

Ontario Workman.

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

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Labor Notes.

The trades unions of England have added fifty per cent to their numbers during the past year.

Wages have increased ten per cent. on the average throughout England.

About two hundred of the recently suspended mechanics, London, Eng., resumed work at the Navy Yard, on Thursday.

The gas stokers employed by the Oldham Corporation struck on Friday because an advance of wages had been delayed.

On Thursday, Mr. Gerald Massey, delivered a lecture in the New Waverly Hall, Edinburgh, to a large audience, on behalf of the Printers' Strike Fund. The subject announced for the lecture was "Thomas Hood," but the real subject was the social condition of the country.

Colonel Henderson has refused to reinstate the men of the P. division of police, who were discharged for accompanying Goodchild in the omnibus to Hammersmith Police Court. They are to consider themselves permanently discharged. A subscription is being got up for the men who were imprisoned.

Meetings of miners have been held nightly in the Dunfermline district in regard to the demand by the employers for a reduction of wages by 1s. per day. It has been unanimously agreed to stand by the resolution made at the "mass" meeting held on Friday, to work only four days per week, should the imposition of the reduction be insisted upon.

Nearly all the day stokers at the Imperial Company's works, London, resumed work on Wednesday. Some of the other companies will also take on many of the old hands. The two stokers against whom warrants have been issued in connection with the gas strike at Beckton have absconded with the money subscribed for their defence.

In compliance with an application from a large number of the men on strike, the managers of the Imperial Gas Company have permitted a large number of their old hands to return to work, on condition that they signed a document for a week's notice either way. The men gladly accepted these terms, and most of the night gang, with the exception of the ringleader in the strike, went back to work last night, and the day gang will go in to-day.

The South Yorkshire colliery owners are forming a combination, having for its object the insurance of members against losses by strikes, accidents, &c., and the acquiring of rights in patents relating to the working of mines. It is proposed to raise a capital of £200,000, in 20,000 shares of £10 each for this purpose.

Efforts are being made to arrange for a conference between the Masters' Association and the Typographical Society of Edinburgh, who have been on strike for the past four weeks. Both parties express themselves willing to negotiate a settlement of the points at issue, but at the same time, there is an evident unwillingness to make mutual concessions. In these circumstances, we have heard it suggested as a basis of compromise, that the masters, on the one hand, should concede the principle of the 51 hours, and that the men, on the other, should agree to spread the reduction of hours over two years instead of one, as they proposed; further, that the advance of 1d per 1000 should be given on and after the 1st of May, 1873.

A general meeting of the Edinburgh Typographical Society was recently held to receive a report by the Executive Committee on the establishment of a printing office in connection with the society. The committee recommended that a lease should be taken of suitable premises, and that the present plant of the office be extended with a view to carry on the printing business in a sufficient manner. The recommendations of the committee were unanimously adopted, as was also a suggestion to send a representative to the Trades Union Congress,

which is to be held at Leeds on the 13th of January.

One of the largest meetings of colliers ever held in Lanarkshire, took place lately in Hamilton. Bands of music, with flags flying, marched in front of the men connected with various districts, and before the close of the meeting, which was held in the open air near the Gas Works, no less than ten or eleven thousand men would be present. Various speakers having addressed the meeting as to the proposed reduction which the Larkhall men received notice of on Saturday last, it was resolved to bring out the Larkhall men on strike, the other districts to resume work on Thursday, and support their fellow workmen while out on strike.

In anticipation of the approaching visit of the gentlemen forming the Commission of Enquiry relative to the working of the Factory Act, the operatives are bestirring themselves in order to furnish evidence to show the necessity for the adoption of the 54 hours bill, as proposed by Mr. Mundella, M. P. It is expected that the Commissioners will visit Glasgow towards the end of the month or the beginning of January. Mr. M. Middleton, as a deputation from the Nine Hour Factory Workers' Association, has just returned from Belfast, where he has been explaining the importance of the subject to the operatives. They are now fully alive to the necessity of the measure, and quite prepared to give evidence in support of its adoption.

There is likely to be a large immigration from the agricultural districts of England. Very little of this element has hitherto been added to our population, and when the tide once sets this way we shall expect to see many thousands of sturdy Englishmen turning their faces Americawards to better their fortunes. A meeting has just been held in London at which the miserable condition and low wages of the English farm laborers were fully discussed. The London dailies, with a single voice, advise the ill-paid farmers to emigrate, and undoubtedly the advice will be taken by many. Several companies are already forming, the numbers being about equally divided for Canada and the United States.

A London correspondent of a Birmingham paper writes that the Curates of Richmond were on the strike. What galled these representatives of the mildest and most amiable section of humanity into such a desperate act of rebellion we are not informed. Possibly an increase of salary was their object, or perhaps their Vicar did not treat them sufficiently as men and brethren. It is stated, however, that ten services were held each Sunday in the two churches of the parish; and on this fact some may be inclined to build up the plausible hypothesis that the curates considered themselves over-worked. But, whatever their grievance, they clearly showed that they did not understand the art of striking. Richmond is within a quarter of an hour's rail of London, where there are always plenty of disengaged clergymen. The Vicar, being an energetic man, telegraphed for assistance, which at once was forthcoming, and the ordinary services were triumphantly accomplished. We cannot affect to regret that this movement has been crushed in the bud. Clerical unionism would inevitably become tainted with the proverbial bitterness of theological controversy, and we might before long witness scenes among our spiritual pastors at which Sheffield itself would shudder.

Wm. Hart, corner of Yonge and Elm streets, is conducted on the good old English principal by Bell Belmont, late of London, England, who has gained the reputation, by strict adherence to business, of keeping the best conducted saloon in this city. The bar is pronounced by the press to be the "prince of bars," and is under the entire management of Mrs. Emma Belmont, whose whole study is to make the numerous patrons to this well-known resort comfortable. Visitors to this city will not regret walking any distance to see this—his handsomest bar in the Dominion.

PROGRESSION.

The following article contributed by Mr. J. F. Bray to the Workingman's Advocate, contains some ideas that are worth pondering by our readers. They are somewhat advanced, but, in the main, are, we believe, practical.

While trades and labor unions have accomplished much good, they are naturally restricted in their operations, and the time seems to have arrived for the formation of organizations based on broader views, and embracing individuals and ideas hitherto excluded from all labor movements. It is necessary that the whole industrial community should be in unity and harmony as much as possible, and this cannot be accomplished through existing labor organizations of any kind. These new unions should be made as attractive as possible, free to all who choose to enrol themselves as members, women as well as men. One evening a week can be pleasantly and profitably spent in amusing and instructive exercises, in reading and discussing short articles or essays for or against the projected universal union of capital and labor. Music and dancing can be introduced. One great object of these new organizations is to diffuse a more extended knowledge of the new union-of-capital-with-labor movement in all its bearings, and at the same time promote social intercourse and improvement. As these new organizations will doubtless excite the hostility of opponents, it may be necessary to know the members by numbers instead of names. Working-men need something more humanizing than the saloon and the grocery. Home is not always attractive, and the existing unions furnish but a dull and dry mental repast.

A great social and political movement, founded on a great idea, its universality will soon effectually protect its members. The temperance movement owes its continuance and success chiefly to the admission of women into its societies; and as working women suffer equally with working men in the existing empire of plunder, they naturally form an important portion of the movement. It is not necessary to give up the present trades unions, for as yet their impression is not ended, but these new organizations are a preparatory step to a great universal movement of the industrial classes to establish a new political and social era. They embrace important elements and forces that are excluded from other unions. They have nothing to do with strikes, hours of labor, and the other objects sought for by existing unions, and yet their ultimate success embraces all that other unions are contending for. A full and free discussion by the working class of all the principles and wages that affect them for better or worse is a prime necessity, and this discipline is studiously banished from all existing organizations. Regalia and other influences known to be attractive, can be introduced if deemed necessary.

There is always more or less bickering, and division of sentiment in ordinary unions as to the propriety of discussing this or that subject, but these new organizations should encourage the discussion of everything that affects the welfare or progress of mankind, and admit every individual that is in accord with the primary idea of the union of capital and labor.

This union of capital and labor necessarily includes and advances of all other reformatory measures. When all workmen toil for themselves in consolidated associations, regulating alike the amount of their wages and their hours of labor, there can be no chance for the hostile influences that now demoralize society and impoverish labor. This great reform, with the progressive agencies to gain out of it, establishes society and civilizations on a new and permanent basis. For the first time in the history of the world, the weak will be relieved from the oppression of the strong. There can be no more exclusive legislation, no legalized plunder of the masses. It is not expected that the earth will become a paradise, but as the new

movement will banish poverty and idleness, it thereby removes the chief incentives to intemperance and crime.

The prime necessity of the times, is a union of capital and labor. There is no possible argument for their continued separation. It may have been necessary in the past, but is so no longer. The submissive child laborer of old times, has grown into this aggressive and thoughtless man-laborer of to-day. His brains are developed equally with those of his master. He unites with his fellow-laborer for defensive and offensive operations. Capital also has its unions, to coerce, to intimidate, to starve rebellious labor into submission. Each party expects war, more or less, and is preparing for it. Which has the advantage? Capital most assuredly. No combination of labor could successfully resist a general combination of capital. The wealth which labor has created is employed to conquer and crush it. Union after union would go down before a combined alliance of capital, and the combination of capital is only a question of time. One month of a general outlook of important branches of manufacture, would reduce the masses engaged in it to abject poverty.

It is well for labor to look at its weakness as well as the strength it has; it owes it to its own organization and the disorganization of its adversary. But events may compel the organization of capital. What chance has labor in a final struggle between the men who have everything and the men who have nothing?

But, giving up isolated trade conflicts, and gradually consolidating the industrial masses into one political body, combined together for an attack, not upon capitalists, but upon the system which makes labor its slave, a victory at the polls includes all other victories. Labor then has effectually the upper hand. It will legislate for the greatest good for the greatest number. It outflanks capital, and takes possession of its strongholds. The distinction between the rival forces will be so great that there will be no chance for treachery. Every man will stand broadly upon one side or the other. Shall a man be free, or shall he be measurably owned and controlled by another? That is the great question for the future to decide.

Labor and trades unions have been instituted for this express purpose, but they cannot fight effectually because their hands are tied by the want of capital. They cannot control capital because they do not attempt to control legislation. They leave all legislation to party politicians and political hirelings, and therefore all legislation is against them; but the way out of their difficulties lies through legislation, and this can be controlled only through political action independent of political hacks and hirelings, and existing parties. Legislation can unite capital with labor, and give labor a fair start, free from the bonds of interest and profit, and the other appliances which have been invented to rob labor.

EDUCATION IN ARTS AND TRADES.

It is a misfortune that the old-fashioned habit of subjecting lads to the training of apprenticeship has been suffered to die out. The lack of systematic education in the practice of the industrial arts has already produced serious effects upon many of our trades in which skilled labor is needed, and there are loud complaints from all classes of our employers against the imperfect methods of work which have unfortunately become the rule rather than the exception. The younger generation of Americans seem to have forgotten that their fathers won the honors and rewards of life through diligent labor, careful study and the skillful adaptation of means to ends. Practical education has given place to a sort of happy-go-lucky scramble, in which the quickest is the luckiest. Young men plunge headlong into vocations for which they are totally unqualified by nature or by education; the useful life of the artisan is too often regarded with undigested contempt by those who prefer to starve in clerkships than to live comfortable lives through the gains of labor; country lads come to the cities with no degree of fitness for

city work, and frequently fall into evil ways; and the ranks of the skilled workmen, which must be kept full in order to preserve our industries from decay, are chiefly recruited from abroad. Ask the owner of one of our large printing offices, who gives employment to many men, if the printer is as well trained up for his work as he should be, and the answer is in the negative—and why? Because the custom of apprenticing boys to that trade has fallen into disuse. Inquire of any machinist, who has hundreds of good workmen under pay, what proportion of Americans find their way to his shop among the throng of applicants for places, and his reply will be that the foreign element is largely in excess of the native. The same reason is given in explanation—the foreign workman is trained from boyhood to the avocation he elects to follow, and the American workman is untrained. The statistics of our manufacturing industries for the past ten years show that this condition of affairs has gradually grown worse, and the problem of the best method of reforming the evil is one which demands attention.

Recent discussions of the subject of technical education have, therefore assumed an important aspect. We need schools for instruction in the industrial arts, open to all corners, and capable of imparting a practical knowledge of essential processes; yet more than all else, we need a better education of the young in the lessons of industry and duty. The rising generation of American youth should be so tutored that they will regard honest labor as an obligation incumbent upon them, rather than as a punishment inflicted for their sins. It is not given to every man-child to walk in the way of the statesman, the orator, or the author—nor for that matter, to become proficient as clerk or merchant; Nature has created Arkwrights and Brunels and Stephenson for the practical work of the world, and but for this practical element the professions would speedily find themselves without clients or audiences. Let our boys be urged to select their own line of business, and when their choice is made, require them to apply all their energies to the mastery of its principles and its details, and we shall then have begun to purge the body corporate of some of the unwholesome humors which now retard its growth and restrict its energies.

A BOY'S COMPOSITION.

Girls are the most unaccountable things in the world—except women. Like the wicked flea, when you have them they ain't there. I can cipher clean over to improper fractions, and the teacher says I do it first-rate, but I can't cipher out a girl, proper or improper, and you can't either. The only rule in arithmetic that hits their case is in the double rule of two. They are as full of old Nick as their skin can hold, and they would die if they couldn't torment somebody. When they try to be mean they are as mean as parsley, though they ain't as mean as they let on, except sometimes, and then they are a good deal meaner. The only way to get along with a girl when she comes at you with her nonsense is to give her tit for tat, and that will flummox her; and when you get a girl flummoxed she is as nice as a new pin. A girl can sow more wild oats in a day than a boy can sow in a year, but girls get their wild oats sowed after a while, which boys never do, and then they settle down as calm and placid as a mud puddle. But I like girls first-rate, and I guess the boys all do. I don't care how many tricks they play on me, and they don't care either. The hoity-toitist girls in the world can't always boil over like a glass of soda. By-and-by they will get into the traces with somebody they like, and pull as steady as an old stage horse. That is the beauty of them. So let them wave, I say; they will pay for it some day, sewing on buttons and trying to make a decent man of the feller they have spliced on to, and ten chances to one if they don't get the worst of it.

It is not the seeing of one's friends, the having them within reach, the hearing of and from them, that make them ours. Many a one has all that, and yet has nothing. It is believing in them, the depending on them, assured that they are true and good to the core, and therefore could not but be good and true toward everybody else, ourselves included—aye, whether we deserve it or not.