

# Ontario Workman.

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

VOL. I.

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## Communications.

### OSHAWA CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

Sir,—A desire having been expressed by several of the workmen here that there should be a comparison of the amount of wages paid, the character of the shops and bosses throughout the country, should the views expressed meet with your approbation, I will endeavor to ascertain all the particulars regarding the different establishments here.

I have been requested to make known, through the columns of the WORKMAN, the following case, which occurred here recently. A man, in answer to an advertisement in a Montreal paper, applied for employment as a machinist. "Highest wages paid," was stated in the advertisement. Highest wages paid to the man was the sum of \$1.25 per day. I may state that he was known to some of the men in the shop as a good mechanic. It is well that the workmen should be put on their guard against such meanness, and it would be well that parties advertising for men would put in the amount which they consider "highest wages."

I have not seen that any of the boss conspirators have taken the hint to give George Brown a testimonial, to stop his whining about the one presented to Lady Macdonald. I am sure any one could see what he was driving at. Poor Geordie! "Sour grapes!" I have to suggest that the workmen of the Dominion get him up a testimonial in the shape of a leather medal. I was about doing so myself, but thought it would be better to ventilate the matter first.

We are in the midst of the election excitement. The nomination takes place on the 1st proximo, and the election on the 8th. The supporters of both candidates are anxious to have it understood that their respective candidates are favorable to the nine hour movement. In order to excuse Mr. Gibbs, regarding the name of the firm being attached to the notorious manifesto, his friends state that it was one of the boys who signed it; but, as was stated, Mr. Gibbs might easily had the firm's name withdrawn from it. At a meeting held here lately, Mr. Gibbs was asked whether he had induced Mr. Glen to withhold the concession of the nine hours movement. Mr. Gibbs said he would answer that presently, and then stated that Mr. Glen would answer it. Mr. Glen denied that either of the Messrs. Gibbs had done so. But it would have been more satisfactory had Mr. Gibbs answered it himself.

It is regretted here among the workmen generally that Mr. Beatty should be opposed in Toronto. I only hope that he will be successful.

I remain, yours respectfully.

HEATHER JOCK.

Oshawa, 29th July, 1872.

[We shall be very glad to hear from Heather Jock on the matter he mentions.—Ed. O. W.]

Letters from Geneva say that Don Carlos is expected to arrive in Switzerland having been persuaded to abandon his revolutionary designs in Spain.

A man named Benjamin Simmons, aged 39, was early the other morning wheeling a barrow containing hot cinders from the puddling furnaces at the Tiery Hole Ironworks of Messrs. Hickmans, at Bilston, when the cinders exploded, dashed a quantity of molten liquid upon him, and hurled him down the cinder heap into the midst of the red-hot cinders. Half an hour afterwards he was found by his fellow-workman literally roasted on the heap, but alive. He was immediately conveyed to the hospital, where he died in about four hours after admission, in horrible agony. At an inquest held upon the body, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. Simmons leaves a wife and 8 children, and the wife is near her confinement. The eldest of the children is a boy aged 14.

## Labor Notes.

The car shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at Altoona, give constant employment to upwards of 2,550.

The germ of a Labor Union, under the auspices of the National Labor Union, was organized recently in Baltimore, Maryland.

Notice is given that the sixth annual session of the National Labor Union will be held in the city of Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday, the 17th day of September, 1872.

The strike of the laborers at Wm. Ward & Co.'s furnace, Niles, Ohio, a few days ago, was compromised by an advance of wages from \$1.75 to \$1.90 per day. The men claimed \$2.

At a meeting of North Staffordshire miners on Monday evening at Henley, it was resolved to demand ten per cent. increase of wages and a reduction of two hours per week.

The Northumberland miners held their annual demonstration on Blyth Links on Monday. Between 10,000 and 12,000 persons were present, and they were congratulated on the satisfactory state of the trade.

The Williamsport (Pa.) Reform Journal publishes the Labor State Ticket as follows:—For Governor, Wm. P. Schell; Judge of Supreme Court, James Thompson; Auditor General, Francis McAdams; Congressmen, Jas. H. Hopkins, J. W. Cake, H. B. Wright.

Upwards of a hundred agricultural laborers have been locked-out by the farmers on the Duke of Marlborough's Oxfordshire estate, because they had joined the district union. The men will be supported by the National Union of Farm Laborers.

The strike of shoemakers at Northampton has now lasted 10 weeks. A conference has taken place between the masters and the men, but there is no prospect of a settlement; the former objecting to the classification of wages proposed by the latter.

The open-air meeting of washerwomen who are on strike at Kingston-on-Thames for higher wages was held on Monday afternoon, when speeches were delivered by several female orators; and it was resolved that work should not be resumed unless 3s. per day and beer were given, the day to be nine hours.

The proprietors of the extensive collieries at Claycross, near Chesterfield, gave notice to their men that in July they would increase the price for getting black shale coal 3d. per ton, and for Tupton coal 2d. per ton. This advance has been given by the Company without any solicitation on the part of the men. It will amount, at least, to 10 per cent.

A meeting of representative workmen from different districts of the country was held in Glasgow on Tuesday, the object being to consider the expediency of constituting a national confederation of united trades. There was a good attendance. The conference was engaged throughout the day considering a draft of rules proposed for the management of the contemplated association.

A "demonstration" of the Trade Societies against the objectionable provision of the Criminal Laws Amendment Act was made at Bradford on Saturday. Rain fell incessantly for several hours. Notwithstanding this, a large procession, representing some thirty Trade Societies, numbering not fewer than 4,500 members, walked through the principal streets of the town with bands of music and flags.

The annual Convention which meets at Albany, in September next, promises to be the largest ever held under the jurisdiction of the M. & B. I. U. We have no desire to flatter, when we express the sentiments of nine-tenths of his fellow-craftsmen, when we say that brother Fehrenbach has proven himself one of the best executive officers, as well as one of the most indefatigable workers in the ranks of labor.

We risk nothing in saying that his re-election is a foregone conclusion.—*Advocate.*

The strikes for increased wages in England, Germany and France is on the increase, and bids fair to succeed, more or less. In Germany, where it has been carried on, very persistently, since the ending of the war with France, it has ended in a general rise of 25 per cent. in the price of labor in a single year, with a reduction of the working hours from twelve to ten. The German agricultural laborers are endeavoring to obtain land proprietorship, and those who fail in this endeavor are emigrating to the United States. At present the number of German is greater than the number of Irish immigrants.

On Saturday evening, a meeting of trade delegates was held at Leeds to protest against the principle of systematic overtime now prevalent in several Leeds industries, particularly the iron and machine trades. The chief arguments used by the several speakers were that this incessant toil stocked the market, and thus brought on periodical panics; and that overtime kept wages down, and prevented workmen from educating themselves more fully in the technical departments of their respective trades. The resolution carried was to the effect that the meeting was of opinion that the principle ought either to be very much curtailed or altogether abolished.

The strike of the lumbermen and others in the Saginaw district still continues; they demand that ten hours shall constitute a days work. They have been working from twelve and a half to fourteen hours for a day. Where is Gov. Baldwin's body guard? Much precious time is being lost by the regular soldiers not being there to force obedience to the mandates of the Lumber Kings. Our dignitaries no doubt understand that a small body of troops, either regulars or State militia, would meet with a sorry reception. It is only in isolated localities, and against small numbers where they have no means of defence that the minions of power dare enforce their unrighteous decrees.—*Chicago Advocate.*

## CANADIAN.

A large shingle factory is about to be established at Waterloo.

The present prospect of the peach crop in the Niagara district is excellent. It is thought that it will be the largest gathered for many years.

On Monday, a child belonging to Mr. Brown Donly, who resides on the border of Walpole, east of Villa Nova, was attacked by a hog, and so terribly mangled that he has since died.

The fall wheat crop in the township of Wellesley will prove almost a total failure, owing to its being stricken with rust. From drouth the spring crops will be both short and light.

Last week a ravenous young man named Panton, residing on Sherifi street, Portland, while attempting to bite a piece of bread missed his mark and bit his thumb very severely, the teeth penetrating to the bone. The bite made an ugly appearance.

Mr. J. G. Beckett, of Culais, came near being killed last week by the explosion of a soda fountain he was filling. It was blown into numerous pieces, which flew round him in all directions, tearing his clothes and lacerating his flesh. One piece cut him severely on the leg, and laid him up for some days. It is almost a miracle that he escaped with his life.

A young woman who resided at Port Rowan, a few days ago drove into Port Dover with a stolen horse, which she endeavored to trade off at that place. The fact of her wishing to dispose of the horse excited the suspicion of the authorities, and she was arrested and sentenced to two years in the Provincial Penitentiary. When arrested she was dressed in the garb that should belong to the sterner sex.

Dr. Williams has brought another brick of gold—the product of the Marmora mine—to Belleville. It weighs nearly 26 oz.

The Marmora gold is exceedingly fine, lacking but 45 one thousand parts of entire purity. United States coin is about one-tenth less pure than Marmora gold. This speaks well for the auriferous deposits of Marmora regions.

A young girl up in Listowel, aged 35, captivated a widower, and on Wednesday was to be married in Listowel, but the lady was left at the hotel while the groom went down town to get the gloves, and during their absence she proclaimed herself so bashful that she would have to run away, which she did with such speed that her lover could not catch her until she got home, where she hid herself so securely, that he was unable to find her, and returned and dismissed the waiting minister.

Captain Dawson, of New Glasgow, N.S., has successfully accomplished the feat of taming partridges. A short time since he found a nest of eggs in the woods, and bringing them home had them placed under a hen. Out of the ten hatched, four escaped accidents and cats, and are now growing nicely, their tails and crests being well developed. They are tamer than young domesticated chickens generally are, ramble through the garden, go into the house, pick crumbs off the table, and will even sit and pick food off a person's hand. At night they go to roost in their "house," and bid fair to be thoroughly domesticated.

William Seymour, engine fitter, working at the locomotive shop, Point Edward, met a sad and sudden death on Monday last in the following manner: It appears he had done some work to an engine in the morning, and in the afternoon, when they were about to take the engine out of the shop, Seymour got underneath to see that the work he had done was all right, and in attempting to get out, his foot slipped, and the pilot of the engine caught and crushed him across the breast, killing him almost instantly. An inquest was held, the jury returning a verdict of accidental death. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss. Deceased was an Englishman, and had been in this country about three weeks, and was much respected.

## AMERICAN.

St. Louis aspires to become the centre of the narrow-gauge railroad system of the United States.

According to the last census there are in the United States five millions of children, of school age, who never attend school.

"Gone where a white man can open on Sunday," is the inscription left in the window of a deserted barber-shop in New Bedford.

An Iowa woman has realized fifty thousand dollars from the insurance on the lives of two husbands, and they weren't very good husbands either.

The United States navy at present consists of sixty-nine steamers, twenty-nine sailing vessels, five monitors or iron-clads, and twenty-eight tugs.

In Iowa there blooms a newspaper which tells of a fire thus: John Baldwin, of Grundy county, owned a defective flue. He doesn't own it now. Loss \$600.

A large meteor fell and exploded on Sunday evening near Winnomycus, Nevada, with a shock that caused the people to believe that it was an earthquake. No one was hurt.

Some conception of the immense iron demand in the United States may be inferred from the fact that it requires fully one-half of all the American iron produced to build our railroads and keep them in repair.

A lump of pure gold, weighing half a pound, was recently found by a negro woman on a plantation in Union county, N.C. The woman was hoeing cotton and knocked the lump over with her hoe.

A convict in the Auburn State Prison extemporized a jack-screw from materials which he took from the axle room recently, and came near escaping by hoisting up the roof of his cell, in the upper row of cells. He was detected while at work.

The highest span bridge in the United

States is said to be one on the Walkill Valley railroad, New York, over the Rondout Creek, at Rounddale. The height is 150 feet. There are three iron spans and two wooden ones; the entire length of the bridge being 988 feet; 1,000 tons of iron were used in the construction, and over 400,000 feet of timber.

While workmen were engaged last week in digging a trench in Williamsport, to lay water pipe, they came suddenly on a burying ground, unknown to the oldest inhabitant. Some conjecture that it was an old Indian burying place, but there is nothing to confirm this belief. Others are of opinion that at an early day a frontier fort stood near this place, upon a low bluff. So far, however, the entire matter is involved in mystery. Here's work for a local historian.—*Journal.*

## FOREIGN.

A hairdresser was killed in Paris the other day by a large bull dog falling upon him from the fourth story window.

In Russia no fuel but coal is permitted to be burned on the railways. The object is to save the forests from complete destruction.

In Poland, several newspapers have lately been published for the first time, and the periodical literature is greatly on the increase.

Rangoon is said to have a population of 100,000, but nevertheless we see it stated that the post office officials have not got beyond candles stuck in empty bottles for the illumination of their establishment.

A Russian printer has invented a type-setting machine, which "sets" 30,000 ems per hour, at a cost of five cents per 100,000. A contemporary says: "Send a couple if they are sober."

A faction fight took place near Ballinasole between the families of Kilduffs and Killians, which resulted in the death of one of the latter family. Several were dangerously wounded. A number were arrested by the police. The parties were returning from Ballinasole Fair.

So great and increasing is the outflow of the population of Sweden, that the government of the country has offered a prize for an essay on the best means of putting a stop to the rapidly augmenting emigration of the rural and laboring classes.

At the grave of a wealthy and distinguished citizen of Vienna, recently, two ladies, each claiming to be the widow of the deceased, met by accident each having come to decorate the tomb with flowers and other emblems of affectionate remembrance. The result was that the police were obliged to interfere to keep the peace.

Recently two boatmen, named Magrath and Speed, employed on the Grand Canal, Dublin, set fire to a boat in which a companion named Foley, with whom they had quarrelled, lay asleep. Foley was burned to death. Magrath and Speed are in custody.

M. Koechlin, the opulent Alsatian spinner and machinists, died. M. Koechlin at the outset of the late war volunteered to raise and maintain at his own expense a corps of 5,000 men. Mies Koechlin, his daughter is now undergoing one month's imprisonment for her patriotic demonstrations in favor of France.

Why should coal be at such a high price? "Simply" reply the vendors, "because the colliers have demanded and obtained a rise of wages." Very good. We will just see if this argument will account for the enormous rise in prices. Taking for instance the Derbyshire coal (which is the most used in the metropolis among the poorer people, on account of its cheapness.) I find that the colliers have been granted a rise in wages to the extent of 6d. per ton. In July last year, this coal was selling at 18s. per ton; in July this year, 26s. is demanded. The difference is just 8s. The hard-worked colliers get 6d. out of this. Who pockets the difference?