

Ontario Workman.

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

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TRADES UNIONISM AND INTERNATIONALISM.

Did the International Society in any legitimate way represent the cause of labor in England, or elsewhere, we should be sorry to say, a discouraging word to its proceedings. This, however, is not the case; on the contrary, this society, by the absolutely insane talk of its representatives met at Geneva, as well as by the frantic projects it solemnly discussed, degrades in the eyes of the world, and brings into contempt, a cause upon a right understanding of which much of the future welfare of the world depends. Hitherto the trades societies of England, amid much misunderstanding and conflict, have been laboring hard to discover, if possible, solid grounds of agreement upon which labor and capital may meet in a friendly spirit, and permanently arrange matters which now most seriously divide them. The task is a difficult one, but they are accomplishing it slowly. By constant efforts, many of which have been utterly misunderstood, the workmen have been leaving behind them violence and intimidation of every kind. All covert action has been long ago discarded, and by the means of their trades unions, managed as they have been by sensible men of experience, they are beginning to find the way to settle the differences that arise by referring them to arbitration. In this there has been a remarkable progress in the right direction, and with this our workmen, as a rule, are so pleased that at all their councils, congresses and great demonstrations, that the principle of arbitration for the prevention and settlement of disputes, is exalted and enforced. In fact unionism amongst workmen, is, even by employers, beginning to be regarded as the very best means of promoting a moral discipline amongst our workers of the highest use to themselves, and of the utmost importance to employers whose principal gain arises from a constant, uninterrupted perseverance in connection with the operations of industry.

If the spirit and experience out of which this improvement has come could be communicated to the workmen on the Continent of Europe, incalculable blessings might spring from it. If some few of our best men could be admitted to some international congress of workmen where it was their business to teach, and the duty of the others to listen, such a new direction might be given to the thought of foreign workmen as would be a blessing to themselves, and to all connected with them in the pursuits in which they are engaged. They would get to see how destructive of profit in industry violence or disturbance of any kind is. They would come to understand how it is not from mere strength of combination that any good to the laboring classes is to be derived, but from the wise, practicable and equitable thought such power is used to enforce. This is what English workmen are daily discovering, and it is because this light becomes stronger hour by hour that they have found their way from the anarchy and misery of disunion into union—why they are finding their way from strikes and lock-outs into the friendly and peaceable settlements of arbitration—and, above all, it is the reason why the thoughtful workmen in England are looking to co-operative production as the grand final escape from the harassing and wasteful antagonisms of a blind competitive strife between labor and capital.

This is a gospel of labor which the advanced workmen of England have it in their power to teach, and which it is the duty of all who live by labor to learn with as little delay as possible. But what, it may be asked, does the Geneva meeting unfold as England's share in the International Labor Congress? At that gathering, if its character answered even in the slightest degree to its name, or to its pretensions, England, as the foremost industrial nation of the world, if her people took any interest in it, would have counted its representatives by the score, and what these representative men had to say would have gone to the root of the labor question practically and methodically. Every step of the difficult path over which the workers of England have travelled with bleeding feet would have been made less painful for those emulous to follow in the same track. Instead of this there were two men from England, if we are to credit the newspapers, and, we believe, they are, on this point, absolutely correct; one a German, and neither having the least connection with any one of the great industries of the country; both personally unknown to the great body of trades unionists, who constitute the force, in

thought and action, of the labor movement in England.

There is nothing meant here against the two delegates. They are probably very sincere and honest men, but in connection with the industrial struggles of England they are not representative men; they are not accepted anywhere as such; they are not delegated in that character, nor are they paid by anybody of trades unionist to represent them—in fact they no more represent the trades unions of Great Britain any more than they do the House of Lords, the bar, the medical profession or any other profession or interest in which they have no connection, in which they have no acknowledgment. Being accredited to teach nothing these gentlemen keep modestly silent, and when they did take part in the proceedings it would have been better had they been dumb. How men going from England could have remained present at some of the discussions that took place, is in itself surprising. Imagine a number of men, not in Bedlam, discussing the propriety of a "general strike!" of a universal suspension of labor!! In England the thoughtful portion of the working people would regard such a proceeding, were it practicable, as hopeless lunacy, or as a malignant wickedness which nothing could excuse. Not by organized idleness can relief come to any class of the community. Multitudes of the workmen of England are quite satisfied that the required relief can only come by organized labor. Not by leaving undone necessary things, but by doing them, not however, by doing them foolishly and blindly, but deliberately and wisely. Hence the experiments that are taking place throughout England in co-operative production. Factories built by the people and owned by the people, workshops organized by workmen, where the profit is the subject of equitable distribution between labor and capital, and where the workers, being in many cases also the owners of the capital, harmonize the old discordant relationship and seek to end forever the old selfish oppression of labor by capital. This is the lesson England's workmen are trying to learn experimentally, and this would form part, and an important part too, of what they have to teach. But as for a general strike as a means of bringing about a social "revolution" a general going out of sun, moon and stars into blank darkness might as well be debated.

Again, what can be hoped from people who having ideas to form and disseminate, discuss seriously the propriety of cutting off the aid of all men who are not actual workers? who made a distinction between "heads and hands," and counsel the hands to drive away the heads? Such talk is a ridiculous abuse of human speech. Surely the men who could permit such a thing to be discussed, above all other men, require to have somebody to think for them. Piteable by their imbecility, what could they be but thralls and drudges, if men of sense and sympathy who feel an interest in human justice did not on their behalf urge the claims of reason and humanity? These poor blind and narrow bigots did not see that by such an exhortation they were in the most effectual way in which it could be done cutting their class off from the great human family, and branding labour for ever with the damning and degrading mark of social inferiority. Mr. Hales went with those who were cutting off the thinkers, and, in doing so, proved his rather unfitness to represent the progressive and robust thought of any class of English thinkers.

There was much else connected with the doings of these Geneva Internationalists equally absurd; but why lose time, or bring shame into the faces of sensible English workmen by referring to it? What was uttered there was not English thought such as actually exist in any class of men, or any sub-division of any class within our island limits. Delvers in the earth, or on the earth, or whatever class, would laugh at such a thing. Workers in cotton, or wool, or silk, or linen, or iron, would treat it with contempt. Paupers in our work-houses would regard it as a sign of the madness of the outside world. Hurling casuals, loafing round a workhouse door, would kick the men who advocated such doctrines, for attempting to spoil their trade by bringing the passes into it. The newspapers only seem to like it, as it furnishes a kind of confirmation of the degrading and silly charges they have been in the habit of bringing against trades unionists. The *Times* can point to these Geneva debates and show what wild theories in regard to the social life of

the world are afloat amongst working men. The *Daily News*, in gentler tones, shows off the superiority of our "great middle-class" by the use of so convenient a foil. In fact, if the newspaper press had arranged the whole thing, and paid for it, its purpose could not have been better served, as it fully justifies the libels and slanders current in its columns as to the ignorance and errors of English working men. The same may be said of the share taken in these proceedings by Continental working men. If the despots of Europe, if the worst foes of popular liberty in Europe, had swept together their paid agents, and instructed them to gibber the wildest nonsense as popular faith, such persons could not have exceeded in folly what these half-insane patriots uttered. Indeed it would be impossible to conceive anything better calculated to injury any and every good movement from which the masses of the English people expect to derive benefit, and with which they in any way sympathize.

Under ordinary circumstances, these Geneva ravings would not be worth notice; but at the present day when the labor question is commanding the attention of the public in all directions, and when the enemies of labor are unusually active in misrepresenting it, and defaming those actively engaged in its promotion, foolish and pretended friends should not be allowed to give countenance to their folly to the evil representations of open enemies. The proper way to meet such a state of things is for legitimate and acknowledged representatives of English trades unionism, to openly disavow such proceedings; to tell the men who arrogantly pretend to represent them that they have no claim to do so, and at the same time to stamp with their disapproval, the rabid nonsense they have put forth, and which has been used for damaging comment in our English newspapers. Some step of this sort is necessary, and ought to be taken.—*Lloyd Jones in The Bee-Hive.*

LABOR IN RUSSIA.

While it is admitted that the Czar is promoting, as far as possible, the material progress of Russia, there appears to be growing difficulties in one important direction with which even he cannot cope. Agricultural labor is, according to the *Birza*, a prominent Russian Journal, in a bad state. "The difficulty which is experienced," it says, "in obtaining men to work in the fields is a chronic disease of our country which increases in severity from year to year, and against which it is absolutely necessary to find remedies. During the first few years after the abolition of serfage this evil was believed to be transitory; but it is now worse than ever. The landowners, especially in the south, complain of the scarcity and high prices of labor, and have made every effort to extricate themselves from the difficulty, but without success. No persuasion or offer of higher wages could induce those workmen who wished to enter upon a town life to remain; the employment of soldiers on agricultural labor only partially supplied the want, and the attempts to engage foreign workmen failed owing to the dishonesty and ignorance of the agents employed. Many of the landowners were consequently obliged to give up looking after their estates themselves, and they let the land to wealthy merchants or peasants. The former then sub-let the property in small plots, an arrangement which secured a profit to the landlord for the time, but was injurious to the cultivation of the entire estate. Some landowners give to their workmen a third of the harvest yielded by the estate. Others attach the peasants to the estate by giving them assistance in the shape of money, &c.; many have brought over whole families from Galicia to settle on their land, and some have endeavored to dispense as much as possible with manual labor by the use of machinery." The *Birza* attributes the deficiency in the number of agricultural laborers in the Empire to the following Causes: 1. The railways, which have greatly decreased the number of other conveyances, and thereby withdrawn from the agricultural labor market a number of men who were formerly employed as waggons, &c. 2. The development of petty trades in the towns, which bring

money without requiring either much labor or much knowledge. 3. The increase in the number of factories. 4. The new mines, especially those which contain coal. 5. The increased number of farms. 6. The management of estates either by stewards or by unpractical proprietors. 7. The low rate of wages for agricultural labor. 8. The existence of agents or "middlemen," who treat the laborers more hardly than the proprietors themselves.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Vermont talks of increasing its Governor's wages above the present rate of \$2.75 a day, so as to raise him nearer equality with journeymen mechanics.

A Berlin dispatch announces that the betrothal of Prince Alfred and the Grand Duchess Mary of Russia will be celebrated at an early date. The marriage has been fixed for January next.

The Autumn assizes for the county of York were opened on Tuesday, with a very heavy Criminal and Civil docket. There are thirty-six criminal cases, and ninety-six cases of a civil character.

There is now in Paris, in the National Printing Office, dressed as a workman, in white blouse, the Prince Macao, one of the highest personage in Japan. He has been directed by his sovereign to learn the art of printing, and is doing so in every branch.

Fears are entertained of a war between Japan and Russia over the occupancy of the Island of Saghalien, which covers the mouth of the Amoor River. Since 1858, when the Russians obtained a foothold through fishing and concessions, the two empires have disputed the control of the island. It is believed that in case of a rupture with Russia, Japan will have the assistance of China.

Sir Sidney Waterlow, the present Mayor of London, at the Annual Festival of the employees of Waterlow & Son, railway and commercial printers, one of the largest establishments in London, addressed the men as those who "held the barhandle while he the roller." He said that he owed his present success in life to the great practical experience he gained in early life of the printing business, with which he was connected many years.

An American paper, says:—From 1861 to 1870 there were 822,000 German emigrants who came to our shores; in the decade previous there were 951,667 emigrants of the same class. According to the tables of the last census there were in 1870 in the United States 1,690,410 emigrants from Germany. The journal from which we gather these interesting facts and figures estimates that there are about five millions of Germans, and their immediate descendants living in this country.

A new political party was organized in San Francisco on the 26th ult., calling itself the People's Independent party. The convention was very large, and everything worked harmoniously. The platform declares that they are opponents to corruption and monopoly; denounces the present system of distribution of land and land grants to railroads, and other corporations; favors an eight hour law; opposes Chinese immigration, and opposes the election of the President for more than one term of four years. The last resolution endorses the noble stand taken by Governor Booth in behalf of popular rights against the encroachments of unscrupulous politicians and railroad corporations. After adjourning, the delegates marched in a body to the residence of Governor Booth, who delivered a stirring speech to them. The people's movement is progressing.

The *Hamilton Spectator* is responsible for the following harrowing account of a fearful fall. Friday afternoon three or four carpenters were engaged working on a house in the upper storey in the west end. The house had its roof finished, but the interior was yet a skeleton of joists, except a few boards placed upon the upper storey joists for the convenience of the workmen. Upon these boards, not far from were the work

was going on, a fine little blue-eyed son of one of the carpenters was playing, when he was suddenly and mysteriously missed. Quickly the father discovered the reason, and flinging by his saw let himself down the temporary ladder and down to the cellar where he found the poor little fellow stretched out among the broken pieces of joists and other rubbish eating away like a young buzzard at one of the workmen's dinners that had been hidden there in the morning.

M. Dupont, a newspaper printer of Perigueux, has refused an application on the part of his men for an advance of wages. There are accordingly "out on strike." On his paper, *L'Echo de la Dordogne*, he pays compositors about \$18 monthly. M. Dupont explains for himself his view of what constitutes the state of life to which it has pleased God to call French workmen: "A workman, even with a family, can very well live in a single room. His anxiety for higher wages is scarcely intelligible. Good rough diet is best for him, and he and his family can do very well on 8d. a day, having soup three times. One change of blouse and trousers is sufficient. On Sunday he puts on clean things, which he will wear through the week till Saturday night, when his change will be ready for next morning." Is it any wonder that the Commune grew to such gigantic proportions, when a newspaper expressed such sentiments?

M. Riviere's report against Bazaine says 11,000 soldiers of the army, surrendered at Metz, died while prisoners in Germany. It would have been preferable and more glorious if these lives had been lost in a sortie from the city. The honor of the army is symbolized in its flags. Bazaine, instead of destroying those flags and thereby lessening the humiliation of the surrender delivered them to the enemy. The accused held no review, and never visited the ambulances. The Duke de Aumale, President of the Court Martial, yesterday ordered Bazaine's justificatory memoir to be read. It deals briefly with only the chief points of the indictment; relates events and leaves the charges unanswered. It holds the lieutenants responsible for bad execution of the movements ordered; regrets that they have now turned against him, and concludes with the statement that events were stronger than the writer, whose conscience reproaches him with nothing. The President invited the prisoner to rise and remain standing during the reading of the heads of the indictment. The Marshal exhibited deep emotion when the part was reached wherein he is accused of not doing everything prescribed by duty and honor.

A MADMAN.—A terrible occurrence took place in this city on Saturday of last week. It was that of a man, whose name is John Connolly, in a dangerous state of delirium tremens. The madman had posted himself about midnight in the upper story of the hotel and commenced the demolition of everything within his reach. Being armed with an axe the condition of any person who approached him was dangerous in the extreme. Several ineffectual attempts were made at dislodgment; and two constables and a citizen attempted to hamper his actions by means of a mattress, but without success. John F. Flanagan, the man assisting the police, happened to come too near the madman, and he had his skull literally split open by a blow from the axe. Afterwards stationing himself on the narrow stairway the infuriated being threatened with instant death any one who approached him. Several shots were fired by different members of the Police force for the purpose of intimidation, but without producing any effect. For several hours he was allowed to remain at his guard upon the stairs, hoping that he might eventually succumb from exhaustion, till at last Sergeant Williams suggested that hand hooks should be brought from the fire hall, and the unfortunate brought to bay. The attempt was successful, and soon the gyves were upon his wrists and himself within the jail. Dr. Newcombe attended Flanagan, from whose head several fractured bones were removed, and all the attendances given him which his case required.