

NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that the following persons are interested in the proposed amalgamation of the Ontario and Huron Ship Canal, and are invited to send in their views, suggestions, and proposals, in relation to the same, to the Hon. the Attorney-General, at Ottawa, Ontario, on or before the 1st day of January, 1887.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

INVARIABLE IN ADVANCE.

Annual	\$2.00
Half-yearly	1.00
Quarterly	.50

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Each insertion, ten cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:	
Columns, for one year	\$150.00
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It is to be distinctly understood that we do not accept responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

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

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Mechanists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
 Tailors, 1st and 3rd Monday.
 Sailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.
 Carpenters, (189), every Tuesday.
 Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednesdays.
 Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
 Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
 Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
 Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.
 Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
 Miners, 1st Saturday.
 Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.
 The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.
 The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.
 K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (House's Block), Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
 Mine-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
 Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
 Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
 Painters, 1st Saturday.
 Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
 Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—
 K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
 Tailors, 2nd Monday.
 Coopers, 4th Tuesday.

ENORMOUS CROWD

AT

PIDDINGTON'S
MAMMOTH TOY STORE

Come and see the Store!! Come and see the Toys!! at

248 and 250 YONGE STREET,

TORONTO.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 25, 1873.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas falling this year on our day of publication, we have gone to press a little earlier than usual, to enable all hands to enjoy the festivities of the season. By so doing we are enabled to extend to all our readers the greetings of the season, and wish them one and all—a Merry Christmas.

THE HURON AND ONTARIO SHIP CANAL.

At this time, when the producing interests of the great West are raising their voices unitedly against existing traffic monopolies, and demanding cheap

transit for their products to the sea, we in this Dominion as interested parties, should not be inactive or insensible to our position as key to the great question propounded by the farmers of the West and North-West.

A wise and judicious use of the natural facilities that Providence has placed within our borders, puts us in a position to render the richest and most productive half of this continent tributary to the greatness of this Dominion. That work is the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal. The voice of the producing millions that now inhabit the Western States call for the work, and our own rising North-West joins in swelling the demand; the question is, are we doing our duty in the premises? Do we realize our position in relation to this great work? Let us for a moment glance at the rapid growth of this great country into which twelve millions of human souls have poured during the last forty years, developing but a fraction of its latent wealth, even the extent of which astonishes the world, already crippling the railway enterprise of the most progressive family of the Anglo-Saxon race to move the teeming surplus. When such are the facts, without exaggeration—when the present occupants of that vast domain have only, as it were, begun to scratch the surface—how will it be when the surplus produced by one hundred million of people are pouring eastward for a market? and the picture is not overdrawn at that.

We hold the key to the natural outlet of this great country, and it is ours, so to speak, to hold our hand upon the very throat valve of empire. Then, are we going to be enterprising and far-seeing enough to possess our natural inheritance now, or wait until the natural pressure of an over-grown production demands the necessary improvements that now interrupts its shortest and, therefore, most natural route to the sea? It is unnecessary for us here to dwell upon the feasibility of the route, as it is already well established beyond a doubt by the best talent that civilization can produce, under the able presidency of Mr. Capreol, whose self-sacrificing labors in Canada's best interests ought to make his name a household word among Canadians, for generations to come.

We will simply say that all who have any knowledge of the work, will be ready to admit that we have no such obstacles to surmount in the construction of the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal that there were in the way of the Suez Canal, while the advantages to be secured are second to none that ever engaged the attention of the great minds of earth.

We have just learned that in response to a numerously signed petition, the Mayor has called a meeting, to be held in the St. Lawrence Hall, at 3 P.M., on Saturday, the 27th instant, and as no work at present engaging the attention of the Canadian public is more closely identified with our progress, or the greatness of our future, we hope that every true citizen who has the best interests of his country at heart, will make it his business to attend.

A BEGINNING.

For some time back the question of co-operation has been freely and fully discussed in our columns, editorially and otherwise. The correspondence that we published bearing on the subject was not confined to one locality, but from all parts of the Dominion the views of the operatives were given; and it will be remembered that all those who wrote were in favor of the principle, and the general hope was expressed that some practical results would follow the discussion. We were, and are still, of the opinion, that such would ultimately be the case; and we take the action of the enterprising people of the town of St. Catharines as a kind of "first fruits" of what will more generally follow. We believe many more towns and cities would do well in following the example the "saints" have set; and if it should be, that they cannot accomplish what they would wish in the present season, by taking up the matter at once they will be all the better prepared to take

advantage of the opportunities that will be afforded during the coming season. The question of cheap fuel is of great importance to the operatives, and the matter rests very materially in their own hands; but if they wish to secure that boon, they themselves must be prepared to work for it. It is an old and true saying, "Who would be free himself must strike the blow," and the principle of that maxim must be carried out in this matter, to ensure success.

We are pleased to learn of the action taken by the meeting held last week in St. Catharines, and expect good results to follow the appointment of the efficient committee. We have knowledge of the men appointed, and know them to be "the right men in the right place," and the advice we offer to the operatives of other towns and cities is—"go thou and do likewise."

CONSPIRACY VS. TRADE UNIONS.

We are in receipt of a circular issued from the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Typographical Union to the Trades' Unionists and Labor Organizations of the United States, which we reproduce for the information of our readers:—

"Head-quarters, Com. on Council for 'Members of Typo. Union No. 7,' Pittsburgh, Nov. 26, 1873.

"To Trade Unionists and Labor Organizations:

"FRIENDS—A combination of proprietors of newspapers, in this city, have entered suit in the Criminal Court of this County (Allegheny), against 70 members of Typographical Union No. 7. The counsel for the prosecution have announced that this is to be made a test case, as to the legality of the law, entitled, 'An Act to authorize Mechanics, Journeymen, Tradesmen and Laborers to form Societies and Associations for their mutual benefit and protection.'

"It has also been announced, that if the prosecution is successful, similar proceedings will be had in other sections against trade organizations.

"Our Union, by reason of the recent 'strike,' has a depleted treasury, and is unable to properly fee the counsel, necessary to the adequate defence of its membership, and before suspending appointed the undersigned as a committee to arrange for counsel. In order to the proper carrying out of this project, we have decided to call upon the various Trades Unionists, Labor Organizations and Industrial Leagues, for financial aid in this our hour of sore distress.

"Subscriptions and donations will be received by the committee in any sum. All donations should be forwarded to the committee promptly, to

"HUGH D. MCGAW, Chairman, "23 Nineteenth st., Pittsburgh, Pa."

The immediate cause of the "strike" referred to was, we understand, against a reduction of wages in one of the offices, which, by some means, involved all the offices in that city. Their places were, however, filled with girls and non-union men, which, for a time, has lost those offices to them. The newspaper proprietors, not satisfied with their temporary triumph, have brought a charge of "conspiracy" against seventy of the members of the Pittsburgh Union, and from what we can learn they have been indicted and held to trial. It seems passing strange, but true it is, that even in the United States an attempt is made to revive the old "conspiracy laws," to prosecute men who have the manhood to stand up for their rights, and strive to attain a higher social condition for their families.

This action of the newspaper proprietors of Pittsburgh brings very forcibly to mind a similar attempt made some time since against the printers of this city; but whether they of Pittsburgh will be more successful in their attempt to crush unionism than was the case here, time will tell—but we have our doubts on the subject. The matter, however, has very naturally made a commotion in the Union camp across the lines, and the action of the Pittsburgh employers is generally regarded as a vital blow aimed at the principle of unionism, and there is, therefore, little danger that the members of the Pittsburgh Typographical Union will lack funds to enable them to secure the best legal talent to conduct their case.

The renewing of the Great Suspension Bridge at Clifton during the present year cost \$35,000. \$22,000 was paid for labor and \$13,000 for material.

THE WORKINGMAN'S FUTURE.

A writer in the *Beehive*, in the following vigorous article, touches upon the question of the workingman's future:

The histories of nations differ from each other as the biographies of individuals. Chronological events may move round in cycles of time as the planets move in their orbits; but the sequence of events in our country bears no analogy to the chain that runs through the history of another, except that both obey the great law of progression. Those things which made Greece renowned, contributed nothing to the glory of Rome; the stupendous monuments of Assyrian and Egyptian power find no types in European nations. There is no resemblance between ancient and modern history, but every step from primeval man to the present time shows a steady movement towards higher and higher attainments, and this progression is maintained by a series of events as different from each other as light from darkness. The very elements of success in one nation seem to lead to the overthrow of the next.

The histories of bygone nations teem with evidence of the power of the upper classes, but the history of England is a story in which the leading events are carried out by the indomitable energy of the working man. It is not a history where the wealthy and the educated classes pull up the classes below them, but where the lower classes are continually pushing up the higher, rolling down the obstacles to progress, every age showing stages of refinement unknown in the preceding one, and in which every change bears the impress of the minds of the workingmen. The struggle for the great Charter of freedom in the reign of King John, exhibits the power of men who are determined to leave their footprints behind them. The barons of old would never have fought for the freedom of their vassals except from the pressure of those classes upon them. The representation of the people in the reign of Henry III was the work of the people themselves, and in compelling the barons to submit a code of laws for the reform of the state, they showed the indomitable spirit they then possessed. The people in the reign of Edward I again checked the power of the barons, and compelled the haughty nobles to submit once more the force of moral courage supported by latent physical power. The Reformation, the Commonwealth, the Habeas Corpus Act, the Catholic Emancipation Bill, the abolition of slavery and other constitutional reforms, all bear the impress of the minds of the working men. It is possible to conceive of men, who, though slaves, may by their actions modify the characters of their masters. It is possible to conceive of men, who resisting tyranny, it may be silently, overcome it. It is possible to conceive of combinations of men in the humblest positions in life, influencing the whole tone of society. The working classes have been doing this since the days of Magna Charta, and the upper classes of society are now what the lower classes have made them. England seems destined to carry on the world's history to a far higher standpoint than preceding nations, and to carry out history by showing how men with hard hands and honest hearts can direct the affairs of a great country, and create a power before which other and greater empires bow in submission.

Within the last few years the tendency of all legislation has been from the people, and this tendency grows stronger year by year as the workingman qualifies himself by education and reflection, to suggest from his individual experience codes of laws of more general application. Few measures are now initiated by the Upper House of Parliament, and the power of the Lords seems rather to be confined to the modification of measures introduced by the people's representatives. Here again the aim of the Senators is evidently to legislate for the people. No great reform has ever been brought forward, but had its origin in the discussions among the people. Their opinions wafted over the country by the press are weighed by our legislators, who, catching the popular voice

introduce measures which have been already shadowed forth by the people. Chambers of Commerce, Chambers of Agriculture, philanthropic and benevolent societies, men engaged in works of charity, movements organized by religious and social associations, meetings of workingmen for the redress of grievances, establishment of boards of arbitration and conciliation, conferences between masters and men, debates at workingmen's clubs, these are the roots from which legislation springs. As families congregate and form societies, and as these by expanding and massing form nations, so the rules for the government of a few become the principle, for the guiding the actions of the many, and these again in the hands of the legislator form the basis of the laws for the government of the nations.

This continual pushing upwards of the working classes, this stepping onward and onward, this putting other classes aside, indicate that the future government of the country will be more immediately in the hands of workingmen. The change is only the natural sequence of events that have gone before. From autocratic power and authority, we passed to Parliamentary Government, when men selected men from the class above them to represent their opinions, but they now seek to represent themselves. It is no longer a representation of the people, but by the people that is desired. The energy that made our forefathers break from bondage and claim the name of free men, is pushing on the working classes to-day to be among the legislators of the country. Once the workingmen are the recognised representatives of their own body, the tide will roll onward until the one House of Parliament will be filled, not by the representatives of the people, but the people themselves. The men who now aspire to that position are men of determined will and energy, and they will not rest satisfied until a number of their compeers are seated beside them. But these men must be men of ability and education. The ignorant man must always give place to the educated one; and then the question presses itself upon all—Are the workingmen ready to take up the position which the course of events will require them to fill? Are they by education, as they are by intellect, fit to become the rulers of a great nation? In the workingman there is mind, determination, and physical energy, sufficient to obtain any object that is required—the one thing absent is education.

The successive changes that have taken place in the history of this country, also contrasts strongly with others. No sudden revolution sets up one class of men to the downfall of others. No violent measures drive the masses into anarchy and upset the bonds of society. Commerce flourishes, wealth accumulates, social intercourse is uninterrupted, while the change goes on, and that change is not perceived until it is complete, and we look back and think of what things were, and then we notice the operations of men, whose power, though almost invisible, is irresistible. Questions that in one age are looked upon as revolutionary, are in the next calmly deliberated by men who once were their strongest opponents. Manhood suffrage, the payment of representatives of the people, the shortening of the duration of Parliament, and kindred subjects, are either adopted or are questions of debate to-day; and the men who said that voting by ballot would never take place in England now see that it has come, and others which will bring the workingman and the senator more nearly akin will soon follow. These events are among the natural results of things that have been, and the workingman needs only read the history of his country to prove how one thing naturally follows another. The end portrayed will come, but the workingman has the power to hasten or retard it as he wills. Everything appears in his favour now. Soon hundreds of intelligent, thoughtful, educated workingmen will be required to represent the views of their own class, and it will be to their disgrace if the country look round in vain to find them.