

## NOTICE.

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

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All communications should be addressed to the Editor, 124 Bay Street or Post Office Box 1025. We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

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.

## Trades Assembly Hall.

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

MESSRS. LANCEFIELD, BROS.,  
Newsdealers, No. 6 Market Square, Hamilton,  
are Agents for the WORKMAN in that  
vicinity, who will deliver papers to all parts  
of the city.

MR. J. PRYKE, "Workingman's Boot  
Store," will also continue to supply papers.

## TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers  
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## The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1873.

## LABOR STATISTICS.

The establishment of Bureaus of Labor Statistics is occupying largely the attention of our cousins across the line. Up to the present, we believe Massachusetts is the only State in which such an institution exists; but the benefits that have followed its inauguration have been so apparent, that its more general adoption is being desired. Governor Ingersoll, in his inaugural message has made reference to the matter, and he urges upon the General Assembly the creation of a Bureau of Labor Statistics, similar to that of Massachusetts. There are a great many people, workmen as well as others, that know very little of the working and objects of these important commissions called Labor Bureaus. The main object is to find out the conditions and burdens of the industrial classes; and we therefore think their creation, not only in all the States of the Union, but even in connection with our legislatures, would be the means of accomplishing a vast amount of good, tending, as it would, to give our legislators and others, a better knowledge of the condition and wants of the laboring classes. Every interest but Labor, has, heretofore, received the attention of our law-makers. The Banking institutions, the Railroad, the Insurance Companies, the Manufacturers—all have their share of attention; but Labor—the most important element in our social system—has it not always been almost entirely neglected? We believe that we are strictly within the

bounds of truth when we say that our representatives in the halls of Parliament, as a rule, are not correctly nor sufficiently informed of the real condition of the operative classes, to act intelligently on any question that comes up affecting their interests. They hear of a few skilled mechanics receiving perhaps three dollars per day, and at once jump to the conclusion that all workmen receive good wages, and could save money had they the disposition so to do. Little or no allowances are made for lost time, occasioned by bad weather, which affects the carpenters, painters, and masons very considerably during the year; and the many other causes that operate in throwing out of employment for a time the workman in the majority of trades. Nothing can be of more importance than reliable information on the true condition of the masses; and therefore, we do not think we are asking too much when we urge upon the powers that be the creation of such a commission as will afford facilities for the collation of information bearing upon the vital subject of labor statistics. There can be nothing better calculated to create harmony between employer and employed, than a general diffusion of correct statements relating to this subject. When the employer thoroughly understands that he cannot prosper for any length of time unless his employees are also prosperous, and therefore that it is his interest to be liberal with them—then will something have been done to bring about that unity of feeling and action which is necessary to secure to the laboring classes the highest degree of success.

## TRADES' CONGRESS.

We drew attention a week or two ago to the call that had been made by our "cousins" across the lines, to organize an Industrial Congress, the informal meeting of which is to be held in Cleveland, in July next. We then alluded to the desirability of a similar organization for the Dominion, in the belief that if such an organization is felt to be beneficial in the great Republic, it is none the less so in our Dominion. We had expected the matter would have been more earnestly taken hold of by the organized bodies of workmen, and that we should have heard from them on the subject. But we are not prepared to attribute their silence to apathy—the idea being new, to Canadians at least, it may, perhaps, require some time for proper consideration. We believe, however, that steps are being taken, in view of recent occurrences, to bring the matter prominently before the various labor organizations. During the past week or so a number of petitions have been presented to Parliament in reference to the Criminal Amendment Act. It is evident, however, that it is too late this session to expect legislation upon this subject. A committee, accompanied by our Representative Member, has waited upon the Hon. Minister of Justice, having in view the question of future legislation in this matter, and the result was most encouraging; and we can only briefly say that it will be their own fault if the unionists of the Dominion do not obtain, at the next session of Parliament, a measure that will meet their wants in every particular. There is, therefore, the more urgent need that a Congress, composed of representatives from all our centres of industry, should be convened to take this and other matters into consideration, and we hope that a general response will be made to the call that is about to be issued.

## ELECTION OF DELEGATE.

At the regular meeting of the Hamilton Typographical Union, No. 129, held on Saturday evening, 10th inst., Mr. J. Hargin was unanimously chosen as the delegate to represent that union at the International Convention to be held in Montreal, early next month. We have no doubt but Mr. Hargin will represent the Hamilton Union with ability.

Sir Geo. E. Cartier died in England on Tuesday morning, at 2 o'clock.

## THE AMALGAMATED ENGINEERS.

Some two weeks since we copied an item from an English exchange in reference to a legal action that had been taken by a member of the Amalgamated Engineers' Society against that organization, in which the defence had put in a plea that they were not registered under the Trade Union Act, upon which count the case was decided against the prosecution. We stated, at the time, that we did not wish to express an opinion upon it until we were better informed; but we published the item to call the attention of the members of the Canadian branch to the occurrence. In our next issue, we re-produced a letter from Mr. Allan, the Secretary of the Engineers, which placed the matter in the right light; and in doing this we considered we had done our whole duty in the matter. Mr. McMillan, the Secretary of the Canadian branch, however, has taken exception to our action in the case, and in a letter to the Mail has expressed surprise and astonishment that we should have published the item at all. But inasmuch as we re-produced both the charge against the society, and its denial by the proper authority as soon as it reached us, we cannot possibly see where we have erred in judgment, or where there is ground for surprise. So far as the supposition of Mr. McMillan that the item was handed in by a member of the Machinists and Blacksmiths' Union, we can assure him he is quite in error. The paragraph was going the round of the English press, in our labor reform exchanges and otherwise, and we consequently re-produced it.

## PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

The workmen of Liverpool have been in useful correspondence with the Prime Minister on the subject of the direct representation of their class in Parliament. They have sounded Mr. Gladstone as to a Bill having the following objects:—Extension of the polling time to eight in the evening, and closing of the public-houses during the elections except for a short time at mid-day. They have also suggested that the returning officers' expenses be taken out of the Treasury or out of the rates; that the private expenditures of candidates, to be submitted for audit, shall not exceed £100 when there are fewer than 5,000 voters; £200 on 10,000 voters; £300 on 50,000 voters; and £400 on more than that number; and, further, that a salary of £300 a year be paid to any member declaring it to be necessary for his maintenance in discharge of his Parliamentary duties. "Many of the points," Mr. Gladstone instructed his secretary to answer, "deserve attention, and will receive the consideration of the House when an opportunity may arise."

## CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The Co-operative Congress at Newcastle illustrates the sure progress of the modern co-operation. Once separated from the fancies of benevolent visionaries, the principle, as one of plain common sense, was sure to recommend itself. The Rochdale Pioneers have been followed into the peaceful field by an inoffensive yet conquering army. The societies, three-fourths of a thousand, with a membership of more than a quarter of a million, possess a capital beyond two millions and a half sterling, and do a yearly business of little less than ten millions. For a long time and generally the societies confined themselves to distribution, buying of the wholesale dealers like the shopkeepers. At Manchester, however, there was established a wholesale store, which buys at first hand from producers and importers, and supplies with goods at rates correspondingly advantageous as many as five hundred distributive societies. The movement has spread from Lancashire and Yorkshire, eastward to Cheshire and Derbyshire, and northward to Cumberland, Northumberland, and Durham.

The people of Japan are complaining about the centralization of the power of the Government.

## PEACE ASSOCIATION.

The workmen of London, not congregating in factories as their brothers in the North, seem sometimes to get on with ideas better than with practical trade questions. The Workmen's Peace Association (to which reference is made elsewhere) affords, perhaps, one exemplification of what we mean. Those who conduct its affairs have successfully brought into union with themselves and object the delegated representatives of many trades in most parts of the kingdom. Besides which several conferences have been held (as at Manchester and Newcastle), and one is about to be held at Glasgow. By these means Mr. Henry Richard, as the advocate of International Arbitration, will have a good backing from the snuws of the people. They have already yielded him the support of nearly a million signatures to petitions in support of his forthcoming motion. Let the workmen of England and of Europe show themselves the friends of peace and advocates of reason, and they cannot fail to reap collateral advantages from principles so sound and so honorable.

## STRIKES.

In a recent strike at Cincinnati of the journeymen shoemakers, known in their Union as Knights of St. Crispin, it appears that violence was done by some of the striking union men to a non-union shoemaker who refused to quit his bench. The result is a fusillade of articles in papers all over the land, opposed to the principles upon which workmen's unions are formed, condemning unions as wholly wrong. Two ideas underlie the discussion, and from them the argument is drawn. Liberty to work when one pleases, and for what one pleases, without let or hindrance from any man, and without being subjected to personal violence, is one of these two ideas. No man will be found disputing the point. The other idea is that the aim and object of unions is to restrain personal liberty, and to use personal violence in doing it. This idea we clearly and flatly deny. This is not the aim and object of trade unions. In joining a union, men pledge themselves, as long as they continue members, to abide by the will of the majority. The very same thing, it will be observed, that all people do, when they are born members of a civilized community. No force is recognized in securing members, nor in retaining them. "Enlightened self-interest," which Blackstone makes the ultimate rule of human conduct, is the only inducing cause. When a strike occurs, it is naturally expected that all members will adhere to their pledges. A failure so to do on the part of any one, of course, makes him lose the respect of his fellows, and causes them to look upon him as a proven violator of his word. No violence to such a one is inculcated in the tenets of the organization, though that the indignation of a member here and there should bubble over into violence is no stranger or more wrong than that A should knock B down because B had violated a promise in a peculiarly aggravated case. As to violence against persons who are not members, and who persist in working at any wages that may suit them, the unions do not countenance it in any manner, form or shape, nor should they be held responsible for it. The worst class of workmen, idle, shiftless and lazy, more often drunk than sober, but primarily bad and vicious men, commit these lawless acts on their own responsibility. They, and they alone, are responsible for them. The unions do not countenance them or their actions. With the curse of bad men they are afflicted just as every other organization is, not even the church being exempt. All they can do is to expel members when they have proven themselves unworthy. It is not predicting too much to say that when investigation shall have fastened the responsibility for the violence in Cincinnati, that the knights of St. Crispin will be found most severe upon the recalcitrant members. The excesses of individuals do not always indicate the good or bad in an organization.—*Terre Haute Gazette.*

## LANGUAGES.

## ANCIENT.

## [CONTRIBUTED.]

"It would be interesting," says Professor Max Muller, "to know from historical documents the exact process by which man first began to lisp his first words, and thus be rid for ever of all those theories on the origin of speech. But this knowledge is denied us, and if it had been otherwise, we should probably be quite unable to understand these primitive events in the history of the human mind." And our ignorance extends even further than this. It is still a matter of controversy what was the character of the language in use for nearly two thousand years after man appeared in the world. It is strongly contended for by some that the original language was Hebrew, on the ground that it is found in the Bible, or that possibly it was the ancient Chaldean; but there are in fact no proofs whatever to support such theories, and they must be looked upon as pure conjectures. As to the language spoken by the first inhabitants of the world prior to the Tower of Babel, we know absolutely nothing. Of those which were subsequently in use we are better able to speak. The principal, according to the best authors, are as follows:—The Hebrew, the Chaldean, the Arabic, the Coptic (or Egyptian), the ancient Ethiopian, the ancient Judean, the ancient Phœnician, the Punic (or Carthaginian), the Lythian, the Greek, and the Latin.

Of these, the three most ancient would seem to be the Hebrew, Chaldean and Arabic, but which of them has the strongest claim to the greatest antiquity is impossible to decide, as each has its advocates. The most respectable authorities are, however, inclined to the opinion that Hebrew must be considered as the first, and that Chaldean and Arabic are simply dialects of the Hebrew. Of the latter, there were also many other important dialects, i.e., the Samaritan, the Rabbinic, or the language used by the Rabbins in their works, and which was peculiarly copious, as there was scarcely any part of science of which the Rabbins have not treated. Lastly, the Talmudic, or the particular idiom in which the Talmud was written, and which, according to Baxtorf, was materially different from pure Hebrew. The Hebrew is itself a beautiful and expressive language, and is said to be much less difficult to learn than is generally supposed.

But the two languages which most merit attention are those of ancient Greece and Rome. Ancient Greek is generally regarded as a magnificent language, and a thorough knowledge of it opens up to us all those admirable productions of the genius of the noble Grecians of former times, such as those of Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Demosthenes, &c.; works which have almost immortalized the memory of these glorious spirits, and preserved the language in all its purity. A knowledge of the language enables us also to form a correct judgment of the antiquities of the country, and of the history of its different ages, which form the most interesting period of the sciences and arts of ancient times. Ancient Greek may be said to have ceased when Constantinople became the regal capital of the Roman Empire, at which time what is called the Greek of the middle age began to be spoken, and at this period many alterations and corruptions were introduced; so much so, that nearly all the former natural elegance disappeared. Modern Greek, or that which is now spoken, commenced at the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, and is vastly different in many respects from the ancient language, not only in the words, but also in the terminations, so that he who only understands the former will not understand the latter.

The Latin language is well known to have been derived from the Greek, and has had a most extensive use, both as a living and as a dead language. Like the latter, the original texts of numerous most celebrated ancient authors are written in it; and during the middle ages, when Latin was the common language of learned men, many important