#### **ONTARIO** WORKMAN. THE

#### NOTICE.

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WE shall be pleased to receive items of interest per taining 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 ques tions affecting the working classes. All communication must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good

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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 advanceor last played a prominent part.

If we turn to the civilization of modern Sir J. A. Macdonald's tunely interposition nings amidst scenes of violence and con- difficulties, and soon be carried into law. fusion. War exhausted the talent, the energies, and the resources of the superior classes, and hopeless servitude was the fate of the inferior. But the fabric of society could not always remain in this state. A principle was at work, tending to re-organize it on a noble plan. Organization began to work its way among the social elements, and the appropriate agent of advancing civilization began to acquire dignity \* td. importance. When we look back over a period of five hundred years, and com pare, or rather contrast, the condition of the world then and now, how great is our as tonishment ! Yet, notwithstanding all that has been done in the past, there still remains much to be accomplished in the future.

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. He would doubtless observe that the clamor was nearly all on the one side-the side of the masters, who have really least to complain of. "The Masters," he says, "are just as clamorous as the workmen, and never cease to call aloud for the assistance of the civil magistrate, and the rigorous execution of those laws which have been enacted with so much severity against the combinations of servants, laborers and journeymen." The workmen of the 19th century are as a body quiet-at least in this and the mother country-orderly and reasonable.  $\sim$  But who that has taken cognizance of pub-Lic events, or read the newspapers during the past few months, can say as much of the other side? Their complaints and clamor have been incessant. The laws, "enacted with so much severity" and injustice, have been unsparingly resorted to, and this day the clamor is raging for "their rigorous execution." 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 extennating circumstances exist in the 19th century. We speak, it will be observed, of the present employers as a class, and their conduct, as seeming to indicate the tyran- and prove beneficial to the country.

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men amongst them, and we would not rashly conclude that even as a body they and joiners of this city held a mass meeting take no note of the signs of the times. 'in the St. Lawrence Hall, for the purpose Nothing we venture to think has ever be- i of agitating the question of obtaining a raise fore occurred in Canadian history of more of wages. The hall was densely packed, importance than the action taken by our and the entire proceedings were conducted employers against Trades Unions, affecting in a manner that reflected credit upon all as it does so vitally the constitution of these concerned. A great deal of late has been societies. In the face of such dearly bought said and written upon the subject of arbiexperience as that purchased by capitalists tration as a means of preventing strikes, in England, it is astonishing to find men ; and adjusting differences between employers who have any pretentions to intelligence, and employed. No one for a moment can to allow themselves to be guided by a fractions "individual," and connive together for the purpose of accomplishing what all the wealth, influence and monopoly at the command of English employers failed to do. Who does not recollect the fierce cry that was raised against Trades Unions in 1867, and the subsequent appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into their organization and operations, which had the grand effect of bringing the real objects of such societies prominently before the public, and ultimately brought them under the protection of the law, thus securing for them a stronger, surer and more extended basis than they ever had before. A result widely different to that which their enemies either anticipated or intended. We ask, who can reflect on these incidents without believing that we are drifting into the same channel ? And the greater the arrogance displayed by those christian men in their untimely efforts to crush Trade Societies out of existence, the sooner will their establishment upon a

nical spirit of by-gone times, because we know there are many just and benevolent

legal basis be accomplished. Our first duty under the present circum-

ment, whether in ancient or modern times, | stances is to do all in our power to have the wherein the artizan as a class has not first existing state of things remedied by an Act, which will give us the protection we require, and to which we are justly entitled.

times, we find there a marked illustration ( entitles him to our warmest gratitude. Let of the point before us. It took its begin- us hope that his Bill will bridge over all

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 ; and considering that the offences enumerated in that Act are already punishable by law, we maintain that no good reason exists for their being made specially illegal. And while expressing our most earnest desire that all violence and intimidation on the part of Unions should be punished, we at the same time submit that criminals of every kind should alike be amenable to the ordinary Criminal Law.

It is much to be regretted that the Bill loes not provide any guarantees for filment of legitimate contracts entered into by Unionists, but, on the contrary, provides that "no agreement, of whatever character, entered into by them, shall be enfore able in a court of law." The clause which restricts the quantity of land to be held by a Trade Union to ONE ACRE, is justly considered to be injurious to the interests of Unions, and imposes a restriction which is otherwise without meaning. We have the conviction that Trade Union funds could be invested to advantage in this species of property, and we fail to see any good reason why they should be prohibited from so investing their capital.

### THE OLD STORY.

arbitration been met by the employers? Let

the correspondence that passed between the

Secretary of the Typographical Union and

the "Master" Printers-and let the re-

marks of the speakers at the mass meeting

on Friday evening testify. We fully believe

that if the employers had shown a less arbi-

trary spirit, and been willing to consult

with their employees, the principle of arbi-

tration could have been worked on this

occasion-and worked to a decided success.

If those who talk so loudly of the advan-

tages of arbitration would be true to them-

selves, let an opportunity be afforded for its

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

The strike amongst the printers of this

city is speedily approaching a successful ter-

mination. 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. The men resumed work in the fol-

lowing offices in the order in which they

come :-- The IRISH CANADIAN ; McLeish &

Co.; The CANADIAN FREEMAN; Messis.

Rowsell & Hutchinson ; Messrs. Copp,

Clarke & Co. ; The EXPRESS ; The Church

Herald Printing Company; and Messrs.

Bell & Co. In addition to these there are

those offices with which the strike did not

interfere-the LEADER, which office has

within the last month more than doubled

the number of its employees; the MAIL,

where some thirty-five men are employed,

and one small office. Quite a number of

printers have also left the city during the

past week or two, to supply whose places it

will be exceedingly difficult, as they were

justly regarded as some of the BEST men in

their various departments of the craft.

Then, since the commencement of the strike,

three new offices have come into existence,

giving employment to a number of hands.

Thus it is apparent that so far as the strike

among the printers is concerned, the "end

is not far." We believe we are correct in

saying that in less than a week the whole

A NEW IDEA.

that principle.

adoption.

## MR. RYAN'S LECTURE.

On Thursday night last, Mr. Ryan, Ad-On Friday ovening last, the carpenters vocate of Montreal, delivered an interest ing 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. The struggle, long and fierce, between "Capital and Labor" was dwelt upon, and the inequalities between the two freely admitted ; but the effects were not traced back to the cause, and consequently no theory was brought forward to attempt question the advisibility of such a method to solve the difficulties and adjust the difof settling disputes, and where it is entered ferences. The lecture, however, as an hisinto in a proper spirit by the parties at torical sketch of the laborer from the time variance, but little doubt can exist as to that he merged from a state of *villienage* to the benefits likely to flow from such a course. the position that he occupies at the present But how have the efforts of the employees time, was highly instructive, and was apin this city, at least, in connection with the preciated by the audience present. present and threatened difficulties, to secure

# 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. It is very desirable that all shareholders should be in attendance, as business of importance will be transacted. The By'laws will be submitted for adoption, and the permanent Board of Directors will be appointed. It is to be hoped that no shareholder will be absent.

# TO NEWS DEALERS.

Mr. Irving, news dealer, King street, has indertaken 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. His large business connection will facilitate the circula tion of the WORKMAN, and his means of dis tribution will secure an early delivery to country stores. All orders, therefore, from news dealers addressed to Mr. Irving will receive prompt attention.

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, in view of the action to be taken by them on the loth of May. We have no doubt that this opportunity will be duly ap preciated by all those co-workers who have ong manifested a desire to extend to each other the hand of brotherly fellowship.

# 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 point at issue have awakened and aroused

## 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 workingmen throughout the Dominion, and that its usefulness may be commensurate with its extensive circulation. 1 am sure that, as workingmen, we ought to feel proud to know that through its columns our views can be made public, and our desires and wants known, in the present struggle for what we believe to be our just and equitable rights.

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. The conduct of the Managing Director since the inception of the Nine Hour Movement in Canada has been base; and his ingratitude to the class on which he relied for, and obtained, his principal support, stands out in bold relief. Occasionally he has dished up an article on this very same question - particularly on the eve of an election,-that he might secure the vote and influence of the class he now seeks to trample under foot. Having obtained the legal opinion of Mr. R. A. Harrison (who should have known better), he hopes, by giving publicity to an ancient and obsolete law, to intimidate an intelligent and enlightened (though they are 'workingmen") portion of the community. With regard to the "opinion" obtained, let me say, sir, it is a discredit to the man who gave it, and an everlasting disgrace to the man who seeks to use it against those who stand up for a principle which he not long since strongly approved of, but now condemns.

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. This assertion is verified by the prominent part he has taken, in conjunction with other employers of this city, to crush out this great social reform—a question that has engaged the attention of some of our ablest men, and numbers among its advocates statesmen, philosophers, lawyers, doctors, and clergymen. A host of eminent men have written and spoken on this question; and the speeches and letters to the press on the of Hamilton. A procession of the operative public opinion to a consideration of its merits. George Brown and the "Globe," assisted by his satelites, cannot destroy that opinion ; he may try to stifle it, but it will rise with renewed energy, and the immaculate G. B. will find out that, as he himself said, it is a question "not to be poohpoohed or strangled out," -(Consistency, thou art a jewel !) When it came home to himself-(ah, there was the rub)-he saw it in a different light. And, not content to fight against it alone, he must "combine,' too : a Union of Employers must be formed-for without union but little can be accomplished, thus recognizing the principle that in union there is strength. So the united force resolves to resist the claims and procure the punishment of those who have, on the other hand, united to protect their interests. 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 appreciato 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 urgo the mechanics and artizans, 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 ( 'the workingmon, will pledge themselves o legislate on behalf of a portion of the j ommunity whose rights have been to a fat extent ignored, and insist on the rept i of all laws interfering with their freedom action in uniting to protect themselves a inst their greedy and avaricious employer Before closing I cannot help er essing my astonishment at the line of action 1. issued by We can spare him and not suffer excessively. | the employers. One would naturally suppose

of the men who left their employment to sustain a principle will be in work again, without having in the least swerved from

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 behaves 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 over 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 clevate, in a position which shall reflect credit on themselves

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. This would lead us to believe that these Solons have discovered a new principle in social economy, for we have always been led to believe that it was necessary to touch the non-productive commodity known as capital with productive labor to make it accumulative. But these wise heads have lit up the horizon with a new ray of hope for poor suffering capital that will gladden the heart of many a miser by promulgating a new idea through which, when labor becomes turbulent or any way exacting in its domands, the capitalist has nothing to do but to cease business and let

the money produce interest without use. until labor becomes docile and is willing to proceed in the service of those Lords of Monopoly upon whatever terms they may be pleased to grant the scrvile wretches who were bold enough to question their right to dictate. But with all the power that capital is possessed of,-and its legalized power to rob labor is extreme,-still there is no danger of capital remaining idle and continuing to be accumulative. The workman has to produce the intrinsic value that money is but the mere representative of, and whether this be done at eight or ten hours there is but the one way of doing it, namely, by the productive energies of man. By this force we can rapidly produce capital in a wilderness, and withou it the hoarded wealth of the capitalist would soon become as worthless to the community as such individuals too often are themselves.

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 Coffee will act as Agent for the ONTARIO WORKMAN in Fergus and vicinity. We hope the workingmen 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 gentlemen, 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 MORAL-LY, 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; (we did not hear whether or no the thumb screws were in waiting); and if they were; this same "master" was determined to turn them on the world to starve. Little wonder that his wife and children "went back" on him, for such a person is unfit for civilized and progressivo society. How would he do for Grand Vizer to the Sultan?