

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest relating to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion for publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries, Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

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.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.
Amalgamated Carpenters, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Roule's Block), Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
Tailors, 2nd Monday.
Coopers, 4th Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNENT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternent will please state if they wish the paper continued.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOV. 13, 1873.

THE WORKINGMEN AND THE CHANGE OF MINISTRY.

The Ministry which has so long wielded political power in this country has at last fallen. The so-called Liberal party is exultant over its triumph, while the defeated Conservatives predict the worst consequences from the fall of a government which has for so many years directed the destinies of a young country, and, as they assert, directed them with wisdom, honesty, and success. Strangers to the politics of the Dominion are apt to be misled by the names assumed by its politicians. Liberal and Conservative have a very different meaning in England from what they have in Canada. In England, a Conservative is one who would per-

petuate the government of an aristocracy, with all its monopoly of power and patronage in Church and State, its selfish appropriation of lands, its game laws, the serfdom of agricultural laborers, and all the other fruits of an old feudal system; while a Liberal is one who wars with the conservatism of monopoly and unjust and costly privileges, and struggles for a wider liberty for the common people, a fuller share in legislation, a larger control over the government of the country, and the extinction of aristocratic and church privileges. But in Canada we have none of these evils to contend against; no laws which allow a powerful class to monopolize land; no State Church; no feudal privileges. Our danger lies on the side of freedom. Liberty is necessary to our progress and our future greatness; but law and order must govern liberty, or liberty may sink into corruption and riot, and the despotism of reckless selfishness may usurp the seat of justice and liberty. As there is no likeness between the political parties in England and Canada, the political names of England can really have no application to the parties of the Dominion. The Conservatives of this country have no exclusive institutions to preserve, and they have in some instances taken the initiative in constitutional changes; while, on the other hand, the Liberals have shown no desire to make organic changes in our forms of government, nor lessen the privileges of the governing powers, or to enlarge the power and privileges of the masses. Parties, therefore, distinguished from each other by great constitutional principles do not exist in this country; and whatever may have been the political opinions of our immigrants at home they may safely become either Conservatives or Liberals here, without inconsistency or violation of principle.

Whatever be our views on the causes which have overthrown the late government, it is impossible to deny that it has during its long career exercised a great and beneficial influence over the destinies of this country. It has united and consolidated into the compactness of a nation scattered and isolated provinces; and by acts of wise legislation laid the sure foundation of future prosperity and greatness. It has added to the territorial power of the Dominion; and has taken active, wise, and liberal measures to increase its population by encouraging immigration. It has initiated able legislation for the encouragement of trade and commerce, and has sanctioned every measure by which public education might be advanced. No doubt it is possible to point out many defects in its public acts; and it is very likely that a new government will endeavor to correct the errors of its predecessors. But whether the new government shall do more or less for the public good than the one which has fallen, we may be assured of this, that if it lives and lasts, it will never, any more than any other government, here or elsewhere, fulfil all its promises or be free from defects and errors.

But as advocates of the rights of labor, our duty is clear. The workingmen of Canada are under deep obligations to the government of which Sir John A. Macdonald was the head. In the assertion of the rights of labor, laws which were supposed to be obsolete—so opposed to justice and to the spirit of the age that they were forgotten—were revived and fiercely wielded as instruments of oppression and coercion by a leader of the Liberal party. It was Sir John A. Macdonald who promptly interfered in behalf of the liberty of the subject, and with extraordinary rapidity and energy abolished the iniquitous law, which the selfishness of employers had created and was now reviving; and carried through the House an enactment which protected the workingmen in the peaceful assertion of their just rights.

Now, here is the principle made manifest which should govern the political opinions and actions of the workingmen of this and every other country. Every class fights for its own interests. All legislation has hitherto

been made subservient to the interests of capitalists, landowners, wealthy merchants, and great employers, as they call themselves of labor, because the legislators have been selected from these classes. But now, in England, the workingmen are uniting to secure representatives of their rights and interests, because they have learned that capital will legislate to strengthen capital; and, while labor and capital have opposing interests, to weaken the power of labor. The real evils of the worker are social; they belong to political economy, not to politics; and the final emancipation from these evils must be the result of new social relations, new arrangements of capital and labor. But the work will be accelerated and the good time will come sooner, as the workingmen get power in Parliament. For Parliament is not only an organ of political influence and opinion, but its opinions influence the history and character of the people. Besides all this moral influence, legislation can strengthen and foster every effort by which labor may seek to unite itself with capital—making the laborer and capitalist one; and in the confidence that no law can prevail against his just claims, and that all laws shall be sustained that protect his rights, the laborer becomes a deeper lover of law, a better supporter of order, and a more zealous and wise social reformer. Political economy becomes to him, then, a true and intelligible science; because without infringing on any personal right it encourages industry by securing to the industrious producers of wealth a righteous share of the fruits of his labor.

While, then, the workmen of the Dominion should ever remember with gratitude the help they received in the hour of difficulty from the past government, let them be guided in their political opinions and acts mainly by the interests of their own class. While they watch jealously every form of legislation produced by the new government, let them receive in the right spirit every reform which benefits them or satisfies the ends of justice and the public good; but never forget that as politicians having the rights of citizens and subjects of the State, they can only have those rights asserted in the State BY HAVING REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR OWN ORDER IN PARLIAMENT.

LORD SHAFTESBURY AND THE ENGLISH WORKMEN.

Lord Shaftesbury has roused an hornet's nest by some remarks to which he gave utterance at Weymouth recently, when he asserted that the tendency of high wages has resulted in laziness, dog-fighting, card-playing, and drinking. He said he made the assertion advisedly, but did not give his authority. It was natural the workingmen would challenge those assertions, which was done in a letter addressed to "the noble lord;" and in his reply Lord Shaftesbury regrets that any remarks of his should have called forth a rebuke from workingmen. His remarks, he stated, were not to be applied to the whole, but to a large party of the recipients of high wages; but he declined to give the authority on which he made the statements.

It could hardly be expected but that some would make ill-use of their advanced wages. Be wages high or low, there are, unfortunately, many who worse than foolishly spend those wages; but such sweeping assertions were hardly expected from one occupying such a position as does Lord Shaftesbury; and as showing the unfairness of those remarks, a writer in the *Bee Hive* gives the following statement:

"If the facts are, however, as Lord Shaftesbury states them, the humiliation they imply cannot be escaped from; but, then, we are not called on to accept them without proof. Singularly enough his lordship's proofs amount to nothing, although his charges amount to a great deal. We shall avoid his lordship's mistake in this matter, and shall try to show by generally accepted authority that the workingmen of England cannot waste their time and means in the manner stated. In doing this we have

first to examine the accounts in the savings banks, and here we find that taking the returns of 1872 and comparing them with 1862 that the capital in deposit increased during that time no less than seventeen millions sterling. In 1862 the gross amount in the savings banks under trustees, and in the Post Office savings banks, was 42 millions in round numbers, whilst in 1872 it amounted to rather above 59 millions. Now, so far as this increase belongs to the working people, it has been earned and saved during the last ten years. They have not stolen it, nor have they got it by lucky gambling, they must have worked for it, and put it by for a rainy day when they got it. Dog-fighting, card-playing, drinking, and sleeping could not have given it to them; and so far as it goes it certainly does not bear out the statements of Lord Shaftesbury made on the authority of his coalowner and engineer.

"It will be well to bear in mind, however, that the savings bank is not now the only, or even the chief method of investment adopted by the working men of the country. The interest given is too small to tempt intelligent and enterprising operatives. They go where the risk is perhaps on the whole not much greater, and where the profit is by far more tempting. It would be impossible to state with anything approaching accuracy how much money working men have invested in building societies, but if the property in houses and in other forms realized out of these could be added to the capital they actually hold in trust for their members, it would be seen that the working men of England have not been foolishly throwing all their spare cash into the till of the publican.

Where, it may be again asked, does this money come from? And looking at the members of co-operative societies, where are the prudent, steady men found who belong to and manage such undertakings? These men are sober and prudent enough to make their business a ready-money business. The hundreds of thousands who belong to these societies cannot spend their money in dog-fighting and drinking; if they did, their ready-money system would break down in a month; and these people, the noble Earl should understand, have built up this system, which is a living symbol of providence and sobriety, within the limits of a few years."

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.

Matters here remain in *statu quo*, and there does not appear any immediate prospect of a settlement. We think the operatives here might with advantage take a leaf out of the book of their Hamilton brethren. We paid a visit to their co-operative shop, and were pleased to notice the busy operation of some eight or nine operatives. Their efforts so far have been very successful, and so far as we could judge the co-operative shop bids fair to become one of the institutions of that city. We certainly wish them every prosperity, and would commend their action to the consideration of others.

LIME-STONE CUTTERS UNION.

At the last regular meeting of the Lime-Stone Cutters Union, Ottawa, the following officers were elected for the current term:—

Mr. John Dodd, President; Mr. Jos. Beaubieu, Vice-President; Mr. Moses Rochon, Financial Secretary; Mr. H. Lewis Williams, Recording and Financial Secretary; Mr. Peter Husey, Treasurer.

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS.

We have received many complaints of the non-delivery of papers, notably in Hamilton and Ottawa. We wish to call the attention of the Postmasters of those cities to the irregularities complained of, and trust they will be rectified without further trouble. We wish also any of our subscribers who do not regularly receive their papers to immediately notify us by postal card, and the matter shall receive attention.

A PLEASANT RE-UNION.

On Friday night the employees of Messrs. Hellem and Wilson, St. Catharines, invited their employers to a social re-union, and a very happy and pleasant evening was spent. At Sealey's Hall, dancing was engaged in with much spirit, and at about twelve o'clock the company adjourned to Mr. Ree's Hotel, where a well-prepared supper was in waiting. Supper over they returned to the hall and continued to trip "the light fantastic toe." We were pleased to see the good understanding that existed between employer and employed, and such gatherings cannot but have an influence in perpetuating it.

COMPLIMENTARY SUPPER.

MR. WILLIAMS ENTERTAINED IN ST. CATHARINES.

On Thursday evening last, a complimentary supper was tendered to Mr. J. S. Williams, by a number of his friends and readers of the WORKMAN, as a testimony of the appreciation with which they regard the efforts of this journal to advocate the claims of workingmen. The Supper was held at Mr. Ree's Hotel, Mary Street. A very handsome spread was provided, and a goodly number sat around the festive board, and did ample justice to the "good things" provided. The chair was occupied by Mr. John Carroll, President of the Tailors Union, having on his right the guest of the evening and on his left Mr. Calvin Brown, one of the rising men of the town, who represents the workingmen at the Council Board. The Vice-chair was ably sustained by Mr. Wm. Magness, Grand Sec. K.O.S.C.

After all had partaken of the viands and the cloth removed, the chairman, in well-timed remarks, stated the object of the gathering, and spoke of the pleasure it afforded him to preside on such an occasion; and alluded to the sentiments of esteem which he, in common with those associated with him, and those they represented, entertained towards the gentleman they had united to honor. After some further remarks, he called upon all to heartily drink the toast "Her Majesty the Queen, and Royal Family." The company sang "God Save the Queen."

"The Governor General and Lieutenant Governors" came next and Mr. Craig was called upon to respond. He stated he was utterly at a loss to conceive why his name had been coupled with that toast, as he certainly never expected to occupy either positions. However, he thought the men who filled those chairs did so in an efficient manner, and were worthy of the high position they occupied. In reference to the recent action of the Governor General, he could not help saying that whatever political differences might exist, he thought that when a calm review was given of the matter, no one could deny that Lord Dufferin had acted conscientiously, and that he was too much of a statesman to be unduly influenced by one party or the other. (Cheers.)

The toast of the "Army and Navy and Volunteers," came next, and the "Red, White and Blue" was sung with vim. Mr. Matheson, of the *Daily News*, responded in a humorous speech, giving a reminiscence of his experience as a volunteer, when had shouldered his musket, and went forth to "bleed and die," for his country; but he was happy to say such extremities were not proceeded to, as they fortunately found no enemy to meet.

The Chairman then called upon all to fill a bumper, as he was about to give the toast of the evening, which he knew would be received with enthusiasm. After some remarks of a very complimentary character, he called upon them to drink, "The health of Mr. Williams, and success to the ONTARIO WORKMAN."

After the cheers which greeted him had subsided, Mr. Williams said he desired to thank them for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast of his health, and the success of the journal with which he was connected. He felt he could not give expression to all he would like to say, but would remark, that while he had received many expressions of kindness, he felt constrained to say, from none had he received warmer or more heartier evidences of kindly regard than his friends in St. Catharines. He desired also to thank them for their well wishes for the success of the WORKMAN, and for the practical expression of such wishes. He then spoke of the objects of the paper—to furnish trade matters of interest to mechanics, to advocate their claims generally, and especially to urge combination and unionism amongst them. Many there are who would bitterly oppose such a spread of unionism as we wish to establish, and pretend to see in it all manner of designs against the public weal; but