

NOTICE.

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

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes. All communications must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertions, ten cents per line. Each subsequent insertion, five cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—

One column, for one year	\$150 00
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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—

- Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
- Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
- Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
- Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
- K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Varnishers and Polishers, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
- Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
- Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
- Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Printers, 1st Saturday.
- Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

Application for renting the halls for special meetings and other purposes to be made to Mr. Andrew Scott, 211 King Street East.

OUR PATRONS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK.

"A Merchant is known by his wares."

The attention of our readers is drawn to the following list of advertisements in our columns, and are requested to have them in remembrance when "out shopping."

- Retail Oyster House—Wm. Taylor.
- Cheap Store—Eaton's.
- Boot and Shoe Store—P. McGinnes.
- Coal and Wood Yard—Cameron & Bovell.
- Lumber, Lath, Shingles, &c.—Mutton, Hutchinson, & Co.
- Boot and Shoe Store—J. Pryke.
- To the Mechanics of the Dominion—Donald Robertson.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 31, 1872.

TRADE DISPUTE AT OTTAWA.

We have received, from Ottawa, particulars of a strike that has taken place in that city, in connection with the employees of one J. H. Bray, who contracted for the erection of the Presbyterian (Knox) Church, in that city. A notice issued to the mechanics of the Dominion, by the Secretary of the Committee, explains the cause of the difficulty; but it may be interesting to a very large portion of our readers for us to enter a little more fully into details. Last spring, we are informed, the Building Committee of the Free Presbyterian Church of that city advertised for tenders for the erection of a new church. At the opening of the tenders, J. H. Bray—a perfect stranger in Ottawa—was found to be the lowest tenderer by about \$6,000. The two tenders above his were from practical men, well known in Ottawa; but the committee decided to give the contract to Bray, although practical men who were on the committee were well aware that the building could not be erected for the sum named. Bray, however, started the work on money advanced by two members of the committee, and all went on smoothly till the 12th of the present month, when Mr. Bray failed to pay his men. The men then—acting in accordance with their trade regulations, which disallows of working longer than two weeks without pay—stopped working. The architect and chairman of the Building Committee

wished the men to proceed with the work, assuring them that money was owing to Bray sufficient to pay them, and that so soon as he was fit to transact business, it would be given to him, and they would be paid. This, however, the men could not do, and it ultimately transpired that there was no money due Bray, and the men have to look for their earnings where they may. A mass meeting was held to discuss the matter, at which a committee was appointed to manage the business. The building committee offered to carry on the work, and engage the men who were previously on the building, but would not pay the men their back pay. This the men did not consider just, and refused to accept the offer, and the strike has resulted. The different cities have been notified to this effect, and we trust that all Union men will assist the Ottawa men in maintaining their rights, by paying regard to their request made in a notice which will be found in another column.

We are of opinion the men were wise in not accepting the terms of the building committee, because a great principle is involved which might affect workmen all over the Dominion. We quite coincide with our correspondent when he says, "if there is no law to protect a man who labors on a building it is time there was one." The only way, however, in which this can be accomplished is by workmen interested combining all over the country, and making such representations to the Government as might cause them to take action in such matter. If a law was enacted that bound securities—when a proprietor lets a contract—to see to the payment of all the workmen, as well as to complete the work should the contractor fail to do so, it would certainly have the effect of making contractors and their securities more careful in tendering for work. If strong representations were made to our law makers, we believe action would be taken in the matter; but, as we have before remarked, the workmen must not depend too much upon others. Let them show they are in earnest themselves, and depend upon it a remedy will follow.

We sincerely trust the difficulty in Ottawa will be satisfactorily arranged. This seems to us a case, in which arbitration can very successfully be employed; for surely the men who form a committee in connection with the erection of a church edifice will be men who are willing to act upon the golden rule, "do unto others as you would that others should do unto you."

EXPORT OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS TO NEW SOUTH WALES.

Our attention has been called by the Department of Agriculture of the Dominion Government to the question of export of agricultural implements and machinery, with the view of bringing it before Canadian merchants and manufacturers.

An official letter has been written by Mr. Jules Joubert, Secretary of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales, representing "that in that colony there is an urgent demand for improved agricultural implements and labor-saving machinery; but as yet it has neither the facilities nor the requisite skill for manufacturing them. Hitherto imports from this country have been limited to lumber, furniture, and a few other articles; but he expresses the opinion that a well assorted exhibition of what are known as American implements; inventions, and labor-saving machinery, would not only be a great attraction in the colony, but result in opening an extensive and profitable market for most of the articles exhibited. He is instructed by the Society to state that, should any responsible individual or company desire to make a trial of the plan suggested as a business enterprise, they have a spacious building adapted to the purpose, situated in the Prince Albert park, Sydney, which would be placed at their disposal, together with every other facility at the command of the society." To the trade already carried on with the Australian colonies, there should, it would seem, be

no difficulty in adding that of the machinery, &c., referred to by Mr. Joubert, and the manufacturers of Canada, were they to act promptly would secure a new field for their productions, and be enabled to furnish employment to a large number of men, besides increasing their establishments, thereby enabling them to lessen the cost by the greater amount of production.

We understand the Department of Agriculture has entered into a correspondence with Mr. Joubert, with a view of obtaining further particulars.

CO-OPERATION.

The upheavings of the popular will and feelings, as a reaction and resistance to the pressure of capital and political power that has borne so heavily upon labor, are signs of the times portending great and serious changes.

In the old world, and in the now, clouds are gathering, each one of which has long since grown bigger than a man's hand. It may be well for the popular evangelical preacher and lecturer to sneer at labor reform; it may be well for the professor of science in his turn to sneer at the evangelical lecturer; it may be well for the politician to sneer at both; but sneers never cured social evils, or advanced truth, or aided national progress. The preacher accuses the reformer of not bringing to light any new truth. The reformer retorts upon the preacher that the pulpit neither discovers new truths nor is consistent with the fundamental principles of the religion it teaches. And unhappily the best of the argument is with the reformer. The modern pulpit seems to conform itself to the ways and wishes of the world-loving, money-getting, well-to-do classes. To effect this conformity it has to attack with equal blows catholicity and puritanism, to explain away all that was great and noble and poetic and pious in apostle and prophet, to clothe with frivolity the Saviour of mankind.

Originally, no doubt, the Christian Church was one great Co-operative Society—religiously, socially, and economically. The early believers had all things in common; modern, fashionable Christians have in common two things—pride and covetousness. The church of the future will be the church of the million—the church of the poor man—the church as at first founded by the Carpenter's Son and His fishermen followers. It will be a church in which the scriptural injunction to "bear each other's burdens" will be faithfully obeyed.

To hasten the time when truth and equity shall prevail, the industrial classes of England are organizing co-operative societies all over their land. We thoroughly believe in the merits, practicability, and importance of co-operative societies, as we do in the advantages of trades unions.

Over and over again we have deprecated strikes. We have known too well how they have sometimes been commenced prematurely, and how they have in cases ended disastrously. It cannot too frequently be urged as a truth that if the employed in each trade were well and perfectly organized, strikes would cease. Happy the day when the last strike shall have ended. Let, then, every trade be completely organized.

Side by side with the trades union let the co-operative society be formed. Remember, each co-operative association can be made as safe as a savings bank, and much more remunerative. Such associations will not for many years to come supersede the savings banks—the savings banks will, however, help to create and sustain co-operative societies.

There is ample capital belonging to workingmen to establish a thousand such societies. And there are sufficient industrious, intelligent wage earners to furnish the labor of all grades, qualities, and descriptions to carry on manufacturing and trading co-operative societies in every branch of business.

By our correspondence we rejoice to find a growing desire to seize hold of this plan of action by which the workingman can insure a fairer division of profit between labor and capital.—*Trades Journal.*

TRUE FRIENDS OF LABOR.

Who are the true friends of labor? The most natural reply to this question would be—the true friends of labor are the laborers. This is in accordance with the old precept, "Every tub must stand on its own bottom."

But there is another view of this matter. Every man is expected, of course, to be a friend of himself. He is bound to look out for number one. Is this all? By no means. We are all in a world where we need to help one another. People cannot get along as they should without such help. The richest man among us has some day of his life felt this to be true. It is stated by his historian, that the great American merchant, Abbott Lawrence, was at one time in imminent danger of failure, and would undoubtedly have failed, if it had not been for the timely help of his friends. They renewed his paper, and went on to success.

Now, we hold that no one is the real friend of labor who does not do something for it. Labor is not in danger of failing. On the contrary, it is growing stronger and stronger every day. But it would advance much more extensively, if it would entrench itself in the posts of society much more strongly, if all its professed friends would come up to the mark.

Labor needs help from its friends in various ways. There are our labor associations to be sustained. You cannot be a real friend to labor unless you stand by them. You should attend every meeting when in your power to do so, and help meet all the necessary expenses of your membership. The failure of a single member to pay his just dues is a wrong done to his fellow members, by entailing additional expenses on them. Besides, it is a bad example to others, which no true friend of the labor reform has a right to set. We must all work together if we would work to success.

Then there is the good work of scattering labor arguments among the people. The work of preparing and printing these documents costs money. Paper-makers, type-setters, printers and mailers do not work for nothing. It takes money, and a good lot of it, too, to pay all the bills by which we send out our labor appeals to society. In this good work he is a true friend who aids by his subscription, paid in advance, and still further, by inducing other shopmates to go and do likewise. He is a false friend to labor who is not willing to aid her great cause in this or some other equally beneficial way. Capital has its moneybags at command. When it casts them into the scale they weigh heavy. We have no other plan for bringing the balance even, but the arguments of Truth and Justice.—*Shopmate.*

OUR HAMILTON AGENCY.

We have to express our thanks to the men of Hamilton for the response they have given to the appeal made to them to sustain the WORKMAN, and trust the arrangements that have been made whereby they can receive their paper, will prove satisfactory to all parties. We shall take another opportunity, at an early day, to pay their city a visit, and hope by that means to still further increase our circulation amongst them, which has improved very considerably during the past few weeks.

NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

The most important action, as affecting Canada, of the National Board of Trade of the United States, recently in session in New York, was the passing of a resolution to the effect that the Executive Council should memorialize Congress for an appropriation for a Commission to act in conjunction with the State Department in negotiating a treaty with Great Britain for reciprocity trade with the Dominion of Canada, on a liberal basis, which should include the enlargement of the Canadian canals by the Government of Canada, and the right of American vessels to navigate the said canals, under the same restrictions as are imposed on Canadian vessels. The resolution gave rise to considerable dis-

ussion, and several amendments were proposed; but it was finally carried as it was reported by the Committee on Reciprocity, without amendment. Before the Canadian delegates retired, on Thursday, Colonel McGivern, chairman of the Dominion Board of Trade, returned thanks for the courtesy with which they had been treated, and invited the National Board of the United States to meet the Dominion Board at Ottawa, next January.

STARVED TO DEATH.

"Died from exhaustion through want of good food and proper nourishment," was the verdict of a coroner's jury, at an inquest recently held in Wandsworth, England. The deceased was a farm laborer, named James Sewington. He was honest, sober and industrious. In good weather he sometimes earned eighteen shillings—about \$4.50—a week; but in rainy weather his wages were much less, and as a consequence, his rent got in arrear, and his wife and family were almost without food. Anxious to get out of debt, and to support those who were dependent upon him, the unfortunate man deprived himself—hero as he was—of the food necessary to sustain life, and at last actually died from starvation.

It is stated that this man was but of a class which numbers tens of thousands in England, who, with their families, constantly hover on the verge of starvation, no matter how faithfully they may work to the full extent which their opportunities offer. If this is so, it is certainly a most deplorable state of things.

Mr. A. McPherson, of Dundas, is offering a splendid engraving to every subscriber to the ONTARIO WORKMAN before the first of January next. This will afford a good opportunity for workmen in that vicinity to ornament their homes with a beautiful picture, and at the same time support a paper published in their interest.

Communications.

DON'T INSULT THE GOVERNOR—DON'T INSULT THE PEOPLE.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir—The measure of a man in the political and social world, has long been arrived at by the amount of the root of all evil, as it is called, or its equivalent, which he may possess. This element moves our political and social systems in this country, and as a matter of course it must be highly respectable, as all communities are, that are governed by the classes. This is one of the blessings of ignoring manhood as the basis of suffrage, and placing in its stead that highly respectable basis, property qualification. Whether the man so admitted is a wise man or a fool it matters not; don't you see he is a man of property? Whether he is an honest man or a rogue, it does not signify; don't you see the man is qualified to rule? Whether a drunkard or a sober man is a matter of no consequence; behold the qualification! Whether he be a person of high moral character, or a profligate person, never mind; don't you see the property; upon this the law has made him free, how dare you further question the man's respectability? Bend your stubborn knees, remove your hat, and pay your respects, for this is, beyond all question, a respectable man—for the law hath said so. And don't you see the large warehouse; why, of course, the man is eminently qualified to make laws—the statute hath said so. But sometimes the champions of this very respectable class-franchise system are forced to complain of the unnecessary rudeness of persons who have acquired all the requisite qualifications to be rulers, as may be seen by a communication that appeared in a number of the Mail of last week, complaining of the ungentlemanly manner in which a certain City Father treated, an invitation to attend a Ball from the Governor-General of Canada. It is not my intention to say one word in extenuation of the course pursued by the Alderman in offering an uncalled for and unnecessary insult to a live lord—for a rudeness is a rudeness no matter from what quarter it may come. So that my object more particularly in writing this letter is to notice an uncalled for insult offered to the operative classes of this country by that would-be champion of good manners, who undertakes to flagellate the Alderman through the Mail for rudeness.

I consider the gentleman overstepped the bounds of good taste—if the communication could be called a tasty one at all—when he