

## NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies, from all parts of the Dominion, for publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, &c., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, &c.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes.

All communications should be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,  
124 BAY STREET.

## Meetings of Unions.

## TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.  
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.  
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.  
Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.  
German Benevolent Society, 1st Tuesday.  
Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednesdays.  
Cigarmakers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.  
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.  
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.  
Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.  
Stone Cutters, 2nd and 4th Friday.  
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.  
Printers, 1st Saturday.  
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.

The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

## OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Roule's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.  
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.  
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.  
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.  
Printers, 1st Saturday.  
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.  
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

## HAMILTON.

Amalgamated Carpenters meets in Club House, James Street, alternate Thursdays.

Iron Moulders' Union, No. 26, every Monday, at their hall, Rebecca street.

Machinists' and Blacksmiths' Union, every Tuesday evening; at Iron Moulders' Hall.

## LONDON.

Amalgamated Carpenters meets in Temperance Hall, Hall, Richmond Street, alternate Tuesdays.

## ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.  
Tailors, 2nd Monday.  
Typographical Union, No. 147, 2nd Tuesday.  
Coopers, 3rd Tuesday.

Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners, alternate Wednesdays, at Caledonia Hall.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNETT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternet will please state if they wish the paper continued.

Mr. J. A. BRANDON, of Guelph, has kindly consented to solicit subscriptions for the WORKMAN in that town, and is hereby authorized to act as our agent.

## TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

## The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAR. 19, 1874.

## THE CENTRAL PRISON.

During the sessions of Thursday and Friday evenings of last week the attention of the Local House was mainly occupied in the discussion of the charge against Mr. McKellar, for having given the workmen on the Central Prison a half-holiday to enable them to attend the nomination for West Toronto on the occasion of the Moss-Bickford election. On the first above-named evening Mr. M. C. Cameron moved a resolution strongly condemnatory of the action of the Commissioner of Public Works, which, after citing the leading facts brought out in the course of the investigation in connection with the Public Accounts Committee, concludes as follows:—

"Be it therefore resolved that the action of the said Hon. Archibald McKellar, in authorizing or permitting the said men, to the number of 208, to take a half-holiday, and paying them for their time, as if at work, was an improper interference by a member of the Government of Ontario in an election to the Commons, and calculated to unduly influence the men in the employment of the Government, and was an act subversive of the freedom and purity of elections: That freedom and purity of elections are essential to a just representation of the people and to good government, and it is the duty of this House to condemn any member of this House, or of the Government, who may be guilty of an act calculated to interfere with such freedom and purity of elections: That the payment of the sum of two hundred and four dollars and seventeen cents to men to attend a political meeting, was an unauthorized misappropriation of public money. That for the said acts, the Hon. Archibald McKellar, in the character of Commissioner of Public Works, and member of the Executive Council, deserves the censure and condemnation of this House."

The debate on this motion, as might be supposed, immediately assumed an intensely partisan tone, and whilst the Opposition members declared, in no unqualified terms, their belief that the resolutions offered by Mr. Cameron were fully borne out by the evidence adduced before the committee, the Ministerialists, on the other hand, made every exertion to show that Mr. McKellar had no ulterior object in granting the half-holiday, and that it was solely done in the "innocence of his heart." It was attempted to prove that it was a usual thing for large employers of labor to allow their men time on election days without deducting their pay, and precedents were brought from England to establish this position. But, unfortunately, it happens that the precedents quoted turned out to be that men employed on government works were allowed time to record their votes, which is a very different thing from attending a nomination, although it was stated that in distinguishing between them it was making "a difference without a distinction." We notice, however, with some satisfaction, that but one member of the whole House took the ground that the course pursued by the Commissioner of Public Works was a right and correct course, and whilst others condoned his action, they practically acknowledged that an "excusable mistake" had been made, "a blunder committed," an "error of judgment" made, that it was merely a "gracious action," etc., and more than one member stated that although they would vote to sustain Mr. McKellar, yet they hoped never again to be called upon to give a similar vote. It seems to us, that the very necessity of using such excuses proves that the action of Mr. McKellar was wrong, decidedly wrong, and they knew it to be such; and had it not been that the motion of Mr. Cameron was of so extreme a nature, and one which, if sustained, would have involved the safety of the government, we believe that the opinion

of the House would have been very different. Had such a course been pursued by Sir John A. Macdonald, or any member of his ministry, when his government was in power, would the Reformers have regarded it as a most "excusable mistake?" "a gracious action?" No, indeed, anything but that!

Although the debate was carried on in the most partisan tone, we believe it will have accomplished some good purpose,—and we feel safe in saying that tangible evidence will yet be given that the action of the Commissioner of Public Works was reprehensible, in the fact that it will not be repeated on a future occasion.

## THE COMING CRISIS IN FRANCE.

The state of affairs in France appears to be becoming more and more difficult, and it is spoken of in English circles as not improbable that the strength of Mr. Disraeli's government in its foreign department may be shortly severely tested. M. Rouher has addressed a significant and startling letter to one of the French journals, in which he refers to the powers of the Septennat as limited and ephemeral, and hints at possible events lying in the near future. The French government has been considerably exercised over the appearance of the letter, and its effects proves unmistakably that Bonapartism has kept deep root in France. It may be tabooed by the Orleanists, hated and despised by Republicans, but it would seem the people hold to it. Evidently the splendors of its traditions is not eclipsed. As has been said, "the mass of the workmen who were prosperous under the Second Empire, and who have been working short time ever since, shrewdly suspect that there was a vital, vivifying energy in the fallen regime, which has been wanting since it ceased to be." The great contractors, the owners of mills and mines, the ironmasters, the bourgeois everywhere feel that there is a difference, which is not referable to the recent war, but to the 4th of September and the parliamentary chaos which has existed thenceforward. That which appears to be undermining the Septennat is that which undermined the throne of Louis Philippe—want. The recent meeting of the Paris press at the Palais de l'Elysee, under the presidency of Madame McMahon, proves the gravity of the position of the French operatives. At the meeting, M. McMahon delivered an address, reminding those present of the misery prevalent in the populous quarters of Paris, and of the urgent necessity which existed for adopting measures of relief. The creation of cheap cooking establishments appeared to her to be an efficacious measure, and she was in favor of raising the number of rations distributed daily from 10,000 to 35,000. For this purpose 200,000f. would be required until the 1st of May.

From this admission, it is at once apparent that the French workpeople are not prosperous. Weighed down with national taxes and municipal dues, and yet prevented by daily fears from embarking in what might prove profitable enterprises—every necessary of life largely increased in price, and the wage-fund of the country fearfully decreased—is it wonderful that the people prick their ears when they catch sounds of a movement that has a substantial and democratic basis, and which may recall to them the time when the cupboard was well-stocked and France was prosperous? It would almost appear as though the tide of public opinion in France was on the turn; and while the appeal of Madame McMahon to encourage a public subscription to supply 35,000 rations a day to the poor of Paris may well be regarded as a kind, a Christian act,—at the same time it is doubtful whether it will not prove worthless as a political adventure; simply because it will not touch the root of the evil. The meeting in question gave intimation to some extent of the distress that is existing; but the remedies proposed have not restored public confidence,—nor has it appeared to have opened the pocket of

the capitalist. And this may be because, while all trust Marshal McMahon as a brave soldier, none trust him as a politician. It has been said that "McMahon has the heart of a lion, but the head is not worthy of the heart," and therefore it is that work is wanting, and the wage-fund of France remains locked up till the political atmosphere shall have been cleared.

## PATIENCE.

One of the greatest and most serious obstacles to success in reformatory movements, is the feverish impatience of those engaged in the movement to get ahead rapidly; and if the evils complained of are not removed speedily, if success does not come almost instantly if the full fruition of the reform is not attained soon after its inceptive inauguration, despair seizes the would-be reformers, and the chances of accomplishing something tangible are retarded and jeopardized. This is the case with all our trade and labor unions. If they do not undo the work of centuries in a few weeks, they conclude nothing can be done, and, of course, if nothing can be done, it is useless to attempt to do anything.

We wish to say to all our friends, especially to associations recently organized, that if they would succeed, they must cut loose from these foolish notions, and discard all such pernicious ideas. In sober earnest, we desire to say to you that it is sheer nonsense to expect any sudden or spontaneous awakening and uprising of the masses to a full, complete realization of the magnitude, the enormity of the evils that are pressing upon them, and until there is such realization, such awakening and uprising, you need not expect permanent or complete relief from these wrongs. We have the utmost confidence in the settled purpose of the American people to be free in all things consistent with natural and social liberty; and if we can only convince them that the power of corporate monopolies, and all phases of associated wealth, has reached a point from which it can move by easy stages against all forms of free government, unless the people are fully roused to a sense of their perilous condition, there will be nothing to fear for the future. But this cannot be done in a day nor a year. The mind of labor has been in the crucible of oppression for ages. The people have been taught false theories of socialism, not by the usual process by which knowledge is diffused, but by the daily experience of their lives. The mass of mankind have been taught to believe that position, means, and power are the true factors of man's solidarity; that money and the influences which it brings are the real elements of greatness; and that manhood worth, and intellectuality are of secondary consideration. It may seem strange to those who read this article, but it is for all that true, that seven-eighths of those workmen outside of trade or labor organizations are, to a greater or lesser extent, practical believers in the above damnable doctrine. It has taken centuries to produce this condition of society, but it has been produced, and they are driving blockheads who expect the work of centuries can be wiped out in a few months. It will take years to light up and illumine the dungeons in which the mind of labor has been groping so long; it will require years of patient toil to educate the masses to a true sense of their dignity, importance, and position in the world. The great want of the hour is light—more light. The masses must be made to think, to see, to understand and to read the lessons which events and facts teach, to reason and deduce from the past the events that are likely to come. The giant Labor must have knowledge hammered or driven into him by some process, before he will rise in all his might and majesty to demand and take what is justly due him.—Coopers' New Monthly.

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## TRADES' ASSEMBLY.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Toronto Trades' Assembly will be held on Friday evening next. A full attendance of delegates is desired.

## "THE 17TH OF IRELAND."

The anniversary of Ireland's patron saint was celebrated with more than usual eclat. The procession, which numbered twelve or thirteen hundred persons, paraded the principle streets from noon till about 2 p.m. The "boys in green" made a first-class turn out, the marshals, etc., being clothed in very handsome regalia. The only drawback appeared to be the deep mud through which the procession plodded. The proceedings, which were pleasant throughout, terminated by several addresses delivered at the La Salle Institute.

## K. O. S. C. SOCIAL.

The Third Annual Social of the K. O. S. C. Quadrille Class was held on the evening of the 17th inst., and was a very pleasant and enjoyable gathering. Over one hundred couples were present, and dancing was kept up with great spirit till after the "wee ama' hours." Refreshments were bountifully provided, and about 4 o'clock Wednesday morning, the large company separated, well pleased with the entertainment, to advance which nothing had been left undone by the efficient committee.

## THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

During the week, notwithstanding the various attractions in the city, the Academy has been well patronized. The engagement of Mr. J. E. Green, has been a decided hit, and he nightly amply sustains the celebrity he had achieved in his original Mocking-bird Song and Guitar Solos. Miss Ella Arnold, in her re-appearance, has delighted the large audiences, her songs and vocal sketches being loudly eulogized. Messrs. Bryant and Williams are peculiarly happy in their specialties. On to-morrow (Friday) evening, Mr. Ned West, takes his farewell benefit. No one artiste who has appeared on the boards of the Academy, has been more popular than the inimitable West, and there is no doubt there will be a perfect jam on the occasion of his benefit. An entirely new programme will be arranged for the Saturday Matinee at 2 p.m., which are becoming more largely attended.

## H. AND O. SHIP CANAL.

We are informed by Mr. Capreol, that as a result of his recent visit to Washington on business connected with the above enterprise, a large portion of the amount that has been guaranteed to prosecute the work has been received here, and it only remains to secure the bonuses from the various municipalities through which the proposed canal will run, to secure the accomplishment of this great undertaking.

## LICENSED VICTUALERS' ASSOCIATION.

The following gentlemen have been elected officers for the current term:—President, Hon. Frank Smith; Vice-President, E. O'Keefe; 2nd Vice-President, J. Ball; 3rd Vice-President, T. Davies; 4th Vice-President, P. G. Close; 5th Vice-President, George Burns; Secretary, George D. Dawson; Treasurer, W. Copeland; Committee of Management, S. Richardson, M. McFarlane, J. Cornell, J. Ball, J. Handford, W. Taylor, W. Riley. Any gentleman who wishes to join the Association can do so by giving his name to the Secretary or any member of the Committee of Management.

A meeting of the London Trades union was held on Friday night, Feb. 20th, for the purpose of receiving the report of delegates who were appointed to take part in the late Congress at Sheffield, and also to consider what further steps should be taken towards the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Mr. George Shipton and Mr. George Odger, the delegates, gave an account of the proceedings of the Congress and of a special meeting, at which a recommendation was made that there should be a federation of the whole of the trades councils throughout the kingdom. A resolution was passed to the effect that the London trades hold an aggregate public meeting, either at Exeter Hall, or St. James' Hall, at an early date, in support of the total repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the 14th clause of the Masters and Servants Act, and a modification or amendment of the Conspiracy Laws.

For first-class Book and Job Printing go to the office of the ONTARIO WORKMAN 124 Bay street.