

Ontario Workman.

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

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FOREIGN.

PARTNERSHIP OF INDUSTRY.—A large watch and clock manufacturer of Neuchâtel has set the example of participation of profits with his workmen. A regular account is opened with each man, and his book is made up annually, four per cent. being added by the employer to the amount due, as interest on the capital for one year.

OPERATIVE BUTCHERS' HOURS.—At an adjourned meeting of operative butchers of London, held on Monday night, it was agreed—a majority of the employers being unfavorable to the ten hours' system—to limit their demands to a request for a Wednesday half-holiday to the salesmen. Nearly all the employers called on were willing to grant this boon, and unanimity is expected. A weekly half-holiday to slaughtermen (steady and jobbing) will shortly be agitated for.

OUTRAGE ON FOREIGNERS BY CHINESE.—We learn from the *Shanghai Budget* that recently the British settlement was thrown into painful excitement by news that Mr. Farnham and Mr. Rohl, the senior and junior partners of the well-known American firm of S. C. Farnham & Co., had been attacked by the natives of some villages near Kintoon Beacon, about twenty miles down the Yangtse from Shanghai, and that while Farnham had with difficulty reached the Beacon dangerously wounded, it was feared that Rohl had been murdered outright.

VOLUNTEERS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.—On Whit-Monday, thunderstorms, with hail and rain, were general in the west of England, causing holiday-seekers much annoyance. During a drill of Dorset Volunteers near Dorchester, a tremendous report was heard, and Blagdon Monument and Obelisk, in the centre of the drill ground, was seen to have been struck by lightning. Six Volunteers were dashed to the ground and scorched, two of them being so severely burnt as to require to be carried to their homes. A tall flagstaff on the ground was split from top to bottom.

THE TOBACCO MONOPOLY IN FRANCE.—For the last three or four years, says a correspondent, French smokers have been complaining bitterly of the bad quality of the tobacco which the Government has been providing, in spite of the extra charge of 1f. 25c. per lb. By way of protest, the gamblers have taken advantage of the Prussian occupation to indulge in unlimited smuggling, and the consequence has been a very appreciable diminution in the profits which the Government make on the sale of the noxious weed. This is becoming a question of considerable importance, and may shortly be made the subject of a Government interpellation.

The *Birmingham Gazette* reports a singular case which came before the county court judge in that town. John Kendell, engineer, was a few days ago ordered by the Birmingham magistrates to find sureties to keep the peace for six months towards his wife. The February complainant, who was the wife of Joseph Davis, was possessed of a mill and other property worth £2,000, and she advertised for an engineer. Kendell was introduced to her, but she was ill in bed, and he induced her to marry him the day after. An application has now been made to the county court for an interim injunction against John Kendell to restrain him from disposing of certain property which had been left to Mrs. Kendell by her former husband. His honor granted the injunction.

MEETING OF ENGLISH BENEFIT SOCIETIES.—The opening meetings of several of the large benefit societies in the English manufacturing districts took place on Monday. The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was reported to have 458,000 members; the "capital" of the Order is estimated at three millions sterling. The income for the past year exceeded £700,000, and the expenditure for sick and funeral "benefits" and medical attendance was nearly £500,000. The Order of Druids numbers more than 71,000 members; the National Independent Order of Oddfellows has 35,595. The Shep-

herds can count 45,517 members, a yearly income of £46,000, and they state that the Order is "worth £70,000." The Free Gardeners are 33,136 strong; and the chairman "expressed his belief that the progress would have been even still greater had it not been for an erroneous impression that only practical gardeners were admitted."

SCENE AT THE TRIAL OF A COMMUNIST.—An exciting scene occurred the other day in Paris during the trial, by court-martial, of a woman named Augustine Chiffon. During the fighting in Paris this woman was seen in the streets, her hands steeped in blood, and boasting that she had killed two soldiers. On the entry of the troops she was taken prisoner and placed against the wall to be shot, but on her saying that she had tended the wounded, the troops spared her life. On the trial, an officer, who was charged with her defence, pleaded that her mind was deranged. "I am not mad," she exclaimed, "and protest against the words. I have suffered too much in prison, and demand to be put to death! But your turn will come also; the men of Versailles were too cowardly to kill me, but you will all be shot like dogs! Vive la Commune!" At those words the public rushed on her, and the guard had to intervene for her protection, and dragged her away, still crying out, "Vive la Commune! A bas les Versailles!" and without her bonnet or shawl, which had been torn from her in the struggle. The Court eventually condemned her to twenty years' hard labor. The woman was then brought back, and on hearing her sentence read, she again burst out in a tone of mockery. "The cowards, they do not dare! Well! I am thirty-five, and in twenty years I shall only be fifty-five, and still good for something. But it is only a matter to laugh at; a change of Government and I shall be out at once, and that will not be long. Vive la Commune!"

AMERICAN.

A convict in the Michigan State prison has just fallen heir to \$980,000.

Some men who were blasting rocks in Bowling Green, Ky., turned 1,700 rattlesnakes out of their beds.

A Chinese poem, *La-Sao*, written 2200 years ago, is said to prove that America was known to the Chinamen of that day.

Locusts are in Tennessee in immense numbers, and the woods are alive with them.

Shrewd Illinois farmers have taken to raising wolves for the purpose of getting the bounty on their scalps.

Buzzing Bull-toads, chief of the Sacs, is no more. He bought a gallon of alcohol of a trader, and contracted to carry it home without a jug.

A law of Pennsylvania makes the taking of money at the door of a theatre on Sunday illegal, wherefore it is invariably taken at the window.

A pair of twins, born at Lowndes county, Miss., the other day—a boy and a girl—were named respectively Horace Greeley and Dolly Varden.

A little busy "bumble bee" drove a man out of Church in Indianapolis, the other day by trying to gather honey from his bald pate.

While two young men in Benton county, Indiana, were horseback riding last week the lightning killed both horses and a colt and left the riders uninjured.

A New Hampshire man of seventy-two years, lately married a widow of fifty-five, with a family of thirteen. A band serenade was given the happy fifteen.

The other day, in Portland, Maine, a mother left two twin babies on the floor and stepped out. While gone a cat attacked one of the children and tore its face terribly, taking out large pieces of flesh. The child is expected to die.

A new safe has been invented which makes it rather unpleasant for burglars. The walls are filled with gunpowder in such

a manner that the blows of a sledge or cutting of a chisel in the attempt to rob the safe will ignite the powder, blow off the outer crust, annihilate the burglar, and leave the contents of the safe uninjured.

If the breach of promise business could possibly be "run into the ground" it has been done at Detroit by a blooming maiden of 43, suing one of the male persuasion of 19 for breach of promise to marry. To what extent a jury will consider this maiden's affections have been damaged by this love affair nobody can tell; however, we imagine she will live through it. Altogether the case is as much of a burlesque on the law as the law is a disgrace to the common intelligence of respectable men and women.

A rare phenomenon was witnessed in the vicinity of Oswego, N. Y., on Thursday last. The water in the lake and river rose two feet, remaining at that elevation sixty-four minutes. From two till after seven o'clock the water alternately rose and fell, subsiding to its ordinary level at seven o'clock, where it remained. Previous to the rise a white squall on the lake gathered a high water spout, which swept rapidly to the east. A rumbling sound was heard coming from the water. Fish came to the surface of air rose rapidly and exploded. The symptoms seemed to indicate a submarine earthquake.

CANADIAN.

A yearling ewe belonging to Geo. McQuinn, of Nissouri, gave birth to one lamb on the 1st of May, and one week after gave birth to two.

A sad accident occurred at the west end of the village of Petrolia, on Sunday morning. A little boy of some three years of age, son of Mr. Samuel Mann, fell into a post hole which had been dug on the previous day, and which had filled up with water during the night. The child being unable to extricate itself was drowned. The boy was missed in a short time, and search being made, he was found as described.

The only son of Mr. F. D. Norton, of Westminster, aged eleven years, was drowned in the river Thames yesterday morning, at a spot where the stream is crossed by the Hamilton Road bridge, a few miles east of the city. The little fellow had gone into the water to bathe and getting beyond his depth, sank below the surface and was drowned. The boy went to the river in company with some teamsters who were drawing gravel, and during their absence went into the water.

A serious accident occurred at Newmarket on Saturday. Two sons of the Rev. John Brown, Presbyterian minister, were bathing in Gorham's Pond when both got in twelve feet of water and could not swim. Their comrades gave the alarm, when some men who were on the spot in fifteen minutes made repeated dives and brought one to the shore. He was eight years old. Life was not extinct. Several of the medical profession were present, and by constant friction and stimulants he was resuscitated in about two hours. The other boy, ten years old, was brought out dead after grappling for him about two hours.

The close of the Wesleyan Conference has been marred by a painful event. The Rev. E. White died in the General Hospital, Montreal, on Sunday, of malignant small-pox, and was buried the same day. He came back to Ontario from British Columbia a few months ago. He went to England in March or April for the benefit of his health. He returned very recently via New York, and came direct to Montreal. His wife joined him from Ontario in time to minister comfort to him in his dying hours. The children have not seen their father since he left for England. The disease was no doubt contracted on board the steamer.

A remarkable and painful accident occurred at Petrolia yesterday afternoon, which resulted fatally to one of the workmen, and produced intense sensation in

the neighborhood. An oil well on the 12th concession of Enniskillen, on the property of Messrs. Brake and Ribighini, was being deepened. Suddenly it commenced to flow freely oil and gas. The engine being close by, the gas soon reached it, and, taking fire, exploded with considerable noise, scattering destruction around. There were three men working at the well at the time. Mr. John Brake was standing in the vicinity of the engine when the explosion took place, and was instantly enveloped in flame and burned to death. Mr. Turner was also badly burned, but will probably recover. Mr. Moffat escaped uninjured. As soon as the fire could be subdued the remains of Mr. Brake were recovered, bleached and burned and almost beyond recognition from the ruins around him. He was a young man of about twenty-one years of age, well known and respected in Petrolia.

THE DAWN OF EMANCIPATION.

Years and centuries have passed, still the producing millions were kept in bondage to serve those who were evading the divine law—"in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." The educated few were enjoying all the comforts, luxuries, rights and privileges that should have been distributed among the masses of the people. The working classes were uneducated, and, comparatively speaking, ignorant, and consequently an easy prey for those upon whom fortune had smiled and luckily bestowed an education. Notwithstanding the strong arm of labor produced all the wealth, comforts and luxuries enjoyed by those whose puny hands were never stained by the "sweat of thy face" of a swarm of plunderers who were sapping the very life-blood of the laborer, and depriving him of every privilege that God designed only for those who obeyed his precepts. Thus the world moved on for centuries, the drones continued to infest the hives and fatten upon the products of others' toil. The toiling millions were held in bondage by those whose main stay was ignorance among the masses of the people, and so long as that could be maintained the people would continue hopelessly in slavery and degradation. But the reign of these self-appointed rulers was destined to come to an end, sooner or later their downfall would be proclaimed by emancipated labor. A ray of intelligence was at length permitted to shine dimly upon the path of the toiler. Though dimly, it opened unto him a state of affairs sorrowful to behold, he soon began to discover that the products of his labor were being appropriated by lazy, thieving plunderers, whose sole advantage was superior education, which enabled them for centuries to hold the working classes in bondage, and use them as mere pack-horses of society. Although the non-producing drones consumed everything and produced, nothing their enjoyments, comforts and luxuries were limited only by the power of the working classes to produce. This state of affairs could not always exist, it must take a change, the workingman must have at least a fair proportion of the proceeds of his labor, but in order to obtain that he must become educated. But how could he become educated when he had not time enough even for physical relaxation, to say nothing of mental improvement.

Although ignorant, he finally discovered that in order to become educated, he must have time for mental culture. But how was he to obtain more time? Would those who had used him for centuries as a mere machine respect his petition? Would they willingly place in his hands a weapon with which he could defend himself against the encroachments of men who had so long lived in comfort and ease, and fattened upon the products of his labor? He soon ascertained that in order to secure his just rights he must, by physical force, wring them from the grasp of his plunderers. However, single-handed he could accomplish nothing, he bethought himself a plan, combination, organization, a unity of action on the part of those who were oppressed, loomed up before his vision. He seized the idea—he laid the matter before his fellow-laborers; they caught the incentive and combined in a contest for their God-given rights—they demanded more time for moral and mental improvement.

A long, fierce, and bitter struggle ensued, during which thousands were made to suffer

death, some by instruments in the hands of unfeeling and unprincipled hirelings, some by starvation, while thousands were made the inhabitants of the gloomy, dismal dungeon, and there kept to eke out a miserable existence. But the contest was not abandoned. Every act of persecution, every sacrifice only served to nerve and spur them on, and add more adherents to the cause of down-trodden labor. Bravely they struggled—the whole heavens became blackened with the smoke of battle—the earth became saturated with human blood—mangled forms of human beings covered an entire continent. Finally, the sun of victory arose from behind the blackened clouds and proclaimed to all the world that the day of emancipation had dawned. The hours of labor were reduced to ten per day. The workingmen of the world were now given an opportunity for mental culture, for moral and social improvement. Did they make good use of this leisure time? Have they improved the opportunity? Is there any evidence that the world—mankind—has been benefitted by the change? In answer to these questions we can adduce volumes of testimony which would reply in thunder tones, YES! Let us make a few contrasts. Let us, for instance, compare the grist-mill of to-day with the slow process of grinding wheat forty years ago. What a contrast between the cotton or woolen mill of to-day, and the old hand loom and spinning wheel built by mechanics who labored for a bare subsistence from fourteen to sixteen hours per day. What a contrast between the steam-boat and locomotive of to-day, and the canal boat, sailing vessel and stage coach built under the fourteen hour system. We need go no further to convince any rational mind that the astonishing improvements made in machinery, and even the spread and progress of civilization can all be attributed to the reduction of the hours of labor among the working classes, as was predicted by the enemies of labor, crime has actually diminished and decreased in proportion as the working classes became educated. Then, since such wonderful improvements have been made by a reduction in the hours of labor to ten per day, when the moral, intellectual and physical condition of the working classes have improved tenfold, why should not further experiments in lessening the hours of labor be made? When by the aid of improved machinery—notwithstanding the reduction of the hours of labor—more than four times as much work is turned out to-day, in ten hours, than was turned out in fourteen hours, forty years ago. Workingmen also see that instead of receiving a fair proportion of the products of their labor, they are compelled to labor for a mere pittance—a mere starvation price—and that which of right belongs to them is appropriated to the building of colossal fortunes and princely palaces, at which they dare not even point a finger. Workingmen see these things, and have naturally become dissatisfied with the iniquitous laws of distribution—laws that give to capital all the wealth, comfort and luxuries of life, while labor is compelled to go naked and hungry. In view of these facts, can one wonder that workingmen have become disgusted with oppressive laws, framed in the interest of greedy capital, and why they seek their abrogation? Can any one for a moment contend that the producing classes of America have no cause for complaint? Dare any intelligent man, in this age of progress, assert that the prolonged and successive strikes that have accrued, were brought about for no just cause on the part of workingmen? Is there a friend of civilization and humanity who will for a moment contend that in our demands for a reduction of the hours of labor to eight per day, we are not justifiable? No true philanthropist or friend of the human race will make the assertion.

We advise workingmen everywhere to rally for the combat. The struggle for your emancipation has already begun. Lend your brothers in New York and Canada a helping hand; stand by them in the present contest, and the consummation of eight hours for a day's work will soon be realized.

Emancipation dawned upon the laboring man with the adoption of the ten hour system. Since then, one by one the fetters have been stricken from his limbs, and he gradually issued forth from the darkened paths of bondage into the dazzling rays of liberty and freedom. It behooves us then to let no cloud of oppression and slavery darken our prospects for the future, but let the sun of union shine forth in the full meridian of its glory and proclaim to all the world, as it did at the dawn of freedom, the emancipation of labor.—*Machinery and Blacksmith's Monthly Journal.*