

one in case of fire, for heating and lighting; the effect of his branch of industry upon his health; his experience of the results of improved machinery upon wages, upon production, upon skilled labor; his experience of strikes, trade unions, and their results; his experience of the pecuniary condition of those living upon wages; the average of his own wages; whether in his experience the employee had ever been given a share in the profits; his knowledge of the employment of children in factories, and the number of hours they are employed, with the character of the labor they perform; the rule in his trade about apprentices, etc.

The various trades of this city are making arrangements to entertain Mr. Joseph Arch at as early a day as possible. We are pleased to see their action in this respect, and trust their efforts may be crowned with the most complete success.

Communication.

THAT "NOT UNFAIR OFFER."

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir,—Not being at my usual residence, and owing to some unexpected irregularity, I failed to secure a copy of your issue dated the 10th Sept., containing a letter from your "exclusive" correspondent, in time to take notice of it in your next impression, which would, under all ordinary circumstances, be in the hands of your readers before I obtained the copy referred to.

In common with a goodly number of those interested in this proposed Amalgamation, I was looking forward to your correspondent's next production with much peculiar anxiety in the confident expectation of obtaining what the most of us are sadly in want of, that is a fuller information upon the nature and number of the benefits presented to the members of his excellent Union. In a former communication he had the kindness to inform your readers of the fact, that the M. & B. Union had made to the Amalgamated Engineers a "not unfair offer," the character of which he attempted to explain in the following select language, "As the monthly dues to the M. & B. are only half the dues to the A. E., while the sick pay is double, surely this is not an unfair offer." I hold Mr. Editor, that this is any thing but a fair representation of the merits of the Amalgamated Society, and is only calculated to mislead public opinion, and may at any time result in an error of judgment; and I am prepared to show, when the proper time arrives, that the donation he alludes to is only one—and not regarded as a very valuable one at that—of the many important benefits connected with our society. It requires no feeble words of mine to sustain the character of a Union that is now old enough to speak for itself, for more than two and twenty years it has "braved the battle and the breeze," and given to the world a record which has secured for it an established reputation, enabled it to wield an influence of a very potent description, and drawn from the most eminent authorities in Britain a recognition of its claims to be the best institution of its kind extant.

Your correspondent has unwittingly dragged us into an unpleasant field of discussion upon the advantages offered by the respective unions, and it is surely nothing but reasonable to insist that he will lay before your readers a full and accurate account of the emoluments belonging to the M. & B. Union, and I will take care that a similar rendering will be made of the Amalgamated. Unlike some of our prominent public men we are not in the habit of "going at it blind," and if Mr. Levesley is seriously intent on exerting his influence in order to accomplish this desirable Amalgamation of the two Unions, he will no longer hesitate to provide the information so absolutely necessary for the attainment of this end. The members of the Amalgamated are not yet so intensely in love with this sister union as to shut their eyes to such important considerations as these. Let us therefore hope that he will listen to the appeal so fervently made to him in my last communication, but which (singularly enough), received no notice in his reply.

His last letter is like unto the first—a wail of irritated grumbling and fault-finding, a spirit quite in keeping with that which dictated the resolution that was presented to the U. S. I. C., not to say anything about its admirable application, as a characteristic of the leading stoops of his Union, who never tire growling about that English institution which a "party of mechanics" are trying to establish on American soil. In his first letter we had the

doleful complaint that your paper contained "matter totally at variance with the WORKMAN's usual course," because, forsooth, you venture to take exception to a certain resolution which was conceived by the representative of the M. & B. Union, and brought forth to the world by the U. S. Labor Congress; the latter circumstance being the only known reason why it received any public attention whatever. Had it been introduced to us directly from its warm-hearted originators, minus the authority of the Labor Congress, it would have received the same treatment as similar "offers" have hitherto received from that quarter. You committed a grave error Mr. Editor, in differing from the judgment of the M. & B. Union—I mean the U. S. Labor Congress.

In his last letter he is again sadly ruminating over a "leader" in last week's issue, which does not seem palatable enough for a delicate stomach. He offers some remarks upon the "Multiplicity of Unions," which may receive some attention when a fitting opportunity offers itself. In the meantime he pretends to be wonderfully concerned to know if your correspondent "Amalgamated" has grown ashamed of his name. It is gratifying to know that this anonymous correspondent is in no way under the restraint of any shameful sensation, or feeling of timidity, and if it will afford him any satisfaction you are at liberty, Mr. Editor, to gratify his curiosity by putting him in possession of the present writer's name and address with the option to use it to his hearts content in the present controversy, and so remove the necessity of his being woefully grieved on this point.

His unhappy reference to that "disgraceful attack in the Mail" has rather a tendency to lead him upon dangerous ground, and is probably the result of a misapprehension on his part; he surely must know that what appeared in the Mail upon the subject referred to, was also published in the WORKMAN, with the unimportant exception of a few pertinent remarks relative to the manner in which the Ontario Workman became possessed of the missile which was then thrown at the Amalgamated. When its members are shown the reason why they ought to "retract," it is not at all likely that they will need to borrow from the members of the M. & B. Union, the "manliness" needful to enable them to act accordingly. On this point I hesitate not to express my conviction that it would not be against the interests of this accredited champion of the M. & B. Union, "to let sleeping dogs lie."

The greatest source of your correspondent's angry complaint seems to flow from the length of my letter. While I have no wish to make an undue encroachment upon your space, let it be known to this fickle-writer that he is the last man whose convenience will be consulted on such a matter. I make no pretensions to excellence in this important educational department, and it may be that the arguments submitted are unsound, for infallibility is no attribute of mortal faculties, but whether sound or unsound, long or short, my views are submitted with all the frankness of a man whose only aim is to reach the truth, and when he speaks or writes what appears to him to be the truth, is not unwisely troubled about who may concur or who may dissent. It ill becomes your correspondent to find fault with the "length" of other communications, when the useless appendage to his own is considered, the most important features of it having occupied space in your columns in a previous issue. He has done well, however, in giving your readers the names of the gentlemen who were on this committee, in order that they may see clearly the source of all the trouble; and were they to be furnished with another significant piece of information which although as yet unpublished is thoroughly reliable, they would obtain such a peep behind the scenes as would enable them tangibly to discern the whole machinery at work. The communication which was read before the Canadian Labor Congress the other day from the President of the U. S. I. C., indicates a want of unanimity on the report as originally presented, and enables me to withdraw the words "without debate" from my previous letter.

Out of a committee of six,—chosen from a body of 65 delegates, representing the different trades and labor organizations in the States,—three were faithful representatives of the M. & B. Union. Strange! that the committee on Amalgamated Societies should—above all others—contain such an unfair distribution from this great representative body, and no other Union represented on this committee, had on it, more than one delegate; your readers may gather a little from the fact that the President of the Congress had the appointment of this singular committee, and that President was none other than Mr. John Fehrenbach, President of the International Union of Machinists and Blacksmiths. Such revelations speak volumes as to the origin and history of this foolish measure.

Your correspondent will do well to ponder over these incidents and not fret himself to utter uselessness by indulging in such an in-

tolerant disposition towards the "leaders" and "letters" of others.

What a paragon of surpassing excellence is this self-enlisted judge of "length" and "wit!" How marvellous his condescension, when he stoops to acknowledge, that in your humble and obscure correspondent "Amalgamated" he has found "a focman worthy of his steel."

Your etc.  
AMALGAMATED.

SOBRIETY THE WORKINGMAN'S AUXILIARY.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir,—Knowing the large circulation of your valuable journal among the laboring classes, and the high estimation in which it is held by them, I crave space in your columns for a few words for their consideration, the moment being especially opportune in view of the formation and first session of the Canadian Labor Union in our city last week; and being one of themselves, no objection can be raised that they are dictated to by an outsider.

The proposition that workingmen have much to complain of even in this favored land, is one that few will care to dispute, but at the same time it cannot be denied that the remedy is to a great extent in their own hands. While everyone who has taken an interest in the subject will not deny that the working classes of Canada compare favorably with those of any other country, the intelligent workingman knows, as do the leaders of the great movement now being agitated for the bettering of their condition, that one of the great impediments to their progress is the over-indulgence in intoxicating liquors by a very large number of the "bone and sinew" of our country. I am aware that many will be dissatisfied with this statement, but it is one that cannot be argued down. The champions of the cause find this to be the weak point in their defence, and one to be shunned as much as possible. The excuse is sometimes made that the workingmen, as a class, are no worse in this respect than those moving in a higher scale of society, and no one ought to know better. It is a fact, but a bad excuse. You know the old saying, "two wrongs do not make a right." Shall I give an illustration of my meaning, and I do not think the picture overdrawn. Take any one of our mechanics who gives way to this evil habit. He will keep his family in comparative comfort, no doubt, but he finds at the end of the year that he is just where he started twelve months before, and this goes on from year to year. Now, there must be something very wrong here. He is in receipt of from \$500 to \$700 per annum (a moderate estimate, and providing always he loses no time because of his "headaches" and "don't-feel-wells," brought on by tangle-leg), a sum, certainly, on which he is not likely to get rich, but out of which the money paid for sundry cook-tails, etc., each day of the 365 shown in a lump would surely astonish him. But that is not all. We would have an altogether different and better man; more self-respect, independence, everything that goes to make a man. Of course there are hundreds in this city who are temperate, hardworking and honest as one could wish, and yet are unable to lay up money. Such will feel no offence at this writing; the cause is to be found in continued sickness in their families, or in other drawbacks to their prosperity. Any one looking over his past experience will accept this view as being correct; let, therefore, every one who has the elevation of his fellows at heart look on this as one of the great helps to gain the desired end, and not only help himself but lend a hand to a weaker brother. I had no intention of occupying so much space, and will now close.

Toronto, Sept. 30, 1873. W. J.

IN UNITY IS STRENGTH.

The following appeal has been addressed by circular to the men of Hamilton. We have much pleasure in re-producing it in our columns, as the noble sentiments contained therein, are not only applicable to the trade unionist of Hamilton, but to every section of our Dominion. We would urge upon all that every opportunity be taken, and means used, to push forward the work of thorough organization:

GENTLEMEN,—The time has arrived when we should seek to take our place as Unionists in those affairs which are of paramount importance to us. It is an obvious fact that however perfect an organization is,—however strong its financial position,—if it moves not with its fellows in march of progress and reform (socially), it is lacking of one essential feature conducive to the benefit of the whole body of the operative class. It was seen at our late struggle for the shortening of the hours of labor, that we were defeated, simply through lacking that power which the Board of Trade of this

city brought to bear against us,—that of being able to command strength, power and influence, through unison.

How this one example should teach us, that if we do not desire or seek to be bound in the bonds of brotherly unison, we shall be thwarted and foiled at every movement we may make for the benefitting of our condition. We stand at the present time as if there was naught to interest us apart from our separate organizations, and yet we meet stately to work out what we think is to our benefit, regardless of the weal of other societies, isolating ourselves, standing aloof from the great body of workers—thus being gradually shorn of our strength, and when the time for action shall arrive, it will find us in what position? Strong, through disunity? Able to converge to a given focus our power and influence? No; it will rather find us, weakened, incapacitated, imbeciles, through our own neglect and shortsightedness, bringing upon ourselves deserved contempt, and injuring the noble cause, for the which we are severally (in our organizations) striving for—that of improving our status and condition as men.

Our interests are the same; our purposes should be identical. Then why should we jeopardize our existence by this hiatus now existing between us, laying ourselves open at any time to any petty or trivial occurrence that might clash with the inborn prejudices of those who are not favorable to our organizations, which they might bring to bear against us, probably to our injury?

Then why should we allow any longer such a laxity? It is morally certain we are not doing our duty. Lacking the principle of cohesion, we lose our strength, defrauding ourselves of a motive power, and thus lay ourselves open to the social obstructionists and pseudo reformers who are ever ready to do the working man a good turn. It will be asked, "Where, then, is our refuge?" It is in a Federation of the Trades, where the whole body of the operative class can be represented, and where we shall at any time be able to concentrate our power without allowing any separate organization to suffer needlessly. This is the desideratum necessary for our general welfare; a Trades' Council, or Trades' Assembly, *alias* a Federation of the Trades for the common weal.

I opine that objections will be urged against such an Assembly, because politics will be introduced. What has the working man to do with party politics? His sole aim should be the elevation of man above party; but, if at any time a question should arise affecting them more intimately than any other class, as for instance, the Lien Law, Trade Union Bill, and the Bill of the settlement of disputes between masters and workmen, where, I ask, should the question be handled more freely and fully than in a Trades' Assembly, where every trade is represented, and where the question can be discussed from a no-party point of view, but simply with a desire to benefit our class.

I would ask, does the Board of Trade stand nice about questions affecting their interests? An assembly composed of all parties and professions, they are not punctilious as to which party they derive benefit from, so long as they become participants in that which benefits their class, and their class alone. What an anomalous position we should occupy, if at any time we were not allowed to discuss matters (politically) pertaining to us in case we should push out of sight the pet theories of some who should aid and assist us.

The time is not far distant when to attempt to fight our battles unpolitically will be as though we were fighting with our hands tied, and it behoves us now at the present time to see that we become strong through unison, able to cope (at any time) with those who oppose us and attempt to obstruct us in the march of social progress.

Gentlemen, it is to your interest that there should be a Trades' Assembly in this city. See to it, that your Society is duly represented, remembering the old adage, "United we Stand, Divided we Fall."

DEBROUSKIE.

ANOTHER POLAR SEA HORROR.

Early last summer a North Pole Expedition was fitted out in Sweden. Two transport vessels of Tromsø, Norway, which have been employed to carry part of the expedition to Spitzbergen, not returning, great anxiety was felt for their safety. An attempt was made by crews of three Norwegian fishing vessels to go to their rescue, which was successful in reaching them, but found the men, seventeen, in all, dead. Their report was then continued:—

"In the ravine at the mouth of the river lay the two boats of the unfortunate men, turned. Approaching the house, we noticed a great many clothes, blankets, comforters, and fur blankets, etc. Heaps of straw and

ashes were laying outside the door. A distance from the house to the north was observed a large wooden box, covered with a tarpaulin, and under this the sight of five corpses met our eyes. We opened the door of the house, but were forced to desist from entering by an unendurable stench. All the doors and windows were now quickly opened, and before we opened the house we fumigated it thoroughly with tar and sulphur, and sprinkled our clothes with pepperment. In the room to the right lay six corpses, emaciated and horrible looking. Their faces were yellow and mouldy.

"In the room to the left were found the bodies of the four dead men—three lying in a bed, and one in a box, leaning his head on his right hand, the legs hanging down. He had on a leathern cap, and a leathern or skin jacket, white Norland mittens and "skaller" on his feet. The face of this last one looked well and apparently he had recently died. A great deal of blood had come from him, and been running along the box. The faces of the three in bed looked awfully bad. At the end of the bed lay three crackers, some sugar, and a good deal of vegetables which had not been touched. Their clothes were covered with vermin. A grave was now dug, the bedsteads were used for coffins, and they were all buried in their clothes—in all fifteen men.

"The other two must have been buried before by their comrades. We searched for them, but could not find them. There was yet considerable snow on the ground, and they had probably been buried under the snow.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Do not fail to visit this popular place of amusement. Every week new attractions are provided, and no efforts spared by the manager to cater to the tastes of the fun-loving public. The celebrated banjoist, Pat Redmond, will appear this and following evenings. Little Josie adds to her popularity nightly, and all the artistes are greeted with well-deserved applause. For a pleasant evening's entertainment by all means go to the Academy of Music.

Don't fail to call and see Eaton's magnificent stock of shawls.

New Advertisements.

VICTORIA WOOD YARD

VICTORIA ST., NEAR RICHMOND.

MESSRS. J. & A. MCINTYRE still continue to supply the public with all kinds of Coal and Wood, at the lowest possible rates. All sizes Hard Coal nicely screened. All kinds of Soft Coal, in any quantity. Narrow Gauge Wood by the carload. Wood cut and split to order, and promptly delivered by J. & A. MCINTYRE, 23 and 25 Victoria Street. 78 hr

NOTICE TO TAILORS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Operative Tailors of the city of Toronto are now on Strike, and members of the trade are requested to govern themselves accordingly. All communications in reference to the above to be addressed to Mr. MAIR, Secretary, No. 8 Bond Street. Toronto, Sept. 29, 1873. 77-11

JAMES BANKS,

AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER,

45 Jarvis, Corner of King Street East.

Mechanics can find useful Household Furniture of every description at the above Salerooms, cheaper than any other house. Cooking and Parlor Stoves in great variety.

SALEROOMS:

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Furniture Bought, Sold, or Exchanged. 58-16

EATON'S

NEW

SHAWLS.

600 Shawls to choose from, pretty, new, cheap.

COME AND SEE THEM TO-DAY.

CORNER YONGE & QUEEN STREETS, 55-16



RED RIVER ROUTE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Department of Public Works will cease to forward Passengers and Freight over this Route from and after the 10th October, next.

By order,

F. BRAUN, Secretary.

Department Public Works, Ottawa, 14th September, 1873. 77-9