

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion for 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.

(INVARIABLY 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:—

One column, for one year	\$150 00
Half " " "	85 00
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One column, for 3 months	50 00
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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.
Carpenters, (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.

"A Merchant is known by his wares."

The attention of our readers is drawn to the following list of advertisements in our columns, and are requested to have them in remembrance when "out shopping."

J. & J. W. Cox & Co.—Millinery Goods.
Crawford & Smith—Millinery Goods, &c.
Thomas H. Taylor—Clothing.
Coghill—Carriage Trimmer Wanted.
H. Stone—Undertaker.
J. Young—Undertaker.
"Star" Dry Goods and Clothing House.
Glover Harrison—China Hall.
N. McEachren—Merchant Tailor.
Wm. West & Co.—Borts and Shoes.

WANTED,

A First-Class Carriage Trimmer,
At COGHILL'S CARRIAGE FACTORY, 103 King Street.

BOY WANTED. Apply at this office.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 3, 1872.

THE LONDON BAKERS.

Cable despatches have already informed us of the settlement of the difficulty between the bakers of London and their employers. Several recent circumstances, however, in other trades than that of the bakers, would seem to prove the fact that trade operatives must touch material interests before any very real sympathy will be felt for their wrongs and sympathies. A strike of masons and joiners would seem to be little more than a matter for abstract speculation, until the unfinished houses that obstruct the thoroughfares, make no progress, and threaten to remain eternal skeletons of brick and plaster. A strike of agricultural laborers or market gardeners was regarded rather as an amusing innovation, till potatoes became exceedingly dear, and strawberries rare as pine-apples. It appears to have taken some time to convince the majority of Englishmen that the prolonged strike of engineers at Newcastle has had its effect on the entire community—the action of the sudden stoppage of works in foundries and workshops is so slow and indirect, that the strike is usually over long before the classes not personally, actually interested in the matter have awakened to a full sense of its

importance to all classes. But in what may be termed the domestic trades—those on which dependance is placed at every hour of the day—interest is quickly excited by the prospect of real privation or constant inconvenience, because they touch what has been called the chief seat of sensibility—the stomach. Therefore it was, we presume, that the threatened difficulty was so speedily arranged, while other branches of industry—equally important in their bearings, though, perhaps, not so direct—have been allowed to become deeper and still more deeply involved, without attempt being made to effect an adjustment.

The justice of the demands of the journeymen bakers is undeniable, and patent even to the most ignorant in such trade matters. Primarily and foremost amongst those demands stands that which has happily and rightly found a place on the programme of the condition of his future life, which every intelligent workingman has set before him—a curtailment of the hours of labor. Nearly every important body of workmen in England have obtained a concession of the principle of nine hours' labor a day, while the bakers were still toiling in the "good old-fashioned way" of sixteen to twenty hours a day. They had the modesty to limit their demands to twelve hours, not to commence before four o'clock a.m., and a free Sunday—things which, at this period of the nineteenth century one would have thought there would have been no hesitation in granting. But the employers were desirous of putting several restrictions upon their acceptance of these demands. They would grant seventy-two hours per week, but they stipulated for the right to divide the period of work as they choose—that is to say, to compel their men to work at any hour of the day or night, or on Sundays. In a trade like breadmaking, it is not hard to know what such stipulations mean, and how they would be used. The journeymen bakers would continue to work all night in the torrid heat of the bakehouse, and die of consumption, asthma, and other diseases, before the age of thirty-two—as they have done hitherto. The men, however, held to their demands, and were determined to enforce them, but the differences were settled before they came to an issue, and thus the matter has for a time been settled. But the settlement, after all, has been merely on matters of detail—the bulk of the question, appears to us to be beyond the province even of the bakers themselves. They will never possess the same advantages, chances, and considerations as other skilled laborers, until the public at large has consented to ask no more from them than it asks from other branches of skilled industry. To thoroughly improve the condition of the operative baker, other forms of action appear to us to be necessary on the part of the general public. Some of the speakers at a meeting held by the bakers were perhaps, not much in error when they asserted that "the baker was the outcast of the industrial system, the pariah of the social circle." Society is not altogether to be blamed for these circumstances; they appear to be the inevitable consequences of the baker's calling—as that calling is constituted by the general requirements of the day—whether these requirements are quite reasonable and unselfish is altogether another matter.

CANADA CAR COMPANY.

This new institution in our city, we are informed is fairly under way, and preparations for starting the works in full vigor are far advanced. The car shop is to have a capacity for building forty cars at one time. There will also be a rolling mill, foundry, etc. So far, so good. But when we learn that in this institution convict labor is to be employed, it becomes more than questionable whether the advantages usually flowing from the establishment of large industrial institutions, will, in this instance, result to the city and province. We shall have occasion to refer more fully to this matter in our next issue.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABORERS' AGITATION.

The National Agricultural Laborers' Union is beginning to initiate measures for the systematic emigration of the surplus agricultural population of the country. This important question was specially considered at the meeting of the Executive committee at Leamington. The desirableness of emigration being judiciously carried out was heartily and unanimously affirmed by the committee as a means of permanently and effectually improving the condition of the laboring classes; and the secretary was directed to ascertain the conditions on which the various colonial governments will assist the agricultural emigrants, so as to give laborers desirous of emigrating the widest possible choice. It was announced that the agent of the Queensland Government had had an interview with the secretary on the subject, and had consented to waive certain conditions, so that additional advantages would be enjoyed by emigrants connected with the union. It is also expected that special facilities will be offered in other quarters. The union has previously assisted emigrants; but this is the first time it has taken the initiative. It was stated that funds will be forthcoming to provide numbers of laborers with free passages.

A GOOD MOVE.

At the convention of the Machinists and Blacksmiths, recently held in Albany, the following resolution was adopted:—"Whereas, our mechanics of the present day are sadly deficient in the theory of mechanics and its higher branches, and this is one of the causes why they are so poorly paid; therefore, be it resolved, that some means be taken to secure the promotion of our members, so that all may have the opportunity of a full and thorough theoretical and practical knowledge of our profession, and thereby raise the standard of intelligence among our brethren, to insure greater proficiency in every branch of our profession."

ENGLISH PROSPERITY.

The *Bullionist* thinks that Englishmen ought to abate somewhat their exultation expressed at the unparalleled commercial prosperity of the country. It says:—"Capital has its own meaning. Of that we possess abundance, yet the source of all wealth is labour; and it may be apprehended that this is failing us while consumption is progressing. If artisans, imitating the example of their betters, will insist upon working shorter time, in order that they may have more leisure to spend their wages—generally in the best way—we may conceive what will become of it. Our prosperity will possibly come to decline. There seems to be an increasing rivalry in expenditure pervading all classes. Some philosophers say that this is good for trade; that it makes money circulate, and stimulates production. This may be true, and is so within a certain limit. Yet if the increased produce of labour and capital conjoined, as they must be, is consumed in frivolities and vain indulgences, how can the wealth of the nation be really increased. This is a question which admits of no other answer than one. Nevertheless we are, as a nation highly prosperous, making much money; expending a good deal of it; investing the rest in more or less good securities. Let us try to hold that position. How has France succeeded in maintaining the unparalleled credit she commands? Probably up to the present very few persons had the least idea of the enormous resources of that nation. Now they are known. They are due almost altogether—climate and soil being powerful coadjutors—to the unremitting industry, the self-denial, prudence, economy, and frugality of the people. Paris is emphatically the city of luxury, the means, however, being supplied by wealthy foreigners; the luxury of London, is so to say, indigenous, its sustenance drawn from native sources. We do, as has been seen, an enormous and lucrative trade; but in this sense only do we keep shop. Generally, the re-

tail dealers of London have few other customers than English people. At certain seasons of course there is an influx of foreigners who spend money; but, broadly, London is essentially different in this respect from Paris. Nothing more can be added than that no vain-glorious boasts of our prosperity should be heard until the unbridled luxury of all classes, except the lowest, has a bit to put into its mouth.

REVOLUTION IN THE TEA TRADE.

Within the past two years, the New York *Bulletin* tells us, the tea trade of England has been revolutionized. The day of the "clipper" is over, and the exportation of tea from China to England, which in former years was extended over nine months of the year, is now crowded into four months of June, July, August and September. The tedious and protracted voyage around the Cape has been superseded by the trips of forty-five to fifty days through the Suez Canal. Further on the editor says:

"The tea season in China usually opens in June. This year, attracted by high prices, it opens in May. Last year English and American buyers, eager to make the first shipments by the new routes just opened, created a demand, of which the Chinese tea dealer took advantage, knowing that freight engagements must be filled, and put up the prices of tea. As the total exportation was crowded into a few months, high prices were maintained throughout the year. The same thing has been repeated this year, and the first cost of teas advanced ten cents, gold, over the opening prices of last year. This has proved a losing business both in England and the United States. The overloading of the English market with such enormous stocks has resulted in a recent tumble of 11 to 17 cents, gold, per pound. American buyers have become more cautious; yet the fact that stocks here are large, and that, if necessary, teas can be ordered by telegraph and laid down in this city in forty days, has a depressing effect on the market, and prices have declined 2 to 10 cents, gold, since new teas began to arrive."

If, as in former years, no new teas could have reached here until January, the *Bulletin* shows this would hardly have been the case. The above routes seem to have changed entirely the course of the tea trade, but the advantages, so far, seem to have been reaped by the Chinese tea dealer.

TRADES' ASSEMBLY.

The regular meeting of the Trades' Assembly will be held in the hall, on Friday, (to-morrow) evening. A prompt attendance of delegates is requested.

TEXAS OR CANADA.

Under the heading, "Texas, the Poor Man's Country," the *Christian World*, a widely circulated London weekly, contains a column of emigrants' letters, and extracts from Texan papers, showing the advantages of emigration to Texas. These are furnished by the Texan Emigration Agency, with an offer of the "Complete Guide to Texas," to be sent post-paid to all intending emigrants. About Canada these intending emigrants know little or nothing, and have generally no means of obtaining information. Considering the great scarcity of labor here, should not some similar efforts be put forth to reach the better class of emigrants among whom such papers as the *Christian World* circulate? This Texan agency advances part or whole of the passage money to suitable families, to be repaid out of the first year's wages, takes care of them throughout the whole journey, and guarantees to them good employment, at £3 per month for men, and £2 for women, besides board and lodging. If they can afford to do this, Canada could surely afford to circulate effectively information with regard to the soil and climate of the country, and the wages paid for all kinds of service, as the English men and women would naturally prefer to

remain under the British Crown, and would require no special inducements. This very important advantage of our colonial position should surely be made use of to the utmost to draw to us the much needed commodity of labor.

THE HIGH PRICE OF PROVISIONS.

A demonstration convened by one or more of the Metropolitan Democratic organisations took place recently in Trafalgar-square, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present high price of provisions. Shortly before eight o'clock, the hour named for the meeting, a downfall of rain occurred, and this doubtless had the effect of checking what might otherwise have been a large attendance, for there was at no time more than 600 persons who listened to the various speakers. Mr. Patrick was voted to "the chair," and the proceedings then commenced with an address from Mr. Brightly, who said that the present price of provisions affected the working classes more than any other section of society. The class with fixed incomes had simply to decide what luxuries and superfluities should be given up, but the bulk of the working men had never yet had sufficient wages to procure even the necessities of life. The recent strike and increase of wages had not raised the prices of provisions as certain sections of the press had asserted, but on the contrary, strikes had not taken place until working men were in a state of semi-starvation. This meeting demanded that the Government should do one of two things—either bring the necessities of life down to prices consistent with the rate of wages paid to working men, or else increase their wages, and compel the landlords to take less rent, and the manufacturers to be content with less profit, in order to enable working men to get the necessities of life. He condemned the orders of the Privy council, restricting the importation of foreign cattle, as oppressive, arbitrary, and designed in favor of the aristocracy and the capitalists, and called upon the meeting to insist upon the abolition of the present regime, and the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture in lieu thereof, who should have the command of an experienced staff of inspectors appointed in London, as opposed to local selection, and who should take into consideration the land question and the food supply. He counselled continued agitation, in order that landlords and capitalists might not continue to make, as they were doing under present circumstances, large fortunes out of the blood, sinew and misery of the people of this country. (Loud cheers). He moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the present administration of Orders in Council in restricting the importation of foreign cattle is not now used so much to prevent disease as to establish a system of monopoly and protection in the interests of home breeders, which should not be tolerated in a country pledged to free trade" ("hear," and cheers). Mr. Magee Pratt, in seconding the resolution, said that there would be plenty for everybody if the wealth which existed in the country was properly applied. There would be no necessity to go to foreign countries for supplies if only the resources of this country were properly utilised. He could distinctly trace the great proportion of want and crime which existed in this country to the fact that capitalists and the governing classes of the country were altogether careless of the condition and wants of the laboring classes (Loud cheers). Mr. Wade proposed the following resolution, viz.:—"That the present land and game laws are the principal causes of the high cost of provisions, by restricting the productive power of the land, thus allowing millions of acres to be devoted to an inhuman sport, and creating an amount of special crime unknown in any other country, and this meeting is emphatically of opinion that were all the land now appropriated by a small section of society for the purpose of selfish pleasures to be properly cultivated, the whole population could be well supplied with food at reasonable prices"