

# Ontario Workman

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

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## Labor Notes.

Lately 400 engineers employed at the North British workshops at St. Margaret's went out on strike for the fifty-one hours, the company having refused to concede their demand.

Wm. J. Jessup, President of the New York State Workingmen's Assembly, has issued a call for the ninth annual session, which will meet at Albany, Jan. 28. All the Trade Unions in the State are cordially invited to send delegates.

At a numerously attended meeting of coal and other mine owners from the various districts of Scotland, held in the Bedford Hotel, Glasgow, it was unanimously agreed to intimate a reduction of one shilling per day on the miners' wages.

The members of the Edinburgh Harness Weavers' Association recently requested an advance of wages, from their employers. The request has only met with partial success, and in consequence the Association are making every endeavor to obtain a uniform rate of wages.

A meeting of carters employed in Aberdeen and the neighborhood was held to consider as to the propriety of forming a union in connection with that body. After discussion, it was resolved to join the laborers union, as the carters were too small a body to form a separate union.

A special meeting of the united tinplate workers of Edinburgh and Leith was held in the Tailors' Hall, Potterrow, when a member of the trade gave an able and exhaustive report on the confederation of the united trades of Scotland, showing the benefit to be derived from a confederation numbering, it is expected, over 50,000 men.

The operative bakers of Glasgow have unanimously adhered to their original request for an advance of 2s per week, and have refused to comply with the request made by the masters, namely, to work one hour longer on the Saturday. The consequence is, that the masters have in a large majority, yielded to the wishes of the workmen, and have granted the increase unconditionally.

The laborers employed by five of the Edinburgh master builders have struck work in consequence of an attempt made by the masters to reduce their wages 3d per hour. In September the laborers' wages were increased to 5½ per hour, but at a general meeting of the master builders in Edinburgh and Leith, held on the 21st ult., it was decided to reduce laborers' wages to 5d per hour.

A movement is on foot among the ship carpenters on the Clyde to obtain the reduction of their hours of labor to the fifty-one hours limit. As work is plentiful, and the limitation almost universally adopted by the other branches of tradesmen connected with ship-building, the carpenters confidently anticipate that their request will be acceded to without any difficulty arising.

A meeting of the friends of Labor Reform and of the principles promulgated by the National Labor Convention which assembled at Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 21st and 22nd, 1872, is called for conference at Talcott & Post's Hall, Main street, Hartford, on Tuesday, Jan. 7th, 1873, at 10 o'clock a.m., to consider the best course to be pursued in presenting those principles to the voters of the State in the spring campaign.

The master boot and shoe makers of Montrose and their journeymen, to the number of fifty, had supper together in one of the rooms in the Town House on Friday. A rise of wages had been demanded by the men, and the matter was so amicably settled between them that the happy notion was suggested that they should meet together in a social manner, and this was cordially responded to by both parties. Mr. William Smart (who occupied the chair) made a most admirable speech. He said that, as a master, he hoped the example of that night would be imitated in other places than Montrose, and that the

meeting of masters and men would result in both finding that they were better men than each party was inclined to believe of the other.

At an early hour on Tuesday morning the inspector on duty at the branch Post Office, Buckingham Palace Gate, called the letter-carriers and sorters for the southwestern district, numbering over 100, together, and informed them that he had a communication from the Postmaster-General to read to them respecting the "stripes" that had been awarded to about 25 of their number for meritorious conduct. The men, however, with one or two exceptions, vociferously called out, "We don't want to hear it; put it down, Sir." "We won't hear another word." "We want more wages, not stripes, or Mr. Monsell's buttons." "It will disgrace us to wear stripes, and we shall be laughed at and jeered through the streets. Buttons and stripes won't feed our children. It's all favoritism." The inspector begged the men to listen, and made another attempt to read the report, but the uproar now became greater still. Yells, hooting, groans, whistling, and other discordant noises were kept up until the inspector had to return without reading Mr. Monsell's report. This being reported to the head office, another document was brought forward on Wednesday morning acquainting the men that if they did not choose to accept the stripes they had better send in their resignations. The other branch offices are equally adverse to the stripes. A great meeting of the whole of the carriers is to be called immediately by the delegates from each branch office.

**DUNDEE WORKING MEN'S CLUB.**—Lately a meeting of the members of this club was held—Mr. Robert Mackenzie in the chair. The most important question brought under consideration was whether the club should open on Sundays. A motion was made that it should, and a negative was put against it and carried by an overwhelming majority. The chairman explained that when Mr. Armistead gifted £5,000 for the endowment of clubs, he did so as an experiment. It was not believed that the scheme would fail, but if it did the trustees were empowered to devote the money to such philanthropic objects as they might deem most deserving. Already a large number of workmen have intimated their intention of becoming members, and it is expected that the club will be speedily occupied.

In the Edinburgh printing trade some 850 compositors and machinemen are out on strike, no arrangement having come to on the points in dispute between the masters and men. At a meeting of the Masters' Association, held on Friday, a reply was drawn up in answer to the men's proposal for an adjustment of the dispute. On Friday night the committee of the Typographical Society held a meeting, at which it was reported that, with the exception of two offices, the whole of the men in the larger establishments had left work. It was further reported that four of the masters had granted the demands of the men, viz.:—Mr. Colston, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Hugh Paton, and Messrs. Mould & Todd. We believe that the Lords of Session have passed an Act of Sederunt dispensing with the necessity for printing during the continuance of the dispute.

We observed it advertised that the Messrs. Blackwood have made their office a non-union one, and that Messrs. Chambers have also resolved that their establishment shall be one in which no unionist shall be permitted to work.—*Reformer.*

**GLASGOW—THE THREATENED LOCK-OUT OF ENGINEERS.**—The principal, and in many respects the most important subject of comment in the city during the week has been the strike and threatened lock-out in the engineering trade. In their case the adage, "Blessed are they that expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed," does not hold good. They had just grounds to expect the concession of the fifty-one hour week, as promised by the masters in

February, and are not a little disappointed now to find that it can only be had on certain conditions which were studiously avoided at that time. The present aspect of affairs is altogether in favor of the workmen, and as they seem thoroughly exasperated at the treatment which has occasioned the present disruption, the chances are that the continuance of resistance on the part of the masters will only tend to make "confusion worse confounded." There are in Glasgow alone thirty-four shops working in accordance with the required terms. At the conference held on Tuesday, the only apology offered in explanation for the non-fulfilment of the bargain was that "it was simply a difference of opinion." The same harem-scarem argument holds good every day with regard to the state of the weather. However, the apology comes too late, and for this reason principally the conference, after four hours' duration, proved a failure.

## ART IN GERMANY.

From time immemorial the people of Southern Germany have exhibited rare talent for the higher branches of mechanical art. This is the result, partly of an innate love of the beautiful, and partly in their admirable system of art education. For long years the little kingdom of Wurtemberg has been famous among German principalities for its Sunday drawing-school, frequented by mechanics of all degrees, from the youthful apprentice to the hoary master. Here, during the hours not devoted to divine services, volunteer teachers, enthusiasts for their art, met their volunteer pupils, and taught them drawing in all its branches. The time was necessarily very limited, and hence, for many years, no real artistic skill could be obtained in these schools except by a few rare children of genius. The hard, coarse work of the week often destroyed the delicate touch required for holiday labors, and the eye alone could be permanently benefited. Yet the general interest in this kind of instruction increased so rapidly, that the final result was the extension of the facilities heretofore offered only at night and during a few Sunday hours. Every school in the land, above the humblest, arranged a large hall, which was kept open on one day of the week to all who chose to avail themselves of the opportunity. Then winter courses of six months' duration were added for the benefit of laborers whose work ceased with the fine season. Finally a class of special schools sprang up, under the name of Fortbildungsschulen—literally, schools for further advancement—to which all had free access who wished to profit by its instruction, and who were willing to pay the small fee required. Those really unable to pay have no difficulty in being admitted gratuitously, and thus education may be said to be virtually free throughout the land. It was soon found that the eagerness with which instruction was sought, and the endless varieties of subjects for which pupils called, required a subdivision in the general purposes of those schools. They divided, in the larger towns, into a mercantile department, where book-keeping, the laws of exchange, (very complicated on the Continent,) modern languages, telegraphy, etc., were taught, and an industrial department for geometry, physics, chemistry, mechanics, and the so-called fine arts. What deserves special praise is the fact that, with a view to the true interests of the other sex, special schools of this kind are established for married and unmarried women, and the benefits arising from the sources of lucrative employment thus opened to deserving and well-qualified women can hardly be overrated. The domestic wants are not neglected; cooking for the house, and brewing for the multitude, the making of inlaid floors for the parlor, and the building of palaces and great institutions, are all thoroughly taught, as well as the art of landscape gardening, the horticulturist, and the florist. Agriculture alone is excluded, as that is taught in special schools, such as the Hochschule, which have already obtained a world-wide reputation.

William, who is an undersized clerk in a dry goods store, objects to being referred to as "that little dry goods Bill."

The man who never told an editor how he could better his paper, has gone out west to marry the woman who never looked into a looking-glass.

## NOBILITY OF LABOR.

REV. ORVILLE DEWEY.

I call upon those whom I address to stand up for the dignity of labor. It is Heaven's great ordinance for human improvement. Let not that great ordinance be broken down. What do I say? It is broken down; and it has been broken down for ages. Let it then be built up again; here, if anywhere, on these shores of a new world—of a new civilization. But how, I may be asked, is it broken down? Do not men toil? it may be said. They do, indeed toil; but they too generally do it because they must. Many submit to it as, in some sort, a degrading necessity, and they desire nothing so much on earth as escape from it. They fulfill the great law of labor in the letter, but break it in the spirit; fulfill it with the muscle but break it with the mind. To some field of labor, mental or manual every idler should fasten, as a chosen and coveted theatre of improvement. But so is he not impelled to do under the teachings of our imperfect civilization. On the contrary, he sits down, folds his hands and blesses himself in his idleness. This way of thinking is the heritage of the absurd and unjust feudal system, under which serfs labored and gentlemen spent their lives in fighting and feasting. It is time that this opprobrium of toil were done away. Ashamed to toil, art thou? Ashamed of thy dingy workshop and dusty labor field; of thy hard hand, scarred with service more honorable than that of war; of thy soiled and weather-stained garments, on which mother Nature has embroidered, midst sun and rain, midst fire and steam, her own heraldic honors? Ashamed of these tokens and titles, and envious of the flaunting robes of imbecile idleness and vanity? It is treason to Nature—it is impiety to Heaven, it is breaking Heaven's great ordinance. Toil, I repeat, toil, either of the brain, of the heart, or of the hand, is the only true manhood—the only true nobility.

## USE OF METALS AS FUEL.

An inventor proposes to substitute metals for coal as fuel for ocean steamers, and has taken out a patent for a method of carrying out his views, his object being to obtain a larger amount of steam from a given quantity of fuel.

When coal is burnt the solid coal is turned into gas, a large portion of heat becomes latent, and is wasted by volatilizing the solid. The oxygen of the atmosphere is a gas by reason of the large amount of heat combined with it. When zinc, iron or manganese are burned, the resulting oxide is a dense solid; little or no heat is wasted, as it is not turned into vapor. In addition to this, the inventor obtains the cosmic heat latent in the oxygen of the atmosphere, and the result is that one pound of zinc will evaporate more than four times as much water as one pound of coal, the advantage of which on long sea voyages is obvious. The zinc or other metal thus becomes a vehicle of power, much larger than can be obtained from the same weight or bulk of coal, and the oxide of the metal may subsequently be economically reduced at any convenient place where coal is accessible. The following is the manner in which it is proposed to carry out the invention: The furnace of the boiler is divided into two or more parts; first, the hearth or grate on which the metal is burned, (in this description we will confine ourselves to the metal zinc,) secondly a chamber behind the hearth to collect the oxide. In the case of tubular boilers, the heated gas from this chamber is made to circulate through the tubes. The furnace has the bottom and sides, and sometimes the top also, of brick, fire-clay, or any other refractory substance. The air is admitted over the combustible metal, or by a blast through the same; in the latter case pipes or tweers are built in the bottom or sides of the furnace.

Whether this method proves practically successful or not, it is certainly based on sound principles. Every one knows what a small proportion of coal compared to the iron is used in the furnaces of iron foundries, and how the partial combustion of the iron itself increases the heat derived from the coal. If stoves could be built that would burn iron, it would doubtless be as cheap a fuel as coal, perhaps cheaper.

The *Sun* states that Mr. William Orton has offered the editorship of the *Tribune* to Hon. J. G. Blaine, Speaker of the House of Representatives. It is thought that Blaine will accept.

## METAL PAPER-HANGINGS.

Paper-hangings for walls are known to everybody. It is now proposed to use hangings made of metal; and an account of this new invention, which comes to us from Paris, has been read before the Society of Arts.—The metal employed is tinfoil, in sheets about sixteen feet long, and from thirty to forty inches wide. The sheets are painted, and dried at a high temperature, and are then decorated with many different patterns, such as foliage, flowers, geometrical figures, imitations of wood, or landscapes. When decorated, the sheets are varnished, and again dried, and are then ready for sale. Tinfoil is itself tough; and the coats laid upon it in preparing it for the market increase the toughness. The hanging of these metallic sheets is similar to paper-hangings, except that the wall is varnished with a weak kind of varnish, and the sheet applied thereto.—Thus in this way a room or a house may be newly painted, without any smell of paint to annoy or harm the inmates. Moreover, the tinfoil keeps out the damp; and as the varnish is a damp-resister, the protection to the room is two-fold. Experience has shown, also, that cornices, mouldings, and irregular surfaces may be covered with the tinfoil as readily as a flat surface: hence there is no part of a dwelling house or public building which may not be decorated with these new sheets; and as regards style and finish, all who saw the specimens exhibited at the reading of the paper, were made aware that the highest artistic effects could be achieved at pleasure.—*Every Saturday.*

## BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

The existence of hot springs and volcanoes proves that there is great heat in the interior of our globe. It has been found by observation, that, as we descend in a deep mine, the temperature increases. It appears that below a certain point the heat of summer and the cold of winter do not penetrate, but one temperature prevails from year to year. Below this point, the temperature constantly rises, as we descend, as much as one degree of the thermometer in sixty feet; while at the depth of about ten thousand feet, it is calculated that the heat would be equal to that of boiling water. Many scientific reasons exist which clearly prove that the earth's interior is constantly at fire-heat, and the pressure thus brought to bear against the globe's surface keeps the earth's crust solid to a great depth. It has been calculated that the earth's surface must be several hundred miles thick. We can easily see that it must be so, from the existence of such masses as the Himalaya and the Andes, which were the solid crust of the earth of a comparatively trifling thickness, would sink through it, as one sinks through the moss that covers the mountain bog. Fortunately for the existence of the human race, heat is but slowly transmitted by some bodies. The outer crust of the earth, composed of various substances arranged very irregularly, allows the central heat to escape but gradually. Were the crust composed of iron, the escape of heat would be much more rapid. As it is, owing to the nature of the surface of our globe, the substitution of a mass of ice for the glowing interior would not sensibly lower the temperature on the surface. But it is not so with all bodies. The sun, the reservoir of enormous heat (enormous indeed, since we see that it so expands his vast bulk that its density is but a quarter of that of the earth,) by some internal constitution, and probably in part through his wonderful atmosphere, transmits his heat rapidly in all directions. Were the earth and the sun constituted alike, the smaller bulk of the earth would cool down long ere the sun had dissipated his heat. The central heat of the earth, however, is as important in its way for the existence of life upon it, as the sun's light and heat; so, by a wonderful arrangement of the surface, its escape is rendered as low as possible. It is thus probable that the heat of the sun will not outlast the cooling down of our globe. Between these two fires, the solar and the terrestrial, man's life, as it were, balanced. The sun as the source of light we all regard, but the heat of the earth does not come so prominently in view.

M. de Lessops reports, as the result of an interview with the Sultan, that the Turkish Government and the Khedive of Egypt are resolved to stand by the Suez Canal Company in regard to its increase of tolls. If these are to be the company's only friend we fear it has not much chance of maintaining its ground.