

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, 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.

(INVARIABLY 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
Half "	85 00
Quarter "	50 00
1/8 "	35 00
1/16 "	25 00
One column, for 6 months	80 00
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1/8 "	15 00
1/16 "	10 00
One column, for 3 months	50 00
Half "	30 00
Quarter "	17 00
1/8 "	10 00

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.
Carpenters, (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."

Dry Goods and Clothing—R. Walker & Sons.
Bankrupt Sale—Wm. Macklin.
Coal and Wood—John Snarr.
Dry Goods, etc.—Shaver & Bell.
Coal and Wood—J. F. Coleman & Co.
Bargains for Mechanics—Alex. King.
Coal and Wood—M. Dwan.
Boots and Shoes—R. Merryfield.
Dentist—W. C. Adams.
Bookseller, Stationer, etc.—Alfred Butler.
Gold and Silver Plater—W. Millicamp.
Lumber Merchant—William Burke.
Carpets—Henry Graham & Co.
Dentist—R. G. Trotter.
Hair and Jute Switches—George Ellis.
Brass and String Instruments—T. Claxton.
Tinsmith, Plumber—John Jackson.

WANTED,

MAN, TO RUN A BAND SAW, FOR re-sawing. To a good hand constant work.
WM. BURKE,
Sheppard Street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 24, 1872.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We would again remind our readers that we have entered upon our second half of the year, and as the terms of the paper are payment in advance, we trust they will send along their subscriptions. It is the intention of the proprietors, at an early day, to make such alterations as will considerably enlarge and improve the WORKMAN, but we shall need the prompt co-operation of our friends to enable us so to do. Each subscription of itself is but a small sum, but in the aggregate they form a large amount. We, therefore, trust that in our case the truth of the proverb may be made apparent, "a word to the wise is sufficient."

The columns of the WORKMAN already offer a first-class medium to reach the mechanics of this and neighboring cities, but as soon as the proposed alterations can be made, greater facilities will be afforded our advertising patrons, a fact of which we are assured they will not be slow to avail themselves.

The clothing cutters of New York at a meeting to-day passed resolutions that they would support the strike of the cutters of Baltimore.

PRISON LABOR.

This most important subject, which is now engrossing the attention of the working classes of this city, is one which must of necessity be viewed with great apprehension.

Experience has taught most of our artisans the danger of throwing large quantities of half-trained mechanics into the world to compete in price with perhaps an already overstocked labor market. This danger now threatens the car makers, and the proposed system of Convict Labor is a standing menace to all trades to which it can be applied.

During the next fifteen years it will be fair to suppose the usual increase of crime attending the growth of all thickly populated cities, will be no exception to the district of Toronto.

These criminals will receive a smattering of the trade from the skilled labor permanently employed in the car shops, and upon their discharge, what more natural than to suppose they will apply for work at the outside shops engaged in the trade they have lately been practicing. This large accession of semi-artisan-laborers—mostly single men—can afford to work at a considerable reduction in the current wages, and thus will supplant, to a very considerable extent, honest artisans, who may have a family to support.

The grand army of botch workmen already pestering some branches of trade, will thus be recruited in turn, just as one trade or other may be in full swing at the great Central Prison. Even now this crying evil is demanding stricter apprentice laws, whereby an apprentice may be compelled to serve a just term, and the proposed prison-scheme is, to say the least of it, a retrograde step in the advancement of manual dexterity and general trade ability.

The proposed scheme of the Provincial Government has many other objective features, such as the necessary contact between the prisoners and the hired labor necessary for carrying on the proposed car building. This will open the door for the introduction to the prisoners of articles that should be properly excluded from them, such as intoxicating drink, tobacco, etc. It will be necessary to search the prisoners night and morning to prevent the carrying away of tools at night and prison property in the morning.

It has been a long established system in the mother country to conduct the prisoners on the "silent" system, and very properly so; yet under the car building contract it is an utter impossibility to avoid communications passing not only from one prisoner to another, but also between the prisoners and the employees. Look at the question which way we may, serious objections rise on every side, each objection being sufficient to utterly condemn the scheme.

We freely acknowledge it is but just that prisoners should be compelled to support themselves, and that a sentence of hard labor should be a fact and not a sham; but in our opinion, this phase of the subject is a problem for political economists to solve rather than working men. There seems to us, however, to be several ways in which prisoners could be employed at hard labor, and not be brought into contact with honest workmen, other than officers necessary for guarding them and enforcing discipline. For instance, the prison could be located on the island, and the inmates set to build a breakwater, to dredge the approaches from the lake to the city, and prepare the island as a public promenade.

Such employment could have none of the objections we have raised; the prisoners could be isolated; forbidden articles could be kept from them; dangerous tools would not be in their possession; the "silent" system could more effectively be carried out; discipline could be enforced: hard labor would be a fact; the labor would be profitable to our commerce; a place of recreation could be provided for our future citizens, and no trade interests could possibly be damaged.

The Brooklyn Association for improving the condition of the poor has contracted for seven hundred tons of coal.

LABOR AND KNOWLEDGE.

The first requisite of labor is intelligence. It is intelligence in labor that makes labor skilled. Other things being equal, the more intelligence labor has the better it does its work, and, consequently, the higher the price to which it is justly entitled. Capital can afford to pay labor in proportion to its knowledge of its work. The best work in the market eventually commands the market. As the people advance in wealth and refinement they can afford to pay for what wealth can purchase and refinement desires. The workman who can produce the most desirable work is the workman most sought after, and the best paid in the end. To do this kind of work requires:

- 1st. Knowledge of the work.
- 2nd. Patience in doing it.
- 3rd. Steady labor—eight hours a day.
- 4th. Fair wages, promptly paid.

It is because that we advocate these things that we claim our paper is the friend of both capital and labor. We contend that labor shall be well cared for, and that, of necessity, will promote the best interests of capital.

Labor is power. The more intelligent labor is, therefore, the more powerful. The greater the power of labor the more sure is it to obtain and perpetuate its rights. The rights of labor are these:

- 1st. To be regarded as the equal of capital.
- 2nd. Labor is the capital of labor as money is of capital.
- 3rd. Labor is entitled to name its own terms, as to hours and wages.

To secure and maintain these rights, labor must have knowledge. It is in this respect that knowledge, also, is power. The more men and women know, other things being equal, the more power they possess. The possession of power is independence; independence is liberty; liberty, with virtue, is happiness.

Every shopmate can easily see and readily feel the force of this reasoning. Hence it is of the utmost importance that every shopmate should secure and hold fast intelligence. The old saying, "Where ignorance is bliss, 't were folly to be wise,"

is obsolete. It never was true, and it never will be. True knowledge is bliss; and, other things being equal, the more a man knows the happier he is.

Of the same class with the above quotation is the other old foggy creed: "Ignorance is the mother of devotion."

No. It is not so. It never was. It never will be. Ignorance is the mother of nothing but ignorance. It is certainly not the mother of devotion; for that is the highest act of which the human mind is capable. Devotion is a reasonable service; not an ignorant one. The higher the knowledge of men and women, the higher their devotion of the Deity.

It is with these arguments we make our appeal to our shopmates to acquire knowledge. Make yourselves masters and mistresses of your callings, whatever they may be. Learn everything there is to learn. Whatever you do, do it well. Do it the best it can be done. Go in for knowledge, shopmates, and you go in for the right.—Shopmate.

A WORD TO YOUNG MEN.

Somebody once said, "Our Government land cost one dollar an acre, and good whiskey two dollars a bottle. How many men die landless, who, during their lives, have swallowed whole townships—trees and all!" There is food for reflection in this little paragraph. Every day of our lives, and almost every hour of each day, we meet individuals not merely landless, but houseless, homeless, penniless, who in the course of their lives have swallowed ardent spirits enough to pay for land and house, and have pennies and dollars for their pockets besides. But it is not the drinker of ardent spirits alone who thus deprives himself of the comforts of a home—the tobacco-chewer, the cigar-smoker, the young man who spends precious hours of each day and evening in worse than listless idleness. How rarely such persons reflect upon

the folly of their course. The young man who smokes three five-cent cigars a day—and many of them double the quantity at double the price—puffs away enough in the course of ten years to give a handsome start in business, or to provide for himself and family a comfortable home. How frequently we hear such persons complain of their inability to take a newspaper or a literary magazine, or purchase an interesting book. They will tell you they are too poor for that, and yet the next moment will spend for a glass of ale or brandy, or for a cigar, a sum sufficient to pay for two papers. And this folly is repeated perhaps a dozen times in the course of twenty-four hours.

Young man, give this subject a moment's reflection. Sit down calmly and think it over, and if, when you have fairly done so, you conclude that it is better to drink and smoke, go on! The day will come when you will discover your error, and that discovery will be made when it is perhaps too late!

A LABOR CONGRESS.

The question of a world's labor congress is being discussed in the columns of some of the journals published in the labor interest in the United States. It is generally admitted that such a congress should take place, and that soon. The Washington (D.C.) Shopmate, one of the most earnest advocates of the proposed congress says:—"There are many practical questions, vitally affecting the best interests of labor, which a world's congress of its real friends ought to consider and arrange for the future."

"No more important assemblage could or can convene. Labor lies at the foundation of the progress of the world. As labor prospers, all mankind enjoy prosperity. When labor is depressed, all the world suffers."

"What immense results for good, if it be rightly conducted, would flow from such a Congress! How many and how vast are the questions that labor presents to the world for settlement to-day!"

The same journal expresses a hope that America will be the place in which the first Labor Congress of the world will be held, suggesting the 4th of July, 1873, as the time, and submits the following questions as the basis of its operations:—

1. Fair wages to the laborer.
2. Just hours for a day's work.
3. Co-operation of labor and capital.
4. Suppression of intemperance among labor.
5. Abolition of war by arbitration.
6. Establishment of labor homes.
7. Complete education of labor.
8. An equal share of labor and capital in all government.
9. Equality of the laboring woman with the laboring man.
10. A universal republic."

UNDERPAID LABOR.

Sooner or later, underpaid labor revenges itself upon niggardly employers. A good workman is worthy of his hire. While cheap labor may for a time help the rich and the monopolists to fill their coffers, it in no way contributes to the intelligence or augments the happiness of the people. In China, the common wages for labor is only about five cents in gold per day; in Europe, from fifteen to twenty-five cents per day. Political Economists say that the price of every commodity is regulated by the price of labor; if such is the case, then what better off would we be if we had several million laborers working for five or ten cents a day? Labor must always be dependent upon capital for its support, and when this labor becomes so plenty and cheap as to afford them a scanty subsistence, then it becomes a detriment to the country, for cold weather, bad seasons, and sickness throws thousands out of employment. Humanity forbids that they should be left to suffer or starve, so that they must be supported by charity or by taxes, and as one-fourth of the taxes is squandered in collection, it would be much cheaper to give that amount in wages to the laborer

THE AGE WE LIVE IN.

Thus far, the year 1872 has been a year of wonders. Unpleasant phenomena have occurred in earth and sky. Meteoric stones have been banging about considerably in various quarters. They are the real article—moon-stones, dead planets, or the cores of worlds that have been thrown away. All such useless trash seems to come to us through the fields of illimitable space, forgetful that we have enough rubbish already. Here are some of the wonders of the year, and they look rather formidable when summed up. An eruption of Vesuvius, the most terrific in eighteen hundred years; an earthquake that swallowed up Antioch; a drouth and famine in Persia; pestilence in Buenos Ayers; one of the Philippine Islands completely swamped and sunk; tremblings and shakings of the earth on both sides of the North American Continent. Then the universal and unusually hot weather, and whirlwinds and thunderstorms, and the aforesaid meteoric stones are also among the wonders. Near Boston, a man who had nothing else to do, timed the lightning, and counted three hundred and thirty-one distinct charges of lightning in seven minutes, each causing a distinct thunder-blast, and all the while the moon looked on so greatly magnified by haze and vapor as to make the appearance of half the sky on fire. People are amusing themselves counting the storms in all quarters, and the accounts of damage done by them form a staple article of news.

The semi-annual report of the Directors of the Great Western Railway has been published. It says that the road is doing a splendid and constantly increasing business, and that its management is so thorough, so complete, and carried out with such perfection of detail as not to allow of improvement. The receipts on capital amount for the six months ended the 31st day of July, 1872, was £13,778, and the total receipts on the same account to that date, was £6,573,357. The total expenditure to the 31st July amounted to £6,153,670, leaving a balance to the credit of capital account of £419,68g.

THE ST. LAWRENCE BANK

In another column will be found the Prospectus of the "St. Lawrence Bank," and it affords us pleasure to announce that this new Institution will commence business very soon in the new building on the corner of Jordan and Melinda streets, at present occupied by Hughes Bros.

The amount required by the Act having been subscribed, the Provisional Board of Directors have made a call of ten per cent. on the subscribed stock.

The following subscriptions are very flattering:—Toronto, \$200,000; London, \$160,000; Whitby, \$25,000; Oshawa, \$40,000; Montreal, \$40,000; Newcastle, \$40,000; and, Brighton promises \$50,000, which is now being taken up.

We are well acquainted with all the members of the Board of Directors, viz:—J. C. Fitch, Esq., Toronto; John Shedd, Esq., do.; Frank Shanley, Esq., do.; Captain Thomas Dick, do.; John Cowan, Esq., Oshawa; W. F. Allen, Esq., Clarke. A more prudent and stable class of gentlemen could not have been procured in the Dominion, for supervisors and administrators of the affairs of a banking institution than those above named.

The directors of this new candidate for popular favor and custom have been lucky in securing the services of Mr. Lockhart, as cashier. This gentleman has had an experience of sixteen years in the banking business. He was at one time in a responsible position in the Montreal branch of the Ontario Bank, and at another time manager of the important agency of the same bank at Whitby. From our personal knowledge of Mr. Lockhart, and from all we have heard of him, we are confident that he will give perfect satisfaction in the discharge of the difficult duties of the office he has been appointed to.

We bespeak for the "St. Lawrence Bank" a bright future. Notwithstanding the already