeks.

A meeting of the journeyman bakers of London, England, was held on the 26th ult., for the purpose of forming a trade protection union similar to that in the building and other trades. The chair was taken by Mr. How (journeyman baker), and after a good deal of discussion of grievances, prominent among which was the operation of the Smeke Nuisance Act, it was agreed that a union should be established as proposed.

Mr. Rupert Kettle, arbitrator between the ironstone mine owners and miners of Cleveland, gave his award—that the wages of the miners and other workmen should not be increased. Mr. Kettle bases his decision on the ground that the men are now receiving a higher rate than they claimed. Before the investigation they erroneously thought the average rate of wages was 5s. 11d., whereas it turns out to be 7s. 0½d., and that an increase of the cost of getting stone would injure the permanent interests of the miners.

The French Polishers of London, Eng., held another meeting, on Tuesday night, the 22nd ult., to consider the propriety of taking more energetic steps to gain an increase of wages. Mr. S. W. Huxley took the chair, and resolutions were carried to the effect that they would still continue to agitate for the 7d. per hour, and would stand by them at no distant date. It was stated that 25 shops had since their last meeting conceded the advance without a strike, and there would only be one course left if the two or three firms that held out did not concede the advance in a day or two.

GREAT STRIKE OF ENGINEERS AT SHEFFIELD.—The strike of the men employed in the Sheffield engineering trade has commenced. The masters met in the Cutlors' Hall, and a resolution was passed expressing regret that the men were unwilling to refer the matter in dispute to arbitration, and that they had taken the extreme course of striking work; but that the present state of trade would warrant any advance of wages, which they, therefore, firmly refused. A few establishments have conceded the advance of 2s, as well as the new hours arrangements, but at nearly all other places the men have struck. The engineers' union is said to be rich and powerful, and they express a determination to gain their end, so that there is every prospect of the strike being a prolonged and painful one.

Chicago at the present time is one of the worst, if not the worst, place for a mechanic to turn his face towards. There is a general stagnation in all the trades; there is no money in circulation. Many of the men who are in work do not get their pay when it is earned. They have to wait two and three weeks for their pay, and then get it in dribbles. Several of the railway companies are two and three months behind with their employees. Many of them have discharged a large number of their hands. There is quite a lull in shoemaking, especially in the custom lines. Tailoring is the same, and as for the hatters, they appear to have topped off all the nobby heads that needed their assistance for this season. There is a little breeze among the carpenters

and painters, but is so slight as to be hardly perceptible; cabinet makers may be placed in the same category. Printers are as plentiful as berries in summer. In the departments of industry where women and girls are employed, there is the same want of life apparent. Hundreds of women and girls are out of employment, and unless a very material change takes place in a short time there must be a panic in Chicago the ensuing fall.

TO THE MINERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

CALL FOR A MINERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION.

FELLOW WORKMEN.—It is a well established fact—a fact demonstrated by bitter personal experience,—that there is no class in the community whose labors are so unrequited, and who are so much the victims of the heartless demands of capital and corporations, as the miners. In our present isolated condition, we are powerless to resist them. Increasing as these mal agencies are in power and influence, it requires no prophet to foretell the position the miner must occupy in a few years, unless immediate steps are taken to unite us under a common head, having for its objects the bettering of our social, moral and financial condition. *The great desideratum of the hour is a bond of union, a consolidation of interests, a unity of action*—in short, the establishment of a Miners' National Organization, whose influence will be exerted in our behalf, and whose strength will furnish a guarantee that such influence will be sufficient to protect us in the hour of need. A contest, too often forced upon us, at present means defeat and demoralization, no matter how just our demands; a contest in which a handful of men have to contend against the power of aggregated wealth. This crushing in detail policy must be stopped, or it is idle to expect that our condition can be ameliorated.

The success which has attended the efforts of the various trades which have acted on this principle, shows us what unity of action can accomplish. The difficulties against which we now contend, are the difficulties which they have surmounted, and the reason is obvious. What the efforts of one union could not accomplish, the efforts of fifty unions have accomplished. What they have done, we can do, if we are willing to use the same means. These facts are so self-evident, that every miner and laborer in the mines must admit their force and truth.

In consideration of these facts, believing that the miners are ripe for such a movement, and in accordance with the general desire evinced on all lands, we hereby issue a call for a meeting of delegates from the various local unions, and to miners in general—throughout the country, for the purpose of forming a Miners' National Union, to be held in the City of Youngstown, Ohio, on the Second Tuesday in October, 1873.

The specific objects sought to be accomplished by the formation of such an association are as follows:—

1. A consolidation of the entire body of miners of the United States, for the purpose of self-protection.
2. To afford pecuniary and moral support to such districts as may be forced to the alternative of a strike.
3. For a thorough discussion of our grievances, and the passage of such laws, as our safety and welfare demand in the several States.

Fellow workman—one word in conclusion. Let every mines and laborer, who reads this call realize that it is in his interest it is issued. Act as though success depended on your individual efforts. Make a beginning. Where no union exists, form one without delay. Take steps to meet your fellow workmen in council. Let the men of Pennsylvania meet the miners from Illinois. Let the miners of Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky and Michigan, in short from every locality where mining is carried on, "Come and reason together"—form an organization in which brother will be pledged to brother—an organization which will form a bulwark

alike in the days of prosperity and the hour of adversity. Will you do so, or do you prefer to occupy your present unenviable position? The answer and the issue are in your own hands.

Signed,

JOHN SNEY, St. Clair, Schuylkill Co., Pa.

JAS. O'HALLORAN, Plymouth, Lucerne Co., Pa.

Geo. KINGHORN, Belleville, St. Clair Co., Ill.

JOHN POLLOCK, North Lawrence, Stark Co., Ohio.

JOHN JAMES, Braidwood, Will Co., Ill.

Communications addressed to John James, Braidwood, will receive a prompt reply.—*The Workingman's Advocate.*

THE REAL COST OF SEWING MACHINES.

The New York correspondent of the Buffalo Courier makes the following surprising revelations:

"While in New Haven I had for a neighbor an ingenious and able master mechanic, a machinist, who had contributed not a little to the perfecting of the original sewing machine, not only by his mechanical skill but by his own inventions. Looking upon the perfected sewing machine, in the exquisite nicety of its parts, as a costly piece of work, and making insufficient allowance for the labor-saving powers of modern machine-tops, I had always discredited the assertions made by opponents, and denied by supporters of the sewing machine monopoly, that the cost of the \$60 machines would not exceed \$12. But I found from the machinist that the asserted cost had been overstated in fact by at least one-third, for fear of being incredible; as I have confessed it was to me, even then. The cost of the Howe sewing machine as given me by the very man who (as mechanic) probably did more to make it practicable, is nine dollars all told, table included. The Wheeler & Wilson machine made in the same place (Bridgeport, Conn.) my informant says was calculated by the manufacturers as costing seven dollars, table and all. Of the Singer machine he had no exact knowledge, but judged it about on a par with Wheeler & Wilson in cost. The Wilcox & Gibbs, from its simplicity, ought not to cost more than five dollars. Finally he showed me a little machine of his own invention and construction, (the only one ever made) so simple in mechanism that he averred it could be manufactured in the best possible manner for five dollars, undeniably and evidently ahead of any two thread machine I have ever seen in stillness and ease of motion, requiring scarcely more power and making hardly a louder whisper than the Wilcox & Gibbs, itself. Some day, in the hands of a less ingenious but more worldly-wise inheritor than the inventor, this piece of exquisite simplicity and originality in sewing mechanism, will probably take a high place among the multiplying candidates for ladies' favor. But that will be after the present monopoly, whose vast power controls the market, shall have been broken, by the dissolution of its patents, letting in the waves of free competition."

VOLUNTEER BANDS AND TRADE UNION DEMONSTRATIONS.

There is a likelihood of the present splendid band of the 5th Fife A. V. (Kirkaldy) corps assembling no longer under the volunteer flag. The band, which comprises twenty-one men, have received intimation—we believe from the War Office—that their services will be no longer required, unless they are ready to apologize for having accompanied the miners of Fife and Clackmannan on the occasion of their recent excursion to Perth, but the bandsmen do not seem prepared to make amends for the offence in this manner, and will rather give in their uniforms and instruments. The bands of the Kinghorn and Wemyss Artillery Volunteers fell into the same sad scrape.—*Fife Free Press.*

IMPORTANT TO BUILDERS.

On Friday the 25th ult., James Fitzgibbons, a laborer, residing on Devonshire street, Lisson grove, was summoned to Marylebone police court by George Byfield, of Egbert terrace, St. George's road, Regent's Park, contractor, "For that he did unlawfully molest and obstruct the said George Byfield by following him from place to place with a view to coerce the said George Byfield, against the statute," &c.—Complainant proved that he was a sub-contractor under Messrs. Wellbourne, the builders, to do certain brickwork at Kilburn, and that he employed defendant amongst others as laborers; and that on June 25, when the men were going to breakfast they came in a body and asked for an increase of a half-penny per hour upon what they had previously received, making in the whole 6d., which he refused to give, when the defendant, with others, said they had work in the country and wanted their money, which was not given them, and on the next morning the defendant and four or five others came about 10 o'clock, and again asked the complainant for their money, which he refused to give them until one of the Messrs. Wellbourne returned. The men, after using some threats, went away, and did not return until half-past one, when the defendant was taken to the police station, and the inspector refused to take the charge, but advised a summons. Mr. Pain, in cross-examination, elicited that the men only came for money that was actually due to them, that they were employed only by the hour, and that he had a right to discharge them at any moment by paying up to the end of the hour then broken into; and that on the 26th, when defendant and others came, complainant told them to wait till one of the Messrs. Wellbourne came, and that they asked for some money so as not to stop on the premises, and that he gave them 1s. to get some beer.—At this stage Mr. D'Eyncourt suggested to Mr. Pain that he had carried his cross-examination quite far enough, and as it was admitted that the men could be dismissed at any moment by the master, it was nothing but fair the men should have the same privilege, and that they ought then to have been paid. And that, although there might be faults on both sides, he did not think that this was a case to which the act applied, and dismissed the summons.—*English Exchange.*

POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

A crowded meeting of postmen was held on Wednesday night, 23rd ult., at the Cannon street hotel, Mr. G. Potter in the chair. The meeting was convened under the auspices of the United Kingdom General Post Office and Telegraph Service Benefit Society, for the purpose of "supporting the petitions recently presented to Parliament for increase of pay," etc. The Chairman said it was a fact to be regretted that they were compelled to urge claims which had been announced for some time back in all the newspapers of the country. For a period of ten years he believed they had been trying to get an advance, and had been baffled not only by the officials at the head of the department, but by officials at the bottom of the establishment. The figures of the postal department indicated that it had considerably increased within the past twelve years, yet their position had remained unchanged. This could not be because they did not work hard enough, for their duties were onerous, and the presence of the postman was welcome to all but those who objected to receive a writ by letter. The incomes of the London men were one guinea a-week, those of rural postmen averaging 14s., which he denounced as insufficient. Mr. Lowe was aware that they were pressing him hard, and if they waited some one might come to his relief. He deprecated the question of party spirit in this matter, and cautioned them against taking any rash steps. They had patiently endured, and he hoped they would eventually win. Resolutions calling on Parliament to consider the prayer of the petition recently presented, and deprecating

the recent action of the authorities in suppressing the men's committee, together with one calling for the abolition of Sunday labor, were submitted to the meeting and spoken to by Messrs. Johnson, Silverstick (ex-postmen), Bowes; the Revs. G. M. Murphy, Schnadhorst, &c., after which the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE STONE CUTTERS' STRIKE.

The stone cutters of Chicago have entered upon the fifth week of their strike, and, to use a military phrase, there is no "change of front." The bosses are evidently relying on their ability to starve the men out, and in this way bring them into submission. Such is their game. They do not allege that what the stone cutters ask is too much, but they say that they want to break the Union up. The men, on the other hand, are determined to stand firm. The German element, upon which the employers relied for assistance, is nearly all firm with the Union, and at every meeting night some of them come up and join the Union. At their regular meeting the financial situation elicited considerable debate. Two hundred men drawing wages from the Society every week is a heavy pull on the treasury, and if long continued must deplete the funds. Such a contingency with the stone cutters of this city could only result from a long continued strike. A good General always looks out for his commissary department, and sees that it is well provided. In times of difficulty care should be taken to provide for an emergency. The stone cutters should not hesitate to call upon their sister organizations for a small loan. Not that they have any immediate necessity for it at the present time, but there is no knowing what may happen in a protracted contest. To be well armed is one-half the battle.

THE STAR SHOWER OF AUGUST 10.

We hope that our readers will not forget to look for this well-known star shower, which appears to radiate from the constellation Perseus. On the 10th of August, the earth annually passes for about six hours through the belt of meteors which originally formed a part of comet III, 1862, returning once in a hundred and twenty years.

It is estimated that four hundred million shooting stars daily traverse the atmosphere, adding, perhaps, a thousand pounds to the earth's mass. These bodies move in space as dust clouds or nebulae. When they come within the sun's attraction, the nebula assumes the form of a comet, under the influence of gravitation, and the comet is gradually drawn out by the same force into a ring revolving round the sun in the same orbit and periodic time as the original comet.

The star showers bring us specimens from the remotest realms of space; sometimes meteoric irons, containing occluded hydrogen from the atmosphere in which the fragment was last located; at other times, meteoric stones containing hydrocarbons and phosphorus.

Aerolites contain oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, carbon, silicon, hydrogen, copper, iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, magnesium, aluminum, etc., probably most if not all of the terrestrial elements. Their weight is generally inconsiderable, but varies up to fifteen tons. The loud report which attends the fall of the larger masses is caused by the air rushing into the vacuum in rear of the projectile when it reaches our atmosphere.

PROGRESS.—There is nothing so revolutionary, there is nothing so unnatural and so convulsive to society, as the strain to keep things fixed, when all the world is, by the very law of its creation, in eternal progress; and the cause of all the evils in the world may be traced to that natural, but most deadly error of human intolerance and corruption—that our business is to preserve, and not to improve. It is the ruin of us all alike—individuals, schools, and nations.—**DR. ARNOLD.**

Behold the other side of the Chinese servant question. A lady lecturing in San Francisco on this subject declares that the almond-eyed domestics are neither honest nor neat, and that it is a thousand times more creditable for a woman to do her own work than to employ a Chinaman to do it for her.