

# Ontario Workman

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

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## Labour Notes.

The Bradford Amalgamated Society of Dyers have given notice for an increase of 2s. a week in their pay.

The strikers on the Midland Railway, who stopped and seized the trains last week, were on Saturday pacified and a compromise arranged. Trains are now running as usual.

A Philadelphia despatch says five hundred men in Horter & Digkey's cotton works, at Kensington, have struck for an advance of 15 per cent. over the rates adopted during the panic, and that troubles in the shoe business are threatened.

On Monday night Feb. 2nd a crowded meeting of engineers delegates and men on strike was held at the Imperial Hotel, Southwark. The chair was taken by Mr. Canham, who said he had that night received intimation of several more impending strikes, and of other shops in a very unsettled state.

The organization of labor in France has received support from a class of the community which has never before joined any similar movement, and which cannot be looked upon as appertaining to what is generally understood by the term working classes. The artists, that is to say, the sculptors, painters, engravers and lithographers have constituted an "Anonymous Society," for the purpose of holding art exhibitions, free of state aid or interference, where each associate will be able to exhibit his work, negotiate its sale, and receive a medal or any other honorific recompense according to his merit.

The executive of the National Agricultural Laborers' union on Monday Feb. 2nd considered reports from a special commissioner respecting the dismissal of laborers on the Queen's estate at Osborne, as alleged, simply for having sent a memorial to Sir Thomas Biddulph asking for their wages to be increased from 14s. to 16s. weekly. The executive directed copies of the reports to be forwarded to Sir Thomas Biddulph, with a respectful request that he would lay them before the Queen. Prof. Goldwin Smith attended the meeting, and practically evinced his sympathy with the movement by subscribing to the union funds.

The Labor Market during the past week has undergone few important changes, though the excitement of a general election has given employment to a large number of miscellaneous workers. In the iron trade the condition of things is still far from healthy, and in many places the operatives are on short time; in the rail mills, however, increased activity may be noticed. In most of the textile branches hands are fairly employed, and makers are well under contract. In the Midlands, in certain of the hardware trades, the supply of labor is still below the demand.—*Labour News.*

The provincial paper, *L'Ordre Social* of Nice, has opened its columns to all news and communications relating to workingmen's questions, and is ready to support their efforts to create co-operative societies. This paper will henceforth represent the labor interests of South France. With regard to the provinces we may note that at Angers several unions are in course of formation. The stone cutters, the boot-makers, and the cartwrights, have been busy for a long time preparing the rules of their respective syndical unions. A local paper, the *Travailleur*, has recorded these efforts. Several reports have reached us from French provincial co-operative societies which denote progress and improvement, but this relates to co-operative stores and bake-houses, rather than to co-operative productive or industrial societies.

The Syndical council of the Parisian mechanics has issued a circular demonstrating the advantages which would accrue to the workmen employed in this branch of industry if they would support energetically the syndical efforts to establish an employment or labor bureau, for the use of employers and employed. From 35,000 to 38,000 mechanics reside in Paris, and

among them 400 to 500 are on an average in search of work. How much trouble, how many useless efforts and humiliating refusals these men might avoid, if a central organization could keep a faithful record of all the demands made for workmen! To attain this end, the workmen's syndical has held several conferences with the employers' syndical. They urged that in future, whenever an employer was in want of hands he should apply to the workmen's syndical, where it was proposed to keep a register of members without employment. After several debates this suggestion was finally adopted by the employers, who will henceforth apply to the workman's union for any mechanics they may require.

The *Glasgow Herald's* Melbourne correspondent writes:—The Victorian labor market is causing some trouble to employers. Workmen are so much in demand that they can make their own terms with masters. On land and at sea it is all the same. Sailors are getting £5 in sailing and £6 pound in steam ships and are now demanding £7 per month. Every trade here seems determined to have eight hours generally settled as a day's labor. There are fewer diggers every year of late, and yet labor is scarce. The settlement of an agricultural population has drained off many from the gold fields, and has caused a great demand for labor in fencing, building, in making of saddlery, waggons, and implements of husbandry. But while all this creates a disturbance in the labor market, it intimates clearly that the country is making rapid progress. The construction of the Government lines of railway will absorb labor to a great extent for several years.

The labor market in Italy has been somewhat disturbed by the strike of the sheath and case makers of Turin. At first all the employers resisted the demand for increased wages but yielded after a few days' struggle. At the Reineri manufactory alone the men met with a more stubborn resistance and the workmen consequently migrated to other towns in search of work. The Swiss sheath makers sent considerable sums of money to assist the strike of their Italian co-workers, and from many towns of Italy the workmen of Turin also received both material and moral assistance. In Tuscany, at Lucca and at Pontassorchio, workmen's societies have been recently formed, and also at Bavelotta. The federation of workers in Macerata is developing itself rapidly, and the saddle makers of Villa-Poteniza have unanimously resolved to join this federation. We might mention several other towns where new societies have been recently started, so that we may safely conclude that the organization of labor is progressing in Italy as well as in other countries. At the same time the cost of provisions is constantly increasing, and we hear many complaints from Florence, where the rent charged for workingmen's lodgings is all the more exorbitant, as many houses are vacant, now that the capital of Italy is no longer Florence but Rome.

The *Melbourne Argus* says:—The past month has been remarkable for the number of strikes that have taken place. Workmen in many trades have been standing out either for higher wages or some concession in the hours of labour, and as a rule, with success. The journeymen bakers have been at variance with their employers, and a strike has resulted, but the dispute appears to be principally about the time at which work shall be commenced. It is generally considered that the men could have obtained very fair terms without having recourse to a strike. A largely attended meeting of brickmakers was held on November 13, at which it was resolved that eight hours should constitute a day's work, and that 6s. per 1,000 should be the price of molding, and 7s. per day should be the rate of wages. It was decided that three shifts instead of two should be employed in burning bricks. The slaters have fixed the rate of wages they will receive at 12s. per day, but the employers decline to pay more than

10s. The high price of material and wages have made the contractors increase their charges. In the boot trade there has been an attempt to increase the rate of wages, but without success. The boiler makers also failed in obtaining higher wages. The difficulty between the operative bakers and their employers is not settled yet. Farming men are scarce and ask 30s. per week. The rate paid at present is 25s. per week, but the higher rate will be given before the harvest season is over. Household servants are very urgently wanted, and there are at least three employers for every female servant out of place. The rates have consequently advanced considerably.

## THE TRADES' UNION CONGRESS, SHEFFIELD.

### FIFTH DAY.

The Trades Union Congress resumed its sitting in the Temperance Hall, Townhead street, Sheffield, this morning, under the presidency of Mr. Wm. Rolley.

### THE MACDONALD PRIZE ESSAY ON TRADES UNIONISM.

Mr. Lloyd Jones (London), one of the visitors to the Congress, read, at the request of Mr. Macdonald, the conditions upon which the prize essays on trades unionism are to be written. He stated that three prizes had been offered for the best essays on the following subjects:— "Trades unions; their objects; their fitness to attain those objects; their influence on the trade of the country; and their moral effect on those who belong to them." The first prize would be £50, the second prize £20, and the third prize £10. Mr. F. Harrison and Mr. H. Crompton had agreed to act as adjudicators, and Mr. Jos. Cowen, M. P.,—and no better name could stand in connection with the labor of this country—would act as treasurer. The manuscripts would require to be sent in by the 1st of October. The first two prizes would be open, but the third prize of £10 would be confined to the members of the present Congress. He hoped the prizes would bring out a methodically arranged body of thought in relation to trades unions, and in relation to their position as regarded the best of the community, that they could not otherwise have easily obtained. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Macdonald, in acknowledging a vote of thanks, said he gave £70 of the money, £5 was given by Mr. Mundella, M. P., and a similar sum by Mr. Stevens, Stalybridge.

### THE ELECTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of the Parliamentary Committee, which resulted as follows:—A. W. Bailey, Preston; Geo. Howell, London; W. Rolley, Sheffield; Geo. Odger, London; T. Motterhead, East Lancashire; A. Macdonald, Glasgow; D. Guilo, London; H. Broadhurst, London; Joseph Arch, Leamington; W. Allen, London; A. Boa, Glasgow.

### NEXT YEAR'S PLACE OF MEETING.

The Congress next proceeded to decide upon the invitations from the delegates as to the town at which next year's meeting should be held. Invitations had been received from Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Oldham, and Hanley. The result of the voting in the first instance was—Liverpool 40, Glasgow 47, Oldham 26, Newcastle 12, and Hanley 11. The second voting—Liverpool 56, Glasgow 55, and Oldham 22; and the final voting—Liverpool 71, and Glasgow 65.

The next Congress will therefore be held at Liverpool.

### THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.

On the motion of Mr. Broadhurst, seconded by Mr. Hartford, it was resolved— That the Parliamentary Committee be requested to put themselves into communication with Mr. Hinde Palmer, with the view of re-introducing the Compensation Bill of 1872, and to press the subject on the attention of the Government.

### THE INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS AND MINES.

Mr. Thos. Rhodes (North Staffordshire), proposed—

"That the Parliamentary Committee be introduced to call the attention of the Government to the necessity for more efficient inspection under the Factory and Workshops Regulation Acts and the Mines Regulations Act; and also the necessity of appointing efficient and practical men for that purpose."

Some discussion took place as to the advisableness of referring the subject to some selected delegates who would be better able to deal with it than the members of the Parliamentary Committee.

The subject was referred to the committee.

### THE EXTENSION OF THE COUNTY FRANCHISE.

The standing order of the Congress were suspended, in order that the delegates might consider the question of assimilating the county with the borough franchise.

Mr. McDonald moved—

"That, considering the large number of workmen, consisting of miners and general laborers and others, who are placed in a position of serfdom by the unjust and class-made laws which, in direct opposition to frequent votes in Parliament, destroy the constitutional privileges of the suffrage by placing the county franchise at a money value, this Congress declares its conviction that those invidious and party political laws should be erased from the statute book, and our fellow-workmen in the counties be placed in a free and responsible position, equal to other classes in the country."

This was seconded by Mr. Walton (Bacon), and carried almost unanimously.

The Parliamentary Committee were instructed to forward the resolution to Mr. Gladstone.

The Congress then adjourned.

### SIXTH DAY.

The sittings of the Congress were resumed on Saturday morning; Mr. W. Rolley presiding.

### TAXES ON INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

Mr. C. Yardley (Oldham), moved—

"This Congress, knowing from sad experience that the past struggles between capital and labor are not only analogous to simply 'beating the air,' but are now become a dangerous menace to the well-being of the State, it also considers the time has now arrived for these questions to be dealt with on statesmanlike principles, which are calculated to develop the best interests of the commonwealth in adopting a policy of taxation that shall secure to all classes the perfect law of liberty in their industrial operations. This can best be obtained by relieving these of the shackles now imposed upon them through the baneful influence of customs and excise. The Congress is therefore clearly of opinion that the Imperial revenues ought to be raised by direct levy on the annual value of realized property."

Mr. Bailey (Preston) seconded the motion, which was carried.

### THE DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF LABOUR.

This subject, which had been left over from the previous day, came up for discussion. The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Knight (Liverpool)—

"That, as previous Congresses have passed resolutions in favour of the direct representation of labour in Parliament, and considering that the election contest which must be gone through by each candidate will involve a large expenditure of money and time, it is the opinion of this Congress that the duty of all trade societies should be to exert themselves in the most strenuous manner for the support of labour candidates at the coming election; we, therefore, recommend that trade societies should be asked to contribute at least six-pence per member towards raising a fund to secure the return to Parliament of as many working men as possible, and that the money be placed in the hands of such a committee as, in the opinion of the members of the Congress, might meet the exigencies of the case; and, further, that such committee be empowered to render such assistance and advice as in their judgment may appear best calculated to attain the object we have in view."

To this there was the following amendment—

"That this Congress believes that local efforts are most desirable, and the best means of securing the return of working

men into Parliament, and recommends all trades unions in all trade districts to amalgamate, to go in common council for the said object."

This amendment was carried.

### FEDERATION OF TRADES UNIONS.

On the motion of Mr. Yardley (Oldham), seconded by Mr. Shafto (Bradford), it was resolved—

"That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to recommend all trades represented at this Congress, as well as all trades and branches of trades throughout the country, to become connected with the trades councils of their various districts."

### OVERTIME.

Mr. Swift (Manchester) moved—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, overtime is an injury to workmen both mentally and physically, and ought to be repressed wherever practicable, especially that of a systematic form, which we regret to say, has become an extensive nature, and calls for a firm determination on our part and those we represent to work overtime only in cases of necessity, and seek such payment for the same as will be a recompense for the extra hours imposed upon them."

### LIMITATION OF APPRENTICES.

Mr. McDonald (Manchester) moved a resolution to the effect that the limitation of apprentices, where required, was a question in which workmen in every trade were fully entitled to a voice, and that all such restrictions ought to be decided by mutual agreement of employers and employed.

Mr. Hodges (Birmingham) seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

### FIBRE WORK.

Mr. Armstrong (London) moved, and Mr. Jenkinson (Bolton), seconded—

"That the Congress is of opinion that piece-work is detrimental to the welfare of workmen, and recommends its discontinuance wherever practicable."

Mr. Menmott (Sheffield) moved as an amendment—

"That in the opinion of the Congress the matter of piece and day work should be left to the employers and employed."

He did not believe in fettering the liberty of the men in that way. This was seconded by Mr. Maston (Leeds). The amendment was carried.

### CO-OPERATION.

On the motion of Mr. Graham (Newcastle), seconded by Mr. Walton (Bacon), it was resolved—

"That the interests of labor would be considerably advanced by workmen in every trade encouraging productive co-operation."

Mr. Juggins (Salford) then moved—

"That in the opinion of this Congress, that in all trades where disputes occur, and where it is possible to prevent strikes by starting co-operative establishments, all trades societies and trades councils be recommended to render such assistance as lies in their power, and thus, as far as possible, prevent strikes and lock-outs in the future."

Mr. S. W. Maddocks (Birmingham) seconded the motion, which was carried.

### EXPENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

Mr. Knight (Liverpool) read a statement of the Congress accounts during the week, showing a balance of £47 10s. 6d. in hand.

### EMPLOYMENT OF SOLDIERS IN AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Taylor (Peterborough) moved—

"That this Congress protests against the War Office authorities allowing soldiers to enter into competition with agricultural laborers in the harvest field, except it could be clearly shown that owing to a scarcity of hands the harvest could not be gathered in."

Mr. Graham (Newcastle) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### MAGISTERIAL JURISDICTION.

Mr. Banks (Boston) moved—

"That in the opinion of this Congress it is the duty of Her Majesty's Government to appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into and report upon the state of the laws of procedure relating to summary jurisdiction, as to the way in which the law has been administered by qualified and unqualified magistrates, and also as to the mode of their appointment; and that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Mr. Gladstone."

Mr. Juggins (Salford) seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF JURYMEN.

Mr. Fox (Sheffield) moved—

"That the time has now arrived for the admission of workmen to discharge the duties of jurymen, and that the Parliamentary Com-

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