

NOTICE.

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

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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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.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—

- Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
- Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
- Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
- Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
- K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
- Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
- Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Printers, 1st Saturday.
- Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1873.

OUR SECOND VOLUME.

With this number the ONTARIO WORKMAN enters the second year of its existence. In many respects the past year has been an eventful one, and in its brief span have been crowded momentous agitations that have been made by Labor struggling to raise itself into a higher position in the social scale. Aiming at the amelioration of the masses, we have, to the best of our ability, advocated the claims of the operative classes, and have endeavored to adhere to the principles and platform laid down in the prospectus of the WORKMAN. It has been our earnest endeavor to make this journal a complete *repositoire* of events transpiring in the Labor world, as well as the vehicle of those Labor Reform principles which we advocate; and it is gratifying to know that our efforts have been appreciated by workingmen in all parts of the Dominion—as has been demonstrated by the many kind and cheering words that, publicly and privately, have been addressed to us by them—the services of the paper to the cause being thus acknowledged by many of the earnest advocates of Labor Reform.

In commencing our second volume, we do not consider it necessary to speak at length upon the course we intend to pursue. The record of the past year is before our readers, and we briefly say that the principles and platform of the past will be our guiding star for the future.

We desire to return our thanks to our numerous patrons for the support of the past, and trust that our efforts to make the WORKMAN a first-class trade and family journal will merit their continued active support. We desire also to acknowledge our thanks for the many in Ottawa, Oshawa, and other centres east—as well as the workingmen of Toronto—for the generous response that they have made to the member of the firm who has canvassed those places for subscriptions. It is gratifying to state that a steadily increasing circulation is a substantial proof that our efforts have been appreciated, and our endeavor

will be to make its hold upon the esteem and confidence of the operative classes growing and more enduring.

To the merchants and others who have appreciated our journal as an advertising medium of reaching the workmen, we are anxious to express our sincere thanks, and solicit a continuance of their patronage.

"THE NEW CIVILIZATION."

On the 10th inst., a lecture was delivered, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., in Shaftesbury Hall, by the Rev. Dr. Tiffany, of Washington, on the above subject. The lecturer, by his eloquence and scholarly attainments, had already favorably commended himself to our citizens, and the lecture had been looked forward to with considerable interest. But the delivery of the lecture, instead of adding to Dr. Tiffany's popularity, has resulted in forever damaging him in the eyes of a Canadian audience. The leading elements of the "New Civilization," as enunciated by Dr. Tiffany, cannot, however, but be regarded as a sound basis for a grand and glorious future. Indeed, it is all that the most advanced and enthusiastic Labor Reformer could possibly hope for or dream of; and when the "New Civilization" dawns upon the world, then, truly, will Labor be satisfied. The lecturer puts it thus:—

1. The claims of the unworking aristocracy will cease under the aegis of the new Christianity.
2. No privileged classes will be tolerated under the new Christianity.
3. Education is to reach and elevate the masses under the new Christianity.
4. Reverence for God will become the claim for reverence from men under the new Christianity.

The lecture, however, has aroused an unusual amount of dissatisfaction and indignation—not we believe, with the subject of the lecture, but at the manner in which it was elaborated. We certainly must confess that the general remarks of Dr. Tiffany were in exceeding bad taste—being nothing more nor less than a Fourth of July oration, and decidedly intended for an American rather than a Canadian audience. And herein we consider the lecturer made his grand mistake in discussing the "New Civilization" with reference to any one particular country or constitution. But, after all, we hardly think the occasion has warranted the amount of indignation that has daily found vent through the press, nor does it afford a sufficient excuse for the "tempest in a tea-pot" that has been aroused. Dr. Tiffany's remarks, as we said before, were in exceeding bad taste—only this and nothing more. We do not consider the lecture tarnished, in the least degree, the lustre of British civilization, nor did the lecturer impeach the loyalty of Canadians to the flag and constitution of which they are so justly proud. But it would seem others think differently, and forthwith a champion has come forward, who is to purge Shaftesbury Hall of the "spread-eagleism" of Dr. Tiffany, and awake its echoes to the lustre of British civilization and the loyalty of Canadians.

THE SOUTH WALES STRUGGLE.

Though the scene of the struggle in South Wales has been at a great distance, yet its progress has been closely watched by many on this side of the Atlantic. From time to time we have chronicled the progress of the contest; and while at this distance it is difficult to comprehend all the circumstances that have combined to produce and prolong the great conflict between the colliers of South Wales and the owners of the collieries, yet it cannot but afford satisfaction to all to know that it has at length been terminated, and the men have resumed work. Great rejoicings marked the event—bands parading the town of Merthyr, and cannons being fired. In their respective organs both masters and men claim the victory; we, however, content ourselves with chronicling the happy termination of the conflict.

A PUBLIC MEETING.

We have been requested to call attention to the public meeting of the laboring men of this city, that has been called for Saturday next in the St. Patrick's Hall. The objects of the meeting is to take into consideration the question of increased wages. It is certainly time some general movement should take place in this direction. The cost of living, and the active demands that will be made for this class of industry this season in consequence of the many large public and other works that will be in progress, affords an opportunity for securing "better terms" that the men are not slow to take advantage of. We trust there will be a large and harmonious gathering.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. Tremblay's Ballot Bill passed the Legislature last week by a majority which indicates very distinctly the wish of the House of Commons, and the ballot will undoubtedly become law during the present session, as it is not likely the Senate will repudiate it. We have given the debate that ensued on the third reading, and would particularly direct attention to Mr. Chisholm's able advocacy of the measure. Last week we gave Mr. Witton's speech, and we congratulate the workmen of Hamilton in having representatives in the House who have so ably advocated measures to which they look with particular interest.

ANTI-INCOME TAX LEAGUE.

A largely attended and influential meeting was held recently at Hanover Square Rooms, London. Mr. Vernon Harcourt, M. P., in the chair. The meeting was held to protest against the continuance of the income tax. Mr. Attenborough moved the first resolution: "That the growing discontent pervading the kingdom against the inquisitorial character and injustice of the income-tax demands the prompt and serious attention of the House of Commons."

In doing so, he complained of the retention of the income-tax for thirty years, in times of no emergency, when it was only originally imposed for three years. The country at first submitted to it only as a war tax. The object of the meeting was to ascertain whether the trading classes, now that the revenue of the country exceeded the expenditure by six millions, were willing that that odious and inquisitorial tax should remain a permanent burden. It had been very useful when at first introduced; but their having borne it for thirty years was no reason why they should bear it for thirty years more. Mr. Lowe lately asked a deputation what he should substitute for the income-tax. It was not the duty of the deputation, but of Mr. Lowe himself, to discover that. It rested with the middle classes to call upon the Government to redeem the numerous pledges that had been made, and abolish the tax. Mr. Jones seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

Mr. Monk, M.P., moved:—

"That, having regard to the pledges given at successive periods by different Governments that the income-tax should be treated as a temporary impost, this meeting declares its opinion that the time has arrived when measures should be taken for its extinction as a part of the ordinary system of the public revenue, and with this view, that a moderate and steady reduction in the public expenditure should be at once commenced and progressively carried out." This was seconded by Mr. Shand, and carried unanimously.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman ended the proceedings.

RELEASED.

A telegram from London informs us that the five imprisoned gas stokers were released on Monday, the term of their sentences having expired. A great demonstration of sympathy was made in their favor, and at Maidstone they were entertained at a public breakfast.

We notice that the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia refuse to repeal the Ballot Act.

THE MADOC MURDER.

A terrible story of savage treachery comes to us by telegraph from the scene of the Madoc war. Since the repulse of the United States troops by Captain Jack and his band of Indians, hostilities have been suspended to admit of efforts on the part of a Peace Commission to arrive at a settlement of the difficulty without further bloodshed. Considerable time has been spent in this way without any satisfactory point being gained, and it appears that in a final effort to come to terms last Friday the Indians treacherously murdered General Canby and Rev. Dr. Thomas, one of the Peace Commissioners. Mr. Meacham, another of the Commissioners, is believed to be fatally wounded, and the fourth member of the party, Mr. Dyer, escaped unhurt. Orders have been issued for the extermination of the whole band.

"BE YE THEREFORE STEADFAST."

There is no man so pitiable, no man so superlatively contemptible, so laughably ridiculous in the estimation of men of even ordinary force of character, as the man whose mind shows no evidence of a fixity of purpose, no coherence of ideas or continuity of reasoning. A staggering mind, wavering, inconsistent—fluctuating in a turmoil of oscillatory vacillation, can only excite our commiseration if not our contempt. This want of mental and moral steadfastness is more prevalent than the majority of those afflicted are willing to concede, and we are pained to admit that among workmen it is especially noticeable. We are grieved to make this declaration, because reason, common sense and the inexorable logic of daily experience, are sternly emphatic in indicating that without immovability of purpose and stableness of character, it is unconditionally impossible to accomplish anything in life worthy of emulation. No man can succeed in this world unless he evolves such an amount of firmness of mind, strength of resolution and closeness of application as will not be easily shaken, overthrown or diverted from a purpose once taken or a determination once formed. The man who wavers or hesitates after having mapped out a line of policy, will never be found in the van of the army of life. And what is true of the individual or isolated man, is equally true of the associational man, and what is here advanced as being applicable to men acting independently, is also applicable to men acting conjointly. Any association of men lacking cohesion, steadiness and stability, will inevitably fail in its purpose and subject its members to ridicule and contumely. The one great need—the desideratum, the infallible element of perfection, required by trade unions and other forms of associated labor, is immovable, stable steadfastness. Even unity and harmony are subordinate to this great essential qualification. We every day see unions organized and while yet in swaddling clothes accomplishing wonderfully astonishing results, but by the time they should have reached maturity—reached their great puissance—their acme of utility, we find alas! they are no longer to be numbered among the things that are, that in fact they have reached dissolution. They organized and started on the road towards success, fully determined to persevere, to struggle bravely on, despite obstacles and impediments, until the complete fruition of organized effort was attained; but they failed and why? because severally and jointly they lacked firmness of mind and strength of resolution; they were unstable, fickle, vacillating. And until men of this stamp learn the priceless value of tireless energy, the necessity of resolute unyielding devotion to the accomplishment of a purpose, they had better remain aloof from all movements looking towards a possible amelioration of their social or political condition. They only betray their weakness by organizing and then sillily disbanding, and the infallible sequence is an infinitely worse state of existence. They show their enemies, if they had any, that they are incapable of self-effort, unable to maintain an organized front, that they lack all

the essential elements of an organized defence, that prices may be reduced with reckless impunity and that they are wholly at the mercy of their employers, and of this the latter are never slow to avail themselves. We should learn from these observations the necessity that exists for the cultivation of greater steadiness, a greater unchangeableness, greater constancy by all members of trades unions. A body of men who unite for the avowed purpose of securing immunity from the spoilation of capitalists, but who disband upon the first appearance of trouble, may be likened to the man mentioned in the Gospel, from whom a devil was cast, but who, though cleansed yielded to temptation, as soon as the devil returned with seven others worse than himself, and the Gospel says the last state of that man was worse than the first. The last state of the members of a disbanded union must necessarily be worse than the first—and because of the reasons already advanced.

There is another class of unions that do not disband, but who allow themselves to drift into breakers of disorganization and finally go crashingly to pieces. Martial history abounds in instances of victories turned into defeats because the conquerors, flushed with success, neglected the precautions necessary to secure what was already won. Our labor organizations furnish many parallel cases; many unions after having established a prestige and given unmistakable evidence of the power of combined effort, will then relax their vigilance and lull themselves into a feeling of false security, from which they are generally awakened by the crash of their disruption and downfall. "Early and provident fear is the mother of safety," said a great statesman, (Burke), and it would be well if our associations of labor would heed the warning. There is no safety in a cessation or even relaxation of vigilance, but there is much danger, and possible ruin in such a course. We can not be too watchful, neither can we be too particular in our efforts to be always prepared for any and every emergency. The man who fears an enemy is never taken unawares, but he who falls asleep and dreams in fanciful security may awake disarmed and powerless. Workingmen let us be earnest, let us be practical, steadfast, watchful, constant in our devotion to duty, ever ready to arbitrate, compromise or demand. Let us fear the worst and be prepared to meet it. Let it never be said of us that because we understood not the application of stability to the ordinary affairs of life, we suffered sadly from the evil effects of staggering, drunken minds.—*Coopers' Journal.*

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The general report of the Minister of Public Works for the fiscal year ending 30 June, 1873, is at hand, containing, besides appendices, a large amount of information respecting the canals, works on navigable rivers, harbors and piers, slides, booms, roads and bridges, public buildings, government railways, and North-West and Pacific communication. We see the project of increasing the depth of the canals along the St. Lawrence to 12 feet on the metre sills being entertained, surveys are now in progress to ascertain by actual measurement the work required to attain this depth in the main channel of the navigable reaches between the canals. Also a Commission is now inquiring into the alleged obstruction to navigable streams by slabs, saw dust, edgings and other refuse of saw mills. For the transport of immigrants and others, steam launches have been placed on most of the navigable sections, and horses and wagons have been provided on the different sections of land travel. Commodious houses, for the accommodation of immigrants, have been erected at convenient intervals along the route. The number of people sent over the line from the 15th of June, when it was opened, to the close of navigation, was 604, including the volunteers; and telegraphic communication has been established with Fort Garry. The expenditure of the Department of Public Works during the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1872, was:—Construction, \$1,801,272.80; Repairs, \$299,419.86; Staff and maintenance, \$807,805.87; Total expenditure, \$2,908,498.53.