

NOTICE.

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

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.

Table with 2 columns: Subscription Type and Price. Includes Per Annum (\$2.00), Six Months (\$1.00), and Single Copies (5c).

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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1872.

TRADES' UNION BILL.

We are looking with great interest to the improvement of society. But there has never been any considerable social advancement, whether in ancient or modern times.

If we turn to the civilization of modern times, we find there a marked illustration of the point before us. It took its beginnings amidst scenes of violence and confusion.

Adam Smith tells us that in his day, masters and workmen were equally clamorous in all cases of dispute. Such may have been the state of things a century ago; but if the author of the "Wealth of Nations" lived now-a-days, he would certainly discern a remarkable difference in the conduct of the respective classes.

The workmen of the 19th century are as a body quiet—at least in this and the mother country—orderly and reasonable. But who that has taken cognizance of public events, or read the newspapers during the past few months, can say as much of the other side?

The progress and enlightenment of a hundred years seem to have produced a very small modicum of reformation amongst employers as a class. Their grandfathers, deriving their notions of governing with solely sovereign sway and unquestioned masterdom from the feudal ages, may have been excused by the spirit of the times, the ignorance of the masses, and the principles of their education; but no such extenuating circumstances exist in the 19th century.

nical spirit of by-gone times, because we know there are many just and benevolent men amongst them, and we would not rashly conclude that even as a body they take no note of the signs of the times. Nothing we venture to think has ever before occurred in Canadian history of more importance than the action taken by our employers against Trades Unions, affecting as it does so vitally the constitution of these societies.

Our first duty under the present circumstances is to do all in our power to have the existing state of things remedied by an Act, which will give us the protection we require, and to which we are justly entitled.

In our last we expressed the desire that when we have our hands engaged in the work, we might seek to have all those matters permanently settled. There are features in the English Bill that have given rise to a great amount of dissatisfaction, and continues still to increase that feeling of discontent which its first appearance before the public elicited.

While approving generally of the character of the Bill, we have reason to regard some of its provisions as unnecessarily harsh and oppressive. We strongly object to that portion of it now known as the "Criminal Law Amendment Act," on the ground of it being assumed that the action of Trades' Unions tends naturally to the subversion of law and order.

It is much to be regretted that the Bill does not provide any guarantees for the fulfilment of legitimate contracts entered into by Unionists, but, on the contrary, provides that "no agreement, of whatever character, entered into by them, shall be enforceable in a court of law."

These and other defects have been duly considered in the Old Country, and some amendments have been adopted; while the Trades are watching with scrupulous fidelity the operations of the Bill, and fondly anticipate the speedy construction of a measure that will give satisfaction to all.

It behoves the Unions of this country to bring their machinery into immediate and active operation, in order to assist those who have so promptly manifested a desire to place Trade Societies upon a reasonable and legitimate platform. And sooner than give up the Trades' Unions to the whims and caprices of those who think they have already placed their foul fingers on our institutions, the question will be brought to a closer test than it ever came to yet.

We have every confidence that the promoters of this Bill will have no cause to regret the action they have taken, but will some day rejoice to see the men whose condition they are trying to elevate, in a position which shall reflect credit on themselves and prove beneficial to the country.

THE OLD STORY.

On Friday evening last, the carpenters and joiners of this city held a mass meeting in the St. Lawrence Hall, for the purpose of agitating the question of obtaining a raise of wages. The hall was densely packed, and the entire proceedings were conducted in a manner that reflected credit upon all concerned.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

The strike amongst the printers of this city is speedily approaching a successful termination. During the past two weeks a number of the offices have, "one by one," been opened by the Union, and now but very few offices of any consequence remain closed.

A NEW IDEA.

A threat is being very generally circulated by those who style themselves masters, in fact it is one of the planks laid down in their declaration of principles, that if the present nine hour movement goes on, they will withdraw their money from business and turn it to usury.

MR. RYAN'S LECTURE.

On Thursday night last, Mr. Ryan, Advocate of Montreal, delivered an interesting lecture on the subject of "Capital, Labor and Laborers." The lecturer did not claim to have mastered the subject upon which he spoke, but his observations were confined more to the general outlines of the question.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

A full meeting of the shareholders of the Co-operative Printing Association will be held in the Assembly Hall, on Saturday evening next, at half-past seven o'clock.

TO NEWS DEALERS.

Mr. Irving, news dealer, King street, has undertaken to supply news dealers generally, both in this city and throughout the country, who have business relations with him, with copies of the ONTARIO WORKMAN.

Mr. Marshall, news dealer, 47 King street west, will also supply his numerous customers with the WORKMAN, and orders from retail dealers addressed to him will be cheerfully attended to.

SHORT TIME CONFERENCE.

A convention of delegates from the various Trade Unions and Short Time Leagues of the Dominion will be held in Hamilton, on Friday next, May 3rd for the purpose of consolidating the different organizations, and strengthening the hands of the promoters of the movement in that city.

A DEMONSTRATION.

We understand that active preparations are being made for an imposing demonstration on the 15th of May, by the workmen of the city of Hamilton. A procession of the operative classes will take place, and the craftsmen of the various trades will have specimens of their handiwork with them.

HAMILTON AGENCY.

Mr. James Ryan, Secretary of the Hamilton Nine Hour League, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the WORKMAN in Hamilton and vicinity. We hope to hear a good account from our friends in that neighborhood.

FERGUS AGENCY.

Mr. Frank Coffey will act as Agent for the ONTARIO WORKMAN in Fergus and vicinity. We hope the workmen of that section will sustain the hands of those who are endeavouring to supply to them just such a paper as they need.

A certain person, we cannot call him a gentleman, who carries on the plumbing and gas-fitting business in this city, and who of late has been before the public in making LEGAL attempts to control his family, which he found himself unable to do MORALLY, made a bold attempt the other day to control the minds and govern the actions of those who are unfortunate enough to be employed by him, by subjecting them to an inquisitorial enquiry as to whether they were connected with any labor organization or not.

Communications.

THE "GLOBE" vs. LABOR REFORM.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

Sir,—As one of the working class and a subscriber to THE ONTARIO WORKMAN, I must say that I am pleased with the contents of your valuable paper, and also with the manner in which the all-absorbing topic—the Nine Hour System—is discussed; and I trust that your efforts to disseminate the principles of labor reform far and wide will meet with the hearty co-operation of all workmen throughout the Dominion, and that its usefulness may be commensurate with its extensive circulation.

Too long have we been duped by the loud-mouthed professions of the "Globe's" manager on questions of "Reform." Too long has he exerted an influence among the over-confiding working classes—the majority of whom, till lately, placed their faith in him. The "Globe" was the journal above all others (through its advocacy of political and social reform) that should have been the first to advocate their claims; or, at the least, its columns should have been open to a fair and impartial discussion of the question at issue.

But the workingmen are not to be led away by his appeals at certain times to "Vote for the Workingman's Friend," the "Workingman's Candidate," &c.—which, seen in the light of his recent conduct, has been shown to be not only insincere, but downright hypocritical cant.

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I for one, Mr. Editor, renounce such a man; and I hope that the working classes generally will, at all times and on all occasions, show how they appreciate such conduct on his part, not only as an employer, but as a journalist; and the trust they once placed in him be forever withdrawn.

I would urge the mechanics and artisans, and all interested in a movement that tends to elevate the industrial classes socially and morally, to support only those public men who, when seeking the suffrages of the workingmen, will pledge themselves to legislate on behalf of a portion of the community whose rights have been to a great extent ignored, and insist on the repeal of all laws interfering with their freedom of action in uniting to protect themselves against their greedy and avaricious employer.

Before closing I cannot help expressing my astonishment at the line of action pursued by the employers. One would naturally suppose