

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.

A scarcity in the mining labor-market is reported from Lancashire.

The *Strike News* has been added to the list of German newspapers.

Owing to a threatened reduction in wages, about 100 tailors are out of employment at Bolton.

The Leicester riveters and finishers have imposed a levy to assist their Leeds brethren, who are out on strike.

Four hundred laborers in the employment of Messrs. Russell, Limrick, struck work for higher wages on June 7.

The plumbers and glaziers strike at Staly bridge has ended, the masters having advanced their wages 2s. per week.

The London masters have formally agreed to the demands of the journeymen masons, and the expected strike has been averted.

HAVANA, July 25.—The Chinese laborers are getting dissatisfied with being paid in paper currency. Disturbances are likely to occur.

The master builders of Washington have accepted terms of compromise with the journeymen masons, but have not yet come to an agreement.

The *Iron World* of Pittsburgh states that Sir Antonio Biady (of West Ham, Essex, Eng.) has bought the Elizabeth furnace in Shenandoah County, Virginia, for 200,000 dollars.

More favorable advices have been received relative to the strikes of French workmen in the department of the Loire, and it is believed that work will shortly be resumed.

The Oldham Master Spinners' Association have given an unconditional refusal to the demand of the minders for an advance of 10 per cent. The dispute at Ashton continues.

At a conference, at Blackburn, of sixty representatives of the power-loom weavers, the offer of the employers with regard to a rise of wages was accepted, and a threatened strike averted.

It is estimated that if coal working machinery were universally employed, 60,000 colliers would suffice to raise our annual extraction of 120,000,000 tons. About 300,000 colliers are said to be now engaged.

On Monday the 30th ult., the master spinners held a meeting in Manchester, and resolved that unless the men withdraw the notices they had given, they would lock-out all mills on the 5th of July, the effect of which will be to stop three million spindles.

At a meeting of the male card and blowing hands in Ashton, held on the 28th ult., it was unanimously resolved that seven days' notice should be given by the strippers and grinders if the 20s. a week advance applied for is not conceded by the employers of the district.

Hopes are entertained that the strike and lock-out in the Ashton district will be avoided. The operatives met the masters in conference, and accepted an offer to refer the dispute to arbitration, with power to the arbitrators to make an award retrospective to the demand for an advance of wages.

Some time since, the men employed in all the engineering branches at Sheffield sent a circular to their employers, requesting a minimum advance of 2s. per week. A few days ago the manufacturers held a meeting to consider the circular, and they altogether refused the demands of the men. It is not improbable that the decision of the masters may lead to a strike.

Nearly the whole of the men employed in the engineering trades at Sheffield struck work on Monday 30th ult. The masters, in consequence, held a meeting, and, after mature consideration, expressed a unanimous opinion that in the present state of trade they could not advance the wages beyond their present rate. Nearly 1,000 men are on strike, and it is expected to be of considerable duration.

LABOR PORTRAITS.

"Men who, in advance of law and in opposition to prevailing opinion, have forced into national recognition the hitherto disregarded rights of labor."

MR. JAMES EDWARD DYER,
GENERAL SECRETARY, FRIENDLY SOCIETY OF
STONE MASONS.

James Edward Dyer is another notability among the workingmen of our nation, sprung from the West of England. He was born on September 14, 1834, at Hall Sands, a small village in the parish of Stokenham, South Devon. At the time of his birth, William Dyer, his father, a Cornishman, was employed as a stonemason in the erection of the Lighthouse at Start Point. Being one in a family of nine children, young James had little chance of getting much schooling; for which, indeed, there was, even then, but scanty provision in that backward part of the country. At an age when he should have been getting the first elements of knowledge, he was obliged to contribute to his maintenance by the work of his own hands. His childhood and youth were passed partly in his native country and partly in that of his father's.

In August, 1848, the family settled at Morice Town, Devonport, where, there being ample employment for the mallet and chisel, he learned the art of a mason under his father's example and instruction. The works at the Keyham Steamyard afforded him constant, and nearly interrupted, means of subsistence for the next ten years. In 1857, he joined the Masons' Society at Morice Town. Since leaving that part of the coast, he has pursued his calling in the city of Exeter, at the Port of Dover, in the Island of Guernsey, among the wharves and defences of Portsmouth, and amid the splendid modern masonry of London.

During his residence in all these places, Mr. Dyer took an active part in the local affairs of the Stonemasons' Society, in connection with which he held various offices. Settling in the Metropolis towards the end of summer in 1865, he came fully prepared to identify himself usefully with the public movements of his trade. For some two years he acted as Secretary of the London Lodges Committee. In 1868 he became Secretary of the London (South) Lodge; and, in December of the year following, he was elected a yearly Auditor of the Society's accounts. Whilst at Bolton, in Lancashire, during the spring of 1870, discharging his official duties, he was nominated by several lodges to succeed Mr. William Graham, who, after three years' service, had resigned the office of Assistant-Secretary. Mr. Dyer was chosen to fill the vacancy, and served efficiently for two years.

The manner in which he performed the duties devolving upon him, may be inferred from the fact that when, in February, 1872, Mr. Richard Harnott, who had been General Secretary of the Society for a quarter of a century, was released from his honorable labors by the hand of Death, no other man was deemed so fit to succeed him in that important trust as James Edward Dyer. In March last, he was re-elected to the post. Until May he resided, in his capacity of Secretary, in the city of Manchester; but, the Executive of the Society being now removed to London, he has returned into the circle of his old friends.

The Society of Stonemasons is one of the most powerful trade organizations in the United Kingdom. The branches of its strong stem spread over all parts of England and Wales. In the spring of last year there were a few good branches opened in Ireland, with a present prospect of largely increasing the number. Although the Scottish society is not amalgamated with this, they work together in trade disputes. The President of the Chicago Society of Stonecutters, last month, wrote for copies of rules and other necessary instructions, with a view to establishing their association on the basis of the English union; and also expressing a hope that the two would become amalgamated.

There are three hundred and ten Lodges in as many towns, which supply it with

eighteen thousand five hundred members. In the course of the year 1872, nearly five thousand new members were admitted. The Society was established in 1833, since which date it has distributed among its members, for trade and benevolent purposes, the princely sum of three hundred and forty-four thousand pounds sterling. Lest the uninquiring and unreasoning adversaries to Trade Unions should in their haste exclaim, "Ha! all for strikes!" it may be useful to name a few items of money paid for objects purely benevolent:—

Sick allowance.....	£51,827	12	10
Travellers.....	51,501	12	2
Funerals.....	36,584	0	0
187 disabled members...	17,466	0	0
Superannuation of members.....	5,097	9	9
Friends of 102 members killed.....	4,000	0	0
Legal expenses in defending prosecuted members.....	3,483	6	1 1/2
Surgeons' fees.....	2,773	18	0
Hospital subscriptions.....	2,649	3	0
Gifts for charitable purposes.....	615	14	3
Orphan children.....	292	9	6
Sick and funeral account Master and Workman Acts.....	272	14	4 1/2
	32	16	0

Total for benevolent purposes.....£178,296-16 0

While this noble aggregate has been strictly devoted to benevolent purposes, the whole sum paid in connection with strikes during the entire period of thirty-two years, has been no more than £55,572; considerably under one-third of the amount.

With all our heart, we hope that James Edward Dyer will long live to contribute his valuable services to this excellent society. Those who know him are well aware how modest an estimate he puts upon himself; but individuals are never the best judges of their own deserts; certainly not when they flatter themselves that they have done uncommonly well, and perhaps quite as rarely when they think meanly of their endeavors. Opportunities of achieving some great exploit are as few as the men equal to them are scarce; but, in every sphere, humble or exalted, a man may honestly and diligently fulfil his duty. The quiet consciousness of this is the sweetest of rewards, which nothing can more acceptably enhance than the ready acknowledgment of those who have the surest means of judging and the most undoubted right to speak. This we believe to be the Stonemasons' Society's present experience of their existing Secretary; and we earnestly wish, that its extended and increasing usefulness, under his guidance, may lead to a long course of mutual confidence and satisfaction.—*The Bee-Hive*.

THE MASTERS AND SERVANTS' ACT.

An important question was raised recently in a summons which came before Mr. Maude at the Greenwich Police court, under the 4th section of the above Act. Mr. Sofield, of the Albion Coopers, Rotherhithe, engaged a journeyman cooper, named Shepherd, to work for him, a verbal agreement being made as to a list of prices to be paid for different kinds of work. It was stated that material for four dozen one-barrel casks had been given out and paid for, but that only two and half-dozen had been completed, the defendant taking away his tools and absenting himself from work, which was refusal to complete a contract, and in respect of which non-fulfilment of agreement compensation of £2 was claimed. In answer to the magistrate, the complainant admitted that there was no stipulation as to the time within which the work should be completed nor were the hours stated for the day's work. Mr. Maude held that upon these admissions the defendant was no more a servant to complainant than a tailor would be to a person who employed such a person to make a coat, and delayed in so doing. The summons was dismissed.—*Exchange*.

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FOREIGN LABOR NOTES.

A few months ago several trade corporations addressed a petition to the Paris municipal council, requesting that the local assembly rooms belonging to the municipality which might be vacant should be placed at their disposal for trade meetings. No answer has yet been given to this demand by the Municipal Council of the capital. In the provinces, however, the trades have been more fortunate. We learn that a similar address on the part of the workmen of Marseilles was immediately discussed by the municipality, and the vote taken on the subject was entirely favorable to the workmen.

The Syndical Chamber of the Paris bakers has chosen the house of M. Peytavin, 11 Rue Bouchardon, as its head quarters; while the boot and shoemakers give the four following addresses:—M. Rateau, 40 Rue Beaubourg; M. Passauder, 212 Rue Saint Martin; M. Armand, 380 Rue Saint Denis; M. Lefebvre, 57 Rue Bichat.

We regret to record that a strike having occurred among the masons of Koenigsberg, the German police overstepping, it seems, the limits of its authority, seized the books and the "funds of resistance," collected by the workmen to enable them to remain out of employ. We hope to hear some satisfactory explanation of this intervention of public force in a trade dispute.

A number of trade meetings have taken place as usual this week in Paris, but no very remarkable incidents occurred at any of these gatherings. There is a feature with regard to these organizations which, however, ought not to pass unnoticed. At first the business of the societies was transacted in a rough, shrewd manner, but with hardly sufficient care and precision. The secretaries were particularly wanting. Their minutes of the meeting were more verbose than explicit; required much correcting, and occasioned great loss of time in discussion. At each meeting of a French trade society the minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed. If these are badly written reclamations are made, and thus much time is lost. We now hear, however, more favorable accounts. The Paris saddle makers, for instance, have found among their members two most able secretaries—M. M. Julien Dupire and Goblet. The *Rappel*, a newspaper which certainly does not tolerate slipshod writing, has publicly complimented these two journeymen saddle makers for their literary ability. Another feature of these organizations on which special stress has been laid of late, is the duty incumbent on each member to be present at the funeral of any associate who may chance to die. It is also the habit to elect a deputation to wait on the relations of the deceased to express the sympathy and condolence of the whole society. These measures engender a feeling of good will and fellowship among the members of the Paris trades which English workmen, particularly those belonging to benefit societies, will readily understand.

The Syndical Chamber of the Paris stonecutters has many difficulties to contend with at the present moment. While some artisans engaged in this craft are giving proofs of the utmost energy in matters relating to trade organization, the majority are unaccountably apathetic. A meeting of the trade was convoked this week, and was so poorly attended that the elections for committee men, which were to have taken place, had to be put off. Some important measures were however adopted simplifying the system of accounts, and it was also determined to support the *Bibliothèque Ouvriere*. This is a project started, we believe, by M. Louis Pauliat, and assisted by the *Peuple Souverain*. The object is to publish at the cost of a few pence for each volume a series of work relating to the economical position of the working classes and the amelioration of their condition. In support of this new, and, we doubt not, useful library, the union of the stonecutters resolved to purchase fifty copies of the first volume published.

A rather delicate question has excited

much party feeling and furnished the topic of several warm discussions among the Paris pocket-book makers. When the union of this trade was called upon to appoint delegates to visit the Vienna exhibition, it was discovered that the member who was generally considered the best able to represent the trade at the exhibition was a foreigner. Workingmen of a great many nationalities are employed in this trade in Paris, and were admitted to form part of the Union or Syndical Chamber representing this industry. It is argued that as foreigners are admitted members of the union, there is no reason why they should not be delegates of the union. But the pride and susceptibilities of the French workmen cannot support the idea of a foreigner representing at Vienna a French industry.—*Cor. Labor News*.

THE REPRESENTATION OF STAFFORD.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the electors of Stafford took place on Tuesday, 24th ult., in the St. John's Market Hall, to hear an address from Mr. A. McDonald, President of the National Association of Miners. Mr. Aymer, shoemaker, occupied the chair, and gave a detailed account of the proceedings of the last general election, and stated that the workingmen of Stafford were determined at the next general election to return a working man representative. The first resolution was moved by Mr. Holder, tailor, as follows:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the working classes have hitherto had no adequate representation in Parliament, and that in consequence of this their interests have been either neglected or dealt with in an incompetent and prejudiced spirit; and that this meeting pledges itself to use every legitimate means to secure the return to Parliament of a labor representative for the borough of Stafford.

This was seconded by Mr. McMamara, painter, and supported by Mr. Broadhurst, Secretary of Labor Representation League, London.

The resolution was carried *nem. con.* The chairman then called upon Mr. McDonald to address the meeting, who on rising received quite an ovation. He spoke for an hour on the political and industrial questions of the day. Having answered in a satisfactory manner the questions put to him from the body of the hall, he resumed his seat amidst great applause.

A resolution pledging the meeting to adopt Mr. McDonald as their candidate for the next general election, and to use every means to procure his return, was moved by Mr. Goddes, shoemaker, and seconded by Mr. Wilson, joiner, and carried unanimously.

THE REPRESENTATION OF BIRMINGHAM.

At a special meeting of the Birmingham Trades Council held on Wednesday night, 23th ult., four artisans were nominated to be submitted to the Trades Association of the town as a list from which a workingmen's candidate for Birmingham shall be selected. The names are William Gilliver, shoemaker; Samuel Maddocks, brass worker; Daniel Bailey, shoemaker; and John Wilkinson, glass-blower. The selection will take place in a fortnight.

A NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR RUBBER.

Daniel M. Lamb, of Strathroy, Canada, is the author of a method of producing gum from the milkweed plant, or other plants of the *Asclepias* family, and flax and other seeds, which consists of macerating and fermenting the substances and then by evaporation reducing the resulting liquid to a thick gummy mass. The gum thus obtained may be cheaply produced, and is alleged to have many of the valuable qualities of rubber. It is insoluble in water, and may be vulcanized with sulphur, etc. The price of pure rubber is now very high, and the discovery of an economical substitute is a matter of the greatest importance in the arts.—*Scientific American*.