

## Communications.

## TORONTO.

## CONVICT LABOR.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

For a number of years the workmen of the State of New York agitated against the Contract system in the several prisons in that State, the agitation resulting in numerous petitions to the Legislature for relief. In 1868 the New York Legislative Assembly passed a bill with that object in view; but the bill was defeated in the Senate. In 1870 the Assembly again passed a bill, and again the Senate defeated the bill, but also passed a resolution in favor of a Commission to enquire into the working of the Contract system, and the Commission was duly appointed by the Governor. The Commissioners visited fourteen prisons, and spent six months in taking testimony, examining orally ninety-six witnesses, and sent out circulars to inspectors of prisons in New York State, to leading officials in prisons located in other States, to prominent citizens and business men in the State, asking their opinion in the important points of the Commission. They received twenty-two answers to the circulars, and thus had a vast amount of testimony, oral and written, from inspectors, wardens, physicians, chaplains, clerks, keepers, superintendents, managers, and employees of prisons, contractors, agents, manufacturers, dealers, workmen, and others connected and unconnected with the prison labor forming the object of their enquiries.

In the report submitted by the Commission were contained ten propositions, the first of which is as follows:

"The contract system of prison labor is bad and should be abolished."

The sixth, eighth, and ninth read thus:

"In order to a safe and successful change of the labor system from contract to State management, it will be an essential condition precedent, that political control be eliminated from the government of our State prisons; and that their administration be placed and kept in the hands of honest and capable men."

"While the products of prison labor are not sufficient to sensibly affect the general markets of the country, there is no doubt that, in particular localities, the products do come into injurious competition with those of outside labor; and wherever such competition occurs, it is the result of the undue pursuit of one or but a few branches of labor in prisons, to the exclusion of all others; a result which points to the multiplication and equalization of trades in institutions of this class."

"The opposition of the workmen of the State is to the Contract system alone, and not at all to industrial labor in prisons; and not only do they oppose such labor, but they desire that criminals should be reformed, as the result of their imprisonment; and they believe that this can be effected only through industrial labor, in combination with other suitable agencies, and as the result of the acquisition, as far as that may be possible, of trades during their incarceration."

The other propositions refer to management of prisons, and the necessary changes in the law to effect a complete removal of political power in the conducting of prisons.

These propositions are substantially what have been held by the opponents of the Contract system in this Province, and go far to prove the position thus held to be a sound one; and in order to show the correctness of the propositions, the Senate of New York State passed an amendment to the Constitution in the words of the Commission without a single dissenting voice.

Yours, etc.,  
J. W. LEVESLEY.

Toronto, April 3, 1873.

## AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—In your last issue you gave an account of a meeting of the District Committee of the above Society, in London, Eng., and you say that the Society only numbers 10,000 members. Will you kindly allow me to state that although the Society has only been established two years, it has upwards of 25,000 members. Hoping you will kindly insert this in your next issue, so that the railway servants of this country can see what a flourishing condition the Society is in.

Yours, truly,

E. V. STONE,  
A member of the Society.

Toronto, April 2, 1873.

The objects of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, the Articles of which

have been duly enrolled according to Act of Parliament, are as follows:—

- 1.—To secure ten hours for a fair day's labor.
- 2.—To promote a good understanding between employer and employed.
- 3.—To prevent Strikes.
- 4.—Re-arrangement of Sunday duty.
- 5.—Defence of Members.
- 6.—Arbitration for settlement of disputes.
- 7.—Assistance to Members.

An Executive Council has been legally elected by the Members, and the Society is now in full working order.

## HAMILTON.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken in asking you to publish the few lines that I am reluctantly compelled to send, not so much on my own account as for my fellow-workmen in Great Britain, who might be misled by the misrepresentations of certain paid agents who write under the guise of philanthropy. For some time past our Canadian journals have been republishing letters sent to English and Scotch papers by these said agents. My attention has been recently called to a letter which has been widely circulated by the newspapers in Great Britain; the aforesaid letter was written by Mr. A. Somerville (better known under the nom de plume of the "Whistler at the Plow," who, having nothing else particular to do, thinks he is serving his country by publishing what possibly he may believe as true and unvarnished statements regarding its progress, for, as he says, the enlightenment of the toiling masses of Great Britain. With his reminiscences of Muskoka and the Free Grant District (being ignorant of that locality) I have nothing to call in question; but when he speaks of Hamilton, and the Great Western Railway in particular, I, as an employee of four years' standing, well acquainted with every branch of the locomotive and engineering departments, feel bound to question the truth of the representations conveyed in the aforesaid letter respecting Mr. Muir, the General Superintendent, requiring 50 or 60 skilled mechanics at \$2.50 to \$2.75. My own and my fellow-workmen's reasons for doubting, and hereby denying, the truth of that statement arises from the fact that seeing Mr. Somerville's letter, some of our oldest and best hands applied for an increase of pay, and were peremptorily denied, the reason assigned being that the company were determined not to pay a higher rate than they did at present, that being from \$1.02 to \$1.80, many under that; a very few charge men are paid \$2 or \$1.66, but one leading fitter and one steam hammerman have been paid \$2.25 or \$1.80 per day, and that is the highest wages paid to any mechanic working in the locomotive department in Hamilton.

Now, sir, I would ask your many readers is it likely that any mechanical superintendent would pay more to strange hands by 4s. per day, than he would to old, skilled workmen, who have wrought here for years, and who, prior to their coming here, worked in such railway centres as Crewe, Manchester, Wolverton, Swindon, Bristol, &c. Sir, my own opinion is, that Mr. Somerville has overstretched the mark. And my advice to my fellow-workman in Great Britain is "not to place too much reliance on the statements of interested paid agents and mis-styled philanthropists." Their object seems to be a desire not so much the prosperity of the country, as to impede the march of labor reforms.

As regards the other workshops in Hamilton, it may not be superfluous to mention they work, almost without exception, 60 hours per week. The only one that differs is the Great Western, which works 54 hours per week. I may also remark, in conclusion, that the apparent high wages are counterbalanced by the high price of imported necessities, high rent and dear fuel. Provisions are reasonable. I hope you will pardon the liberty I am taking in asking you to put these few facts before your numerous readers, in the hope that they will ponder well before they are led by deception, and in a strange country realize the fact that they have been duped.

I have subscribed my name for your satisfaction, but having no wish to see it published, I beg to subscribe myself,

VULCAN.

April 9th, 1873.

J. B. Cook, one of the former proprietors of the Toronto Telegraph, and more recently of the Express of that city, is at present interested in an effort to establish an evening daily in Oakland, which is considered a venturesome enterprise, in competition with the great dailies of San Francisco, only removed from the same field by a fifteen minutes' ferry.

## TRADES GUILD OF LEARNING.

At a preliminary meeting of skilled workmen, convened by the Rev. H. Solly, at the Working Men's Club and Institute Union Offices on Saturday afternoon, it was resolved:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to form a Trades Guild of Learning, with the view of promoting the delivery of lectures, and the formation of classes, to assist members of trade societies and other skilled workmen in acquiring a knowledge of history, political economy, and technical education, as well as literature, science, and art generally. That the various trade societies in the United Kingdom be invited to connect themselves with this Guild by a small annual payment which should give all their members admission to certain courses of lectures and to classes, either without payment or on reduced terms; also to libraries, reading-rooms, discussions and social meetings, where these can be provided by the Guild; and that if the requisite funds can be obtained, an agent commanding the confidence of trade societies be engaged to visit their lodge meetings, by permission, and invite their support for the foregoing objects." It was further resolved:—"That in order to bring within reach of members of the Trades Guild of Learning the advantages of University teaching and of such educational endowments as were intended for the less wealthy portion of the community, it is important to obtain the co-operation of the authorities of the Universities and other governing bodies at present administering such endowments." Lord Lyttelton, having introduced the object of the meeting, expressed a strong desire to hear Mr. Stuart's views on this important subject, having formed a high opinion of him from an address he delivered some time since at Leeds. The Rev. H. Solly then explained that he had for some time been convinced that the best way to promote the spread alike of technical and higher education among skilled workmen was through trades' societies. Technical education, for the most part, must be given in the workshop; and skilled workmen were naturally jealous on the subject of imparting a knowledge of their own craft. But a good deal might be done, first by promoting meetings among themselves for reading papers and discussion on technical points, or matters of art and skill in their own trades; secondly, by establishing classes; thirdly, by procuring courses of lectures by University men on various subjects, to which the classes would be auxiliary. All this, however, could only be done by employing a sort of education agent, who should visit, by permission, the different trades' society lodges throughout the kingdom. Having heard of Mr. Stuart's desire to extend the benefits of University education to the working classes, and knowing how much more the workmen of other countries, especially in Scotland, shared those advantages than they did in England, he had asked the gentlemen now present to meet him that day. He (Mr. Solly) fully believed that great good might be done if these plans could be made to work together. Mr. William Muir, an old former engineer, warmly supported Mr. Solly's plans. Mr. James Stuart then gave a very interesting and detailed description of the way in which he hoped his University (Cambridge) would, before long, be prepared to send out highly qualified lecturers to the different great centres of industry, if there were sufficient amount of local support forthcoming. The large employers of labor and other persons of property must do their part towards raising funds, while he thought Mr. Solly's proposals were admirably adapted to induce workmen to avail themselves of the advantages thus offered. The "Trades Guild of Learning" would supply the fuel for the fire. Mr. Hodgson Pratt, to whom Mr. Solly had referred as having in connection with Mr. Pateson, made most praiseworthy efforts for the promotion of technical education, declared his readiness and desire to assist in any well-considered scheme for accomplishing the important object which had brought them together. Mr. Thomas Webster, Q.C., and Mr. Pateson expressed themselves to the same effect. Mr. Harris Heal, of Tottenham Court road, stated that his (the Upholsterers') Company was going to move in the matter, and he should be glad to report to them the results of that meeting, with which he felt in entire agreement. Mr. J. K. Buckmaster, of the Department of Science and Art, Kensington, also expressed his warm interest in the proposed scheme, and thought it contained elements capable of valuable development. The third resolution was moved by Mr. Latter (zinc worker), and seconded by Edward Hall, F.S.A.:—"That a Provisional Committee be formed from the persons now present, and with power to add to their number, to consider and carry out

the best modes of accomplishing the foregoing objects." Among the last speakers were several members of the London Trades Council, who expressed their cordial interest in the proposed scheme, and their willingness to bring it before the London trades when it was fully elaborated; but Mr. Shipton, Secretary of the Council, stated that in the present condition of feeling with regard to the gas stokers and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the time was not favorable for enlisting the sympathies of the trades' societies in any effort for education which the middle class were to take part in. At the same time, he felt this was a very important movement, and he would certainly do his best to help it forward. Lord Lyttelton, replying to Mr. Shipton, remarked that the case of the gas stokers was not a political but a judicial grievance, and the Government had rectified the unduly severe sentence of the judge. Mr. Solly observed that was perfectly true, and important to be remembered by the trade societies; but he knew they felt very deeply the injustice of making a breach of contract a criminal offence on the part of the workmen, while it was only a civil offence if committed by other parties. This view was received with applause, after which votes of thanks were moved by Mr. Solly to the noble chairman and Mr. Stuart, seconded by several persons present, and carried by acclamation; in acknowledging which, Lord Lyttelton stated, in reply to a question put by one of the Trade Council, that he was thoroughly in favor of opening Bethnal Green and other museums on Sunday afternoons, provided the requisite attendance could be secured by a system of relays, for he was very anxious that no one in this country should be obliged to work seven days in a week. The statement of these views was received with much favor. The meeting then separated.—English Exchange.

## THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The efforts of the management of this establishment to secure the engagement of first-class talent is deserving the success that has attended their endeavors. The audience continue large. On Tuesday Mr. John H. Clarke made his re-appearance—"He couldn't stay away,"—and was enthusiastically received. Miss Rosa Lee retains her popularity. Her songs are new, and her singing of a high standard. The songs of Harry Wood, the songs and dances of Miss Fanny Wood and Miss Annie West, and the dancing of Miss Hattie Rogers, Ella Arnold, and Laura Flint, not forgetting the attractive conicalities of Howard and Egbert, combine to furnish a most pleasant evening's entertainment. On Friday evening, Mr. Z. R. Triganne, the lessee and manager, was presented by Mr. Harry Wood, on behalf of himself and members of the company, with a very handsome gold medal, on which was a suitable inscription. The presentation was both a surprise and a pleasure to Mr. Triganne, who hoped the same kindly and cordial feeling would continue to exist between himself and the artists of the Academy.

The enquiry ordered by the Dominion Government into the Atlantic's disaster was held at the Custom House, and occupied the greater part of Saturday. The Collector, E. M. McDonald, presided. Captain Phillimore, of Her Majesty's ship Sphinx, could not attend as his ship was about to sail for Bermuda. Captain McKenzie was chosen instead, to assist the Collector. Hon. S. T. Shannon, Q.C., and H. Blanchard, Q.C., for the Government; and J. W. Ritchie, Q.C., for the Captain. The evidence as published is a recapitulation of previous reports.

A RUSSIAN SURPRISE.—The new railway and telegraph chart of the Russian Empire, just published, seems to have taken the German general staff by surprise. Russia is shown by this chart to possess railways and telegraph lines actually in operation of which the world outside had not the slightest notice or even suspicion. There is a complete system of strategical railways, radiating from the principal lines uniting in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kioff, and extending even to the Asiatic frontier in no less than ten lines. All the military centres, even Nova Tcherhask, the headquarters of the Don Cossacks, are accessible by rail; and in a short time, if not at this moment, Russia can move large bodies of troops and concentrate them within a few days at any desired point. In view of these facts the German journals urge their government to hasten forward the construction of railways on their own eastern frontier, which they will need for their own safety in case of war.

The wives of Workmen are invited to visit Eaton's, where can be found the cheapest Spring Goods.

## REMITTANCES.

R. A., Hamilton, \$1; S. S., do., 50c.; J. H., do., 50c.; D. T., St. Catharines, \$1; J. G., do., \$1; L. H., do., \$1; J. G., do., \$1; J. B., do., \$1; R. E. L., do., \$1; C. B., do., \$2; J. W., do., \$1; T. R. M., do., \$2; C. Boyer, do., \$1; T. W. H., Kingston, \$1; R. P., Hamilton, \$6.25; J. P., do., \$6.50; J. P., do., \$6.75; G. M., do., \$2.60.

## New Advertisements.



## Post Office Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Post Office will be open for delivery, on

**GOOD FRIDAY,**  
FROM 8 TO 10 A.M.

Usual daily mails will close at 6 a.m., and United States mails at 10 a.m.

JOSEPH LESSLIE,

Postmaster

Toronto P.O., 10th April 1873.

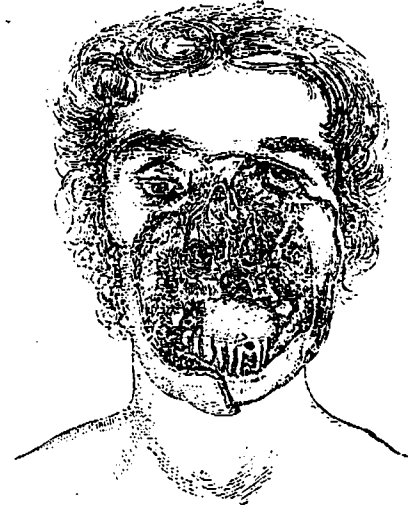
## DR. WOOD,

PROPRIETOR OF THE

## OTTAWA CANCER CURE,

SPARKS ST. AND MARIA ST., OTTAWA, ONT.

Cancers Cured by a New, but Certain, Speedy, and nearly Painless Process, and without the Use of the Knife.



HOPELESS CASE—EFFECT OF DELAY.

The Cure will be guaranteed, and, as a proof of this, no pay is required until the Cure is complete. The moment a Cancer is discovered, it should be cured, as it will cost less and is more speedily cured than when of longer standing, and there is nothing to gain, and everything to lose, by delay. What now seems a harmless lump in the breast, neck, eyelid or elsewhere, or small wart or sore on the lip, may, in a few short months, become a hideous, disgusting, destroying mass of disease. If required, references can be given to parties who have been cured many years since, and who are now sound and healthy. All communications promptly answered. No money required in advance, and none until the Cure is complete. 52-oh

## SPRING GOODS.

N. McEACHREN,  
MERCHANT TAILOR, &C.

191 Yonge Street,

Has just received a large and good assortment of SPRING GOODS for Ordered Work. 52-oh

## AMALGAMATED SOCIETY

OF

## CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

The above Society intend holding their ANNIVERSARY DINNER at D. Black's Hotel, Hamilton,

On Friday, April 18th, 1873.

Tickets, 75 Cents.

Dinner at 7.30.

R. BONNEY, Sec.

## TO THE MECHANICS OF THE DOMINION.

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

That in consequence of the men who were employed on the erection of the Presbyterian Church, not having been yet paid, the members of all Trades' Unions and others are requested not to engage at all with the Contractor who now has it, or any Contractor who may hereafter have said Church, until all arrears are paid.

By Order,

R. H. GRAHAM, Secretary.

Ottawa, March 1, 1873.

48-4f

## THE JOURNEYMEN FREE STONE

CUTTERS ASSOCIATION, of Ottawa, City, and immediate vicinity, hold their meetings in the St. Lawrence Hotel, corner of Rideau and Nicholas streets, on the first and third Monday in each month. The officers elected for the present quarter, commencing Monday March 3, 1873, are as follows:—President, Robert Thomson; Vice-President, Joseph Hugg; Financial Secretary, William Gould; Recording and Corresponding Secretary, George Bisset; Treasurer, Robert Poustie; Tyler, James Walker; Trades Council, Donald Robertson, James Kelly, James Walker, Joseph Hugg; Trustees, Donald Robertson, John Casey, William Clark.

NEW  
SPRING  
GOODS.

## T. EATON &amp; CO.,

Invite inspection of their early Spring Stock of

## White Goods and Prints,

Which they are now showing in enormous quantities and at extraordinary low prices.

CORNER YONGE & QUEEN STREETS,  
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