

THE TORONTO, GREY AND BRUCE.

EMPLOYE'S ANNUAL PIC-NIC AND GAMES.

On Saturday last, the first annual pic-nic and games of the employees of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway were held in a grove near the Village of Woodbridge. At eight o'clock in the morning a special train left the Queen's Wharf Station having on board a very large number of the employees and their friends. After a little over an hour's run, the train arrived at Woodbridge, and shortly after, the train from Mount Forest arrived, heavily laden with passengers of a similar description. The grove selected was a very pretty one and was well arranged for the occasion. During the afternoon the President of the road and a number of the officials came out by a special train. About half-past six the party separated, the trains conveying the excursionists to their homes. The following is the list of the winners of the prizes, the competition for which took place in the afternoon:—

THE GAMES.

Quoits, 18 yards—1st prize, bronze clock, John Gilet; 2nd, meerschau pipe, John Dixon; 3rd, copy of *Daily Mail* for one year, F. Study.

Putting the Stone—Three trials allowed each competitor—1st prize, silver watch, E. Verral; 2nd, table lamp, M. Morrison; 3rd, ink stand, R. Osborne.

High Jump with Pole—Three trials allowed each competitor—1st prize, gold scarf-pin, J. Shuttleworth; 2nd, silver cruet, H. Davidson; 3rd, photograph album, M. Redmond.

Men's Flat Race—300 yards—1st prize, China dinner service, complete, E. Verral; 2nd, copy of *Daily Leader* for one year, M. Redmond; 3rd, box of cigars, H. Davidson.

Egg and Spoon Race—1st prize, China tea set, complete, H. Watts; 2nd, Meerschau pipe, J. Taylor; 3rd, butter cooler, W. Coneyworth.

Running High Jump—Three trials allowed each competitor—1st prize, centre table, E. Wragge; 2nd, Life of Chambers and History of Franco-Prussian War, J. J. Clark.

Running Hop, Step and Jump—Three trials allowed each competitor—1st prize, one ton of coal, J. Clark; 2nd, silver cup, H. McMann; 3rd, ham, H. Hyde.

Flat Race; 150 yards; for boys under 16 years of age—1st prize, Longfellow's and Tennyson's Poems and Adventures of Don Quixote, J. Murphy; 2nd, Life of Stephenson and Self Help, W. Verral; 3rd, vest, value \$2.50, W. Newman.

Girls' Race; for girls under 12 years of age—1st prize, pair of gold earrings, Hattie Watson; 2nd, fancy shawl, Annie Pilgrim; 3rd, pair of slippers, Alice Brown.

Sack Race; 100 yards—1st prize, china tea set, complete, W. Coneyworth; 2nd, one cord of wood, R. Osborne; 3rd, two legs of mutton, J. Logan.

Flat Race; 150 yards; for men 40 years of age and over—1st prize, silver cruet and salts, G. McDonald; 2nd, case of table knives and forks, F. Spry; 3rd, box of cigars and cigar-holder, T. Rae.

Flat Race; 100 yards; for boys 12 years and under—1st prize, box drawing instruments, S. Davidson; 2nd, silver mug, C. Moody; 3rd, child's rocking chair, F. Spry.

Womans' Race, 100 yards—1st prize, work box, complete, Miss Kirk; 2nd, writing case, complete, Miss Spry; 3rd, pair of vases, Miss Flint.

Married Womans' Race, 150 yards—1st prize, gold brooch, Mrs. Evans; 2nd, pair gold earrings, Mrs. Barber; 3rd, pair of boots, value \$2.50, Mrs. Dunn.

Special Flat Race, 100 yards, open to employees of John Abell, Woodbridge—1st prize, \$10, George Bentley; 2nd, hat, Robert Williams; 3rd, box of cigars, C. Bell.

Consolation Race, 200 yards—1st prize, pair of decanters, James Hunter; 2nd, rocking chair, James Ellis; 3rd, walking stick, Geo. Edwards.

Ladies' Consolation Race—1st prize, \$10, Miss Spry; 2nd, gold locket, Miss McNerty; 3rd, cruet, Miss Camplid.

LABOR AND WAGES.

At a mass meeting of miners held throughout Fifeshire on Monday, it was unanimously resolved to make a demand for an advance of wages to the extent of 1s. 6d. per day. Simultaneously with the movement on the part of the miners a further increase is reported in the price of coals.

Upwards of 2,000 men employed in the bituminous collieries of the Rhondda, Ely, and Ogmore valleys are now on strike for an advance of wages. The Steam Coal Colliery Owners' Association resolutely supports the masters, and have just passed a resolution prohibiting its members from "taking on" any of the colliers who have left work at the bituminous pits.

We learn from Oxford that there is at present no chance of the difference between

the farmers and laborers in Oxfordshire being amicably settled, as many of the farmers show the most unrelenting disposition, and decline to employ any union man. The laborers exhibit a bold front, and marched into Oxford in procession, numbering three hundred strong. They afterwards assembled at the Martyrs' Memorial where their grievances were detailed, and boxes were passed round for the subscriptions of the sympathising public.

The laborers in the Warwickshire Union have given the farmers notice that unless their wages are raised from sixteen to thirty shillings a week during harvest-time, they will leave their service. Harvest in the Midlands will be general in a few days, and this last step is viewed with much alarm by the farmers.

A great deal of agitation prevails just now throughout the whole of the mining district of South Yorkshire, the very high price of coal having induced the colliers to demand an increase of wages, in some instances to the extent of from 30 to 40 per cent. The men state that the profits of the masters have increased at least 400 per cent. during the present year, while the 10 per cent. conceded to the coal getter did not amount to more than from 1½d. to 2d. per ton.—*English Paper.*

GRAND DEMONSTRATION AT OTTAWA.

PRESENTATION TO RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

On Tuesday evening Sir John Macdonald received an ovation of a most enthusiastic character, from the workmen of this section of Canada.

Between seven and eight o'clock, the various Trades' Unions, with a large concourse of citizens, assembled at the City Hall and formed a procession in the following order:—

Union Jack.

Marshal Mounted.

Band of the Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

Stone Cutters' Union.

Typographical Union.

Marshal Mounted.

Bricklayers' and Masons' Union.

Plasterers' Union.

Carpenters' Union.

Firemen in uniform, with Gowan's Band.

The procession marched down Rideau street to Sir John's residence, whence he was conveyed to the City Hall, where he received the following address, amidst demonstrations which must have conclusively shown him the respect felt for him in this section:

To the Right Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdonald, K. C. B., Minister of Justice, Premier of the Dominion of Canada, &c.

RIGHT HON. SIR:

We, the members of the Trades' Unions of Ottawa, desire at this time to offer you our sincere congratulations upon the success which has attended your administration during the past five years, and to express our admiration for the statesmanship which has been displayed by you and your colleagues; and it is our sincere trust that you may for many years be spared to serve the country as faithfully and as well as you have done in the past. We can understand the difficulties against which you have had to contend in setting in motion the machinery of Government under Confederation, and we believe that you have performed the work in a patriotic and satisfactory manner. As the representatives of the labouring classes in Ottawa and its vicinity, we feel especially called upon to express our gratitude for what you have done to remove those restrictions which forbade us to combine for the maintenance of trade privileges and the rights of labour. We do not approve of class legislation of any kind, nor do we seek to obtain any exceptional or extraordinary privileges. We only desire the same freedom which is possessed by every British subject at home, and we have to thank you, sir, for the possession of that freedom, and of having placed it beyond the power of any overbearing master to deprive us of rights which are justly ours. We trust that we shall prove that we are worthy of the freedom thus conferred upon us, and that you in the future, as in the past, will continue to protect the interests of the labouring classes. In welcoming you back to Ottawa, after your visit to the West, we desire also to congratulate you upon the additional mark of Her Royal favour and approval which our beloved Sovereign has been graciously pleased to bestow upon you. We hope that you will gratify us by accepting the accompanying slight testimonial of our gratitude and esteem, and at the same time allow us to express every good wish for Lady Macdonald and yourself.

Sir John replied:—To the members of the Trades' Unions of Ottawa, Gentlemen,—Let me assure you of my grateful sense of your great kindness in presenting me with this address. The approbation that you are pleased to express of the course of the Government, coming as it does from such an intelligent body as the workmen of Ottawa, will tend to strengthen the hands of the Administration; and is a great encouragement to my colleagues and myself to pursue in the future the policy which has met your commendation. You

have not misunderstood the difficulties against which we have had to contend in setting in motion the machinery of Government under the Confederation Act. Those difficulties, great in themselves from the nature of the task, have been much increased by a factious and unpatriotic opposition. Thanks, however, to the sound feeling of the country, as exhibited at the elections, I am happy to believe that the Government will be sustained in completing the great work of the union of the British North American Provinces, which has been so successfully begun. I can claim but little credit on account of the legislation of the last session with reference to Trades' Unions. The unwise and oppressive action pursued towards some of the workmen of Toronto in causing men to be arrested as criminals, forced upon my attention the necessity of repealing laws altogether unsuited and unworthy of this age, and opposed to the first principles of freedom. It was my pleasing task in my place in Parliament to sweep those barbarous laws from the statute book. I would have been unworthy of my position if, under the circumstances, I had delayed or neglected to do so. By the legislation of last session the Trades' Unions in Canada, and the workmen of the Dominion enjoy the same status and possess the same rights as they do in England. It is, I believe, understood, and experience has already shown, that the laws passed in England on the subject are imperfect and require amendment. If I am spared and have the power, I shall watch closely the action taken in the Imperial Parliament at the instance of the Trades' Associations, for the amendment and extension of the acts of 1871, and shall press upon our Parliament the propriety of adopting similar legislation here. So far as in me lies, it shall be my endeavour to secure for the workmen of Canada and their peculiar institutions the same position, freedom of action and powers as are enjoyed by, or as may hereafter be conferred on their fellow-artisans in England. I need not assure you that I greatly prize the handsome gift which you have presented to me. It will remind me of a most pleasing incident in my life. Let me thank you very much for your kind wishes with respect to Lady Macdonald. Had she been in the city it would have afforded her great gratification to have been present on this interesting occasion. I shall not fail to convey to her your expressions of good will, and I am assured that she will highly appreciate your recognition of her in her absence.

The testimonial accompanying the address was a very handsome and costly ornamented cane suitably inscribed.

The night was clear and bracing, and the citizens turned out in large numbers to witness this tribute to Canada's most patriotic and devoted statesman.

On the completion of Sir John's reply, brief and forcible speeches were made by Hon. Mr. Tiley, Mr. Currier, M.P., McKay Wright, M.P., Mayor Martineau, and Mr. Williams, Toronto, all of whom were enthusiastically received.

Cheers were then called for the Queen, Sir John, the Administration, and the Workmen of Hamilton, and most heartily responded to by the immense assemblage that filled Union Square and the adjacent avenues. The procession was then re-formed and escorted the Premier back to his residence. The procession was the most imposing and the largest ever seen in Ottawa. All the members of the Cabinet who were in the capital, the members representing Ottawa constituencies and leading citizens of all classes were present at this splendid tribute to the head of the Government of Canada.

A GREAT CITY.

In London, every eight minutes, night and day, somebody dies; every five minutes a child is born. This great city contains as many people as the whole of Scotland, twice as many as Denmark, three times as many as Greece, and 400 times as many as Georgetown, D. C. In its vast population of nearly 4,000,000, it has 140,000 habitual gin-drinkers, 100,000 abandoned women, 10,000 professional gamblers, 50,000 criminals, known to the police as thieves and receivers of stolen goods, 500,000 habitual frequenters of public houses, and 60,000 street Arabs. To keep this vast multitude of disorderly characters in something like obedience to law, 6,000 policemen are necessary. Of the population of the city, only about 500,000 attend public worship, there being a million of adult absentees from church every Sunday.

The WHITE HART, corner of Yonge and Elm Street, is conducted on the good old English system, which gives the greatest satisfaction to its patrons. The bar is most tastefully decorated, and the surroundings are all that could be desired. A spacious billiard parlor, and attentive waiters, render the WHITE HART a popular place of resort. adv.

THE QUEEN AND THE COOKS.

During the Queen's recent visit to Edinburgh she asked if she might inspect the guard-room of the 93rd Highlanders. The *Scotsman* says:—"The ranger at once conducted the Queen into the room in which, of course, was at that time unoccupied, except by the two men whose turn it was to cook their comrade's dinner, and by another Highlander. The visit of her Majesty took these three soldiers by surprise; indeed, one of the cooks hearing that he Majesty had left the Palace, and wishing to catch a sight of her, was in the act of rushing out of the door when her Majesty entered. Both cooks had divested themselves of their jackets, and with their shirt-sleeves tucked up, they felt rather taken aback. Her Majesty first took notice of the stalwart Highlander in full dress; and graciously addressed him, enquiring his name and birth place, as also the length of time he had been in the army. The man answered the Queen's queries, and modestly stated that he had been twenty years in her Gracious Majesty's service. Her Majesty took note of and examined the four medals which decorated the stalwart fellow's breast—these being the Crimean medal with the clasps for Alma, Sebastopol, and Balaklava; the Indian medal, the Lucknow medal, and the Turkish medal. Her Majesty then turned round and examined the appointments of the guard-room. She then asked if the benches were the sleeping-places of the men, and on being answered in affirmative, the Queen was pleased to say that the whole place was very clean and tidy. Her Majesty then advanced and spoke to the cooks—Grant and Wilson by name. She watched their operations a few moments. Wilson, who on the entrance of her Majesty had been making a practical experiment as to whether the potatoes he was cooking were sufficiently boiled, was rather put about; and he could only lay down his "dish-clout," touch his forage cap, and in reply to her Majesty's question, stammer out with difficulty, "Potatoes, your Majesty." The Queen seemed much pleased and amused; and all the soldiers were warm in praise of their Sovereign's condescension and warm interest in their concerns. The Queen next visited the officers' guard-room, which being untenanted, she inspected leisurely. By this time the guard had learned that the Queen had stolen a march upon them, and had turned their flank; so that they were drawn off to the right, in order to allow her Majesty, on leaving the guard-room, to walk straight across the esplanade to the Palace. When her Majesty stepped out she went in front of the guard, and graciously acknowledged the general salute which they gave, after which she inspected the men. Re-entering the Palace grounds about half-past twelve, her Majesty walked therein, notwithstanding the fact that it rained heavily for some time.

HOW THE WORKING PEOPLE ARE ROBBED.

The *New York Herald*, in a late article showing how the present administration is squandering the people's money to pay for its campaign documents, in the shape of "Confederate archives" says:

"These papers, if honestly purchased for the Government (the editor shows) cannot properly be in the custody of the Republican Central Committee. If they were bought for the use of that party, let its committee honestly pay the nation for them. If it is proper for the Government to pay Pickett for partisan documents, it would be just as proper to pay the party printing bills from the Federal Treasury."

"This confederate archives job is a gross outrage upon the people, a burning disgrace to the Administration which permits it. Their authenticity is seriously denied. In spite of all this, Mr. Boutwell pays Pickett seventy-five thousand dollars for storing them, and after their purchase they seem to be only used for party purposes, and valueless at that. Common honesty demands that the Republican party pay for those trunks of rubbish, and the good name of President Grant demands that the Federal Government and that party should have separate organizations, and each carry on its own business."

THE BALLOT BILL.

ITS EFFECTS IN IRELAND.

The passage of the Ballot Bill in England has called forth the most varied comments from the press. While many of the English papers condemn it, and contend that it is beneath an honest man either to support a friend or stab a foe in the dark, the *Belfast Northern Whig* shows some benefits which will result to the Irish peasant:—

The next election, even the next isolated election, after the Ballot Act takes effect, will be watched with much interest. We shall be trying quite a new experiment. It

may be some time before the people generally get accustomed to the Ballot. In Ulster, and other parts of Ireland, where the tenant farmer have so long scarcely been able to call their souls their own, the difficulty at first will be to convince the electors that the Ballot affords them absolute security for secrecy. It ought to be the business of the Ulster Liberal Society and all other similar associations, to set about instructing the tenant farmers and other electors with regard to the operation of the Ballot. Though we may not have a general election for two years, not a moment ought to be lost in setting this new machinery in motion. The times are now completely changed. With the Irish Land Act and the Ballot Act, the old system of territorial ascendancy ought to be broken up. Old stubborn Conservatives may well say "that this is not reform; it is revolution." The next contest will certainly make a great revolution in their ideas of elections; the change is greater than they have as yet any notion of. Means ought to be found for profiting by this great opportunity. The people want knowledge; they want encouragement; they want confidence. We trust to see earnest and energetic men setting to work to enlighten those who have so much need of instruction. It proper means were taken to prepare for the next general election—now that we have the Land Act and the Ballot—the inroad which was made in the Ulster Tory monopoly of the representation three years and a half ago will be nothing in comparison to what may be done at the next opportunity in the counties. Let our friends begin to organize themselves. Blow should follow blow. As the Rev. Sidney Smith said during the great Reform contest in 1831: "Up with the arm and down with the hammer; and up again with the arm, and down again with the hammer."

WOMAN IN SICKNESS.

In no situation, and under no circumstances, does the female character appear to such advantage as when watching beside the bed of sickness. The chamber of disease may indeed be said to be woman's home. We there behold her in her loveliest, most attractive point of view—firm, without being harsh; tender, yet not weak; active, yet quiet; gentle, patient, uncomplaining, vigilant. Every sympathetic feeling that so peculiarly graces the feminine character, is there called forth; while the native strength of mind which has hitherto slumbered in inactivity, is roused to its fullest energy. With noiseless step she moves about the chamber of the invalid; her listening ear ever ready to catch the slightest murmur; her quick, kind glance to interpret the unuttered wish, and supply the half-formed want. She smooths with careful hand the uneasy pillow which supports the aching head, or with cool hand soothes the fevered brow, or proffers to the glazed and parching lip the grateful draught, happy if she meets one kind glance in payment for her labor of love.

Hers, too, is the low-whispered voice, which breathes of life and hope—of health in store for happy days to come; or tells of better and of heavenly rest, where neither sorrow nor disease can come—where the dark power of death no more shall have dominion over the frail, suffering, perishing clay. Through the dim, silent watches of the night, when all around are hushed in sleep, it is hers to keep lone vigils, and to hold communion with her God, and silently lift up her heart in fervent prayer, for the prolongment of a life for which she would cheerfully sacrifice her own. And even when exhausted nature sinks to brief repose, forgetfulness is denied. Even in sleep she seems awake to this one great object of her care. She starts and rises from her slumbers, raises her drooping head, and watches with dreamy eyes the face she loves, then sinks again to rest, to start with every chime of clock or distant sound, which formerly had passed unheard, or only served as a lullaby to her sweet sleep.

AGE.

But few men die of age. Almost all die of disappointment, passionate, mental, or bodily toil, or accident. The passions kill men sometimes, even suddenly. The common expression, choked with passion, has little exaggeration in it; for even though not suddenly fatal, strong passions shorten life. Strong-bodied men often die young—weak men live longer than the strong, for the strong use their strength, and the weak have none to use. The latter take care of themselves; the former do not. As it is with the body, so it is with the mind and temper. The strong are apt to break, or like the candle, to run; the weak burn out. The inferior animals, which live, in general, regular and temperate lives, have generally their prescribed term of years. The horse lives twenty-five years; the ox fifteen or twenty; the lion about twenty; the dog ten or twelve; the rabbit eight; the guinea-pig six or seven years. These numbers all bear a similar proportion to the time the animal takes to grow to its full size. But man, of all the animals, is the one that seldom comes to his average. He ought to live a hundred years, according to this physiological law, for five times twenty are one hundred; instead of that, he scarcely reaches, on the average, four times his growing period; the cat six times; the rabbit even eight times the standard of measurement. The reason is obvious—man is not only the most irregular and the most intemperate, but the most laborious and hard worked of all animals. He is also the most irritable of all animals; and there is reason to believe, though he can not tell what an animal scarcely feels, that, more than any other animal, man cherishes wrath to keep it warm, and consumes himself with the fire of his own secret reflections.