

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

the delegates to inculcate upon those whom they influenced and directed to be honest in their work.

Mr. Howell (Secretary to the Congress) acknowledged the kindness which had been shown to the delegates, and, in answer to the mayor, said the trade unions of this country would belie all their past history if they were not moderate in their councils.

The business of the Congress was resumed at the Temperance Hall after breakfast.

Mr. W. Rolley (President) occupied the chair. The time of the Congress was for a long while taken up with the discussion with a view to remedy the grievances under which shop assistants at present labor, and it was suggested that the restriction of the hours of labor of the children of agricultural laborers should also form a clause in the bill brought forward by Sir John Lubbock, but Mr. Joseph Arch deprecated such a course, as he thought agricultural laborers would eventually secure direct representation.

Mr. Howell, secretary of the Congress, read a paper on the grievances under which the Post Office employees labored, and urged the necessity of a readjustment in the scale of their wages, and the shortening of the hours of their labor.

A long discussion ensued on this question, and a motion was passed expressing sympathy with the Post Office operatives for increase of pay, better regulation of the hours of labor, the abolition of the Sunday work, and a just system of promotion, and recommended their cause to the trades unions of the kingdom as well worthy of their united support.

A paper was read on the Factory and Workshops Act and the Nine Hours' Bill by Mr. Arnett (Leek), and the Congress adopted a motion in favor of a just regulation of the hours of labor amongst all classes of industry.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE.

If employers generally were to devote one-half the attention to the buying of raw material, and to the selling of the manufactured article, that they appear to devote to the reducing of the wages of labor, they would beyond a doubt, find at the end of each year their bank accounts in much healthier condition than is usually the case. In times of depression in trade, instead of its being an incentive to greater activity, both in buying and selling, adopting the motto of "Small profits and quick sales," they quietly close their establishments, depriving hundreds, thousands, and, as in the present panic, even millions, of the means of earning bread. While they are thus resting from the Herculean labors performed by their clerks and mechanics, they closely figure the amount necessary to keep body and soul together in their employes, and console themselves for the present loss of profits, with the knowledge that, by reducing wages when trade brisks up, they can soon repay themselves out of the sweat and blood of their starved-into-submission employes.

In the foundry business, the employes have a study as to whom is the best time, and what the best means, to effect reductions that would, in ordinary times and under ordinary circumstances, be resisted to the bitter end. Just when they are closing up for the season, is no time to talk reduction, neither is it a good time to try reduction when they are ready to resume operations. They meet a molder to-day; send for another to-morrow; will endeavor to convince them that the market is glutted, that prices are falling, etc.; that they would start to-morrow, if the men would submit to a reduction; thus they feel every molder they come across. The consequence is that the men talk reduction—the sick, the halt, the lame, and the blind, all commence to harp on the fact that a few cents per day is keeping them out of work. A meeting of the Union is called; committees are appointed; and there is a terrible time among the moulders; while the employer lays back, laughing at the tumult, convinced that it will all end as he desires. He is not ready to start, and if the Union would promptly meet him by agreeing to reduce, he would not start his shop a day sooner on that account. They understand thoroughly the old saying of "Divide and conquer," as "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," so will one "work-at-any-price" moulder sometimes compel a whole

Union to reduce wages as the least of two evils.

There is not a Union in the country but can be informed, if they desire the information, as to whom the shop will most probably start, and they should be prepared for these feelers, put out by the bosses. There has been but very few reductions of wages in the trade where the men themselves were not directly responsible for it. In some cases, reductions were asked for and acceded to, when every man knew that the shop would not run more than another week, thus fixing the price or wages for the new year. Any attempt to get back the old wages, would be denounced by the general public as outrageous, attempting to get an increase of wages these times. Public opinion can almost always be relied on as against an advance. Employers know this; hence their efforts the last few months to effect reductions, so that the moulders would be placed in the most unfavorable light should they demand a return to old wages; hence their efforts to divide the men, and force a reduction now, when, as they boastfully say, "the moulders are starved out." They offer no arguments for reduction that will stand the test of arbitration; they will not submit to arbitration; and to accomplish their desires, they must resort to the means herein described. Alone, they could do nothing; but they know their men, and there are but few localities where every member, every moulder, can be made to see and understand that they are being used for their own destruction. We are progressing, however. Every year the employers are forced to devise new means to accomplish their unholy efforts; every year our members are becoming more thoroughly educated, and we may confidently hope that the time will soon come when our members, at least, will be alive to every manœuvre of employers, and be prepared to combat them.—*Iron Moulders' Journal.*

CHINESE QUESTION IN CONGRESS.

Our members of Congress are trying to do something on the Chinese question. Mr. Houghton has introduced a bill for the appointment of three Commissioners whose duty it shall be to collect the statistics necessary to arrive at a conclusion as to the number, condition, and employment of Chinese in the United States, with especial reference to learning the effect produced by their competition with white labor. They are to make a report to the President, and at the next session, he is to lay it before Congress with such recommendations as he may deem necessary. It was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. This would seem to be a round about way to get at the question, as we see it here, for we already understand it well enough to cut off immigration by abolishing the treaty with China. But this is the fountain head of the evil; the Eastern states must suffer as we do before they will be ready to act with us.

Mr. Page offered a resolution in the House on the 16th ult., "instructing the Committee on Foreign Relations, to report at the earliest practical moment a concurrent resolution advising the President to open negotiations with the Emperor of China, with a view to such modification of Articles 5 and 6 of the existing treaty as will check or altogether prevent Chinese immigration to the United States." To this Mr. Willard of Vermont objected, and it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. This is decidedly the most sensible way to reach it, but the wise men of the East are not ready for action yet, they will wait until our people are starved into having another Boston tea party; such as brought on the revolution with England, and then spend millions of dollars in crushing out the rebellion; thus we have the illustration of "penny wise and pound foolish."—*Shop and Senate.*

The Home Labor Market continues depressed in several important branches. Ironworkers especially are on short time in many places, and at Sheffield several of the staple trades are only partially employed. At Wolverhampton and Birmingham, however, some industries are short of young hands, and there would appear to be room for apprentices in many of the skilled trades of the Midlands. Labor not trained to any special craft is still abundant.—*Labor News.*

Laborers to the number of several hundred, working on the Lowell and Andover Railroad, many of them receiving one dollar a day, have struck for higher wages.

The members of the Amalgamated Association of Miners in the Darlaston district has invited the employers to a discussion of the question of a rise in wages.

The Dorbyshire and Nottinghamshire Miners' Association has resolved to request contractors to employ in the mines only such men as have been brought up to the trade.

The strike at the Atlas Bessemer Steel Mills, Sheffield, still continues, in so far that concessions have been made neither side; but the men are being drafted off to other fields of labor, so that there is no serious amount of distress.

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Miscellaneous.



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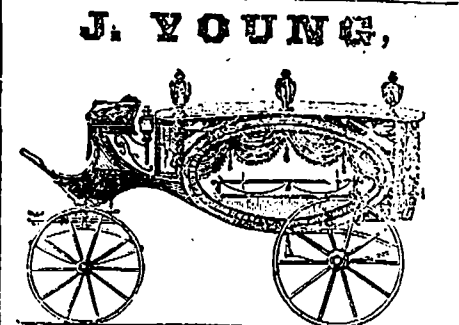
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