

NOTICE.

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

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.

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WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

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Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, SEPT. 26, 1872

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT.

The long winter evenings will soon be upon us, and the question we not unfrequently hear asked is—How shall we spend our evenings? This is a subject fraught with the utmost importance to the workingman. When we consider the many enticements that are held out on every hand, to allure our unthinking young men to scenes of frivolity and even vice, the question of providing counter attractions, where not only the senses will be pleased, but the intellectual faculties strengthened and developed, suggests itself to the minds of those who wish to promote the advancement and progress of the working classes, with a force not to be misunderstood.

During all the recent agitations for shorter hours of labor, one of the weightiest arguments used was, the felt need for more time to devote to the cultivation of the mind and intellect. The opponents of the short time movement were loud in their assertions that more leisure time meant more time for the billiard room and saloon, and that, therefore, the obtaining of shorter hours of labor, would prove not a blessing but a curse to those who secured them.

Now, to some extent, shorter hours of labor obtain in certain departments of industry, and it is incumbent upon those who are experiencing the benefit to so improve themselves that the assertion may be proved to a demonstration to be what we have always asserted—a foul slander upon the working classes.

It must not be forgotten by those who have been active in their efforts to obtain fewer hours of labor, that the mere fact of gaining that one point is not all that is necessary to better their condition—the obtaining of them must only be made the means to an end. A large portion, perhaps, of the operative classes, need to be waked up to the fact that with themselves there are many things to be changed—many habits to be improved—

and that there are efforts to be made for a better way of life other than to obtain more pay and fewer hours of labor. We must not be blind to the simplest principles of domestic and political economy—but bear in mind that an improved condition depends not less upon savings than earnings. These principles apply equally to the spending of time as well as money. Workingmen, if they wish to improve their condition, and better their way of life, must do it as well as others must—by beginning at home. We are free to say that too many of our class have, in the past, spent their evenings thoughtlessly, with little or no effort at cultivation or improvement, and if this state of things continue, their condition will not be improved, no matter what their wages may be, or their hours of labor. By this, we do not wish to be understood as saying that they have necessarily spent their leisure hours in scenes of profligacy—but, rather that, having no specific aim before them, their *failing* has been rather that of not using than abusing. We believe that in this country workingmen may, as a body, improve their condition and obtain a position of comfort and respect—if not competence—if they will but observe the conditions that are absolutely necessary to that end—the conditions only by which others have risen to such positions, and by which they maintain them.

And now for a moment we may refer to the means to be employed for the accomplishment of this end. There are many organizations in existence that might be utilized for this purpose, but perhaps no one of them is better adapted to meet all requirements than the recently organized society known as the "Canadian Labor Protection and Mutual Improvement Association." We have already stated in our columns that the object of this association is to promote intelligence among the working classes, by considering and discussing more fully and freely all questions, political and social, affecting their interests. In connection with the discussion of these questions there will necessarily be arguments and debates, and it is evident that these cannot be intelligently entered into without previous preparation, which implies study, and a better knowledge of the principles of political economy. Here, then, is one answer to the question, "How shall we spend our evenings?"—and in our opinion a very good one; because history tells us that as intelligence has spread among the operative classes, and their ideas of political economy has been enlarged, just in the same proportion has their position been ameliorated, and their condition improved.

We are not aware to what extent this organization has been established in this city; that it has been started we know; and we hope that those who have the matter in hand will set to work in earnest, and endeavor to make its meetings not only a time of profit, but of pleasure also.

We shall refer to this subject at some future occasion, and in the meantime would like to hear the views and opinions of our fellow workers in connection with this matter.

"THE REVIVERS" AND MR. BRIGHT.

Mr. Roberts, president of the Association of Revivers of British Industry, writes to Mr. Bright in reference to his late speech at Rochdale. He says—You speak of Free Trade having benefited the working man by giving him cheap food; are you aware that workmen all over the country are now striking, and they allege that food and rent are so much higher that they require higher wages? Are you aware that the introduction of foreign manufactures, duty free, has sent thousands of our best workmen out of the country, thousands into the workhouse, hundreds to death, and these results have thrown a heavy burden upon the ratepayers of the country? Are you aware that foreigners are buying our pig-iron in such quantities that it has increased in price, and that we also supply foreigners with such quantities of coals that we have to pay nearly double the former price? Are

you aware that the crews of our vessels mainly consist of foreign seamen? Are you aware that our increased exports mainly consist in the re-export of foreign imported raw material and manufactures, our coal and iron, and not in British manufactures solely, as we are led to believe by knaves who advocate one-sided free trade? Are you aware that the people who advocate one-sided free trade here are not the laboring classes, but middlemen, who buy and sell foreign goods, and English capitalists, who erect manufactories in foreign countries, and die worth millions by turning their own countrymen out of employment for their own especial benefit? I am sure, if your principles are sound, you can answer all these questions, and to our discomfiture; if you cannot, we shall feel that they have been justly doubted and assailed.

THE NATHAN MURDER.

The defence in Forrester's case will attempt to prove an *alibi*. John Connor, of New Orleans, with whom Forrester boarded, states that Forrester was in a southern State, dressed as a laborer when the Nathan murder was committed; and that plenty of witnesses can be brought forward to prove it. He also states the New York detectives offered him money and other inducements to betray Forrester, but he refused; that they told him the rewards for the discovery of the Nathan murder amounting to \$50,000, and that all they had to do was to put the crime on Forrester, and this they would have no trouble in doing, if they once had him in New York. On Forrester being brought up for examination before Justice Cowling on Monday, the District Attorney counselled a discontinuance of the proceedings, as he did not believe he could produce sufficient evidence to hold the prisoner, though he was morally convinced, from the evidence of Miss Keenan that he was in the city at the time of the murder. He would, however, be sent to serve an unexpired term of thirteen years imprisonment in Illinois. After some remarks by Counsellor Howe, claiming Forrester's entire innocence of the Nathan murder, Justice Dowling discharged Forrester, but remanded him to the Tombs to await the requisition from the Governor of Illinois.

THE SITUATION.

The *Iron Moulders International Journal* says:—We are pleased to note the continued good times in the foundry business. Trade everywhere seems to be rushing, especially in the stove branch. Moulders are in demand, and everything points to a prosperous fall trade, the continued scarcity and high price of iron being the only drawback, although the scarcity has not, so far as we can learn, affected anything but prices for the raw and manufactured article; no foundries or rolling mills are closed for want of iron, and we doubt not that the supply will be ample at present prices.

Experience has taught us that the present rush will not last very long, and we urge upon our members to prepare for the reaction, whether it be natural or forced. While we have reason to believe that until Christmas work will be steady, yet beyond that date no one can speak with any certainty. It therefore becomes us, profiting by past experience, to prepare for dull times—"in time of peace prepare for war;" perfect your Union; get its treasury in good condition; square your individual accounts with the Union; and, above all, look to your own individual treasury. "A word to the wise," etc.

LORD DUFFERIN.

On Tuesday evening His Excellency Lord Dufferin arrived in Toronto, and received at the hands of our citizens, a right royal welcome. The band of the 10th Royals headed the torch-light procession, which marched through several of the principal streets, and finally escorted His Excellency and suite to the residence of Lieutenant-Governor Howland, which was brilliantly illuminated. The Lieutenant-Governor gave a grand ball last night, in honor of Lord Dufferin, who goes to Hamilton this

morning to view the Provincial Exhibition, now being held in that City. His Excellency returns to Toronto on Friday, and will receive an address from the citizens. There will be an illumination in the evening.

HOMES FOR WORKINGMEN.

In the rural districts of Sweden, almost every mine, smelting house, or factory of any size, has near it houses specially designed for the use of workmen, neat little wooden cottages, with gardens and vegetable grounds, and many proprietors permit these to pass into actual ownership of the occupiers, taking payment in instalments. In the large towns, detached cottages are not possible, but the lodging-house system is extensively adopted. At Norkoping, each house of this sort has a basement, first floor, and attics, providing lodging for twenty-four married couples, each lodging comprising one good-sized room, a large kitchen, a small spare-room, and spacious cellars for wood and fuel: and so arranged that only two sets of rooms share the same entrance door. The attics supply space for a reading-room and four chambers for unmarried men; while in front of the building is a piece of ground divided into allotments for the cultivation of flowers. At Gothenburg the commune has erected, at a cost of \$15,000, ten one-storied houses, each containing seven sets of apartments of two rooms and a kitchen, and fourteen single rooms. The rents of these vary from \$1.25 to \$3.15 a month.

AN EVENT OF THE AGE.

One of the most remarkable events of the age we live in is now taking place in Peru. For two years past work has been progressing in the giant mastery of the Titan Andean chain. Last July work was commenced on the eastern terminus of the Lima and Oroya railroad, which is being constructed under a contract for 27,000,000 real by Henry I. Meigge. This road, which commences virtually at Callio, on the coast, is destined to cross an altitude of over 15,000 feet, and terminate at Oroya, a little Indian town, at an altitude of 12,200 feet. The Inca Indians, commonly known in that country as Cholos, are employed, being the only ones who can successfully operate at such high altitudes, where the rarity of the atmosphere prevents those who have been raised in lower places from working. The head camp and center for supplies is now at Yauli, a small mining town, at about 14,500 feet altitude. Eighteen miles of terreplein or grading, have been finished, and this month the work of making a tunnel through the crest of the Andes has begun. It will be worked from both ends with a force of fifteen hundred Indians engaged on it and in the vicinity. The tunnel will be 3,000 feet in length, and elevated above the sea higher than the summit of Mount Blanc. In an air it is distant from the western terminus on the Pacific coast only about sixty miles. The gradient is for the most part two hundred and eleven feet to the mile, or what is there called the four per cent. grade. Many expedients have been adopted in order to surmount the great engineering difficulties and so to lengthen the road to the best advantage for the purpose of continually gaining altitude. At one point above San Bartolome, about forty-two miles from Callao, it is necessary to resort to a V, which is simply a turn-table and switch, where the road takes an up-grade in reverse direction for several miles, and again returns, forming in its course almost a figure 8. The difficulty experienced in working at the eastern end may be at once comprehended when it is remembered that the mule train, with all the tools and provisions, with the exception of what may be obtained in the interior passes over an altitude of 16,500 feet, amid a cluster of peaks covered with perpetual snow. It is hoped by this road to develop the mineral wealth of the cordilleras, which consists of silver ore. Coal has also been discovered in the vicinity of Oroya Yauli, which must eventually prove a valuable resource in a country which is totally destitute of timber. With the exception of some coal, which

is rudely taken out and transported on the backs of Lamas to the principal camps, at a cost of \$20 per ton; nothing can be obtained for fuel excepting dried turf, "buffalo chips"—twenty-five cents a sack—and dried Lama dung. The latter is preserved by the ton for use in rude smelting at the mines. Thousands of sacks have been brought up for the railroad work, for burning lime, which abounds in that vicinity.—*Fort Edward Gazette.*

HEAR BOTH SIDES.

All that labor asks is a fair hearing. Capital can readily command the public ear. It has the means of reaching it, everywhere and at any time. But it is not so with labor. Its public advocates are few; its means for general discussion are small.

Suppose, for instance, capital declares that in giving labor the same pay for nine hours it now receives for ten, there shall be an increase of the prices of the necessities of life, will it be just in capital to do so? Will not labor be entitled to be heard in protest against the wrong? Has not labor the power to say whether it will pay these increased prices of capital? Is an article really worth a higher price, because a higher price is asked for it?

Do you say that capital is stronger than labor? We think not. Laborers are more numerous than capitalists. Therefore, labor consumes more than capital. Hence the importance of friendly co-operation between the two forces. Both sides should be heard. Both sides are on an equal footing. Neither side can afford to threaten the other. Labor admits that capital has rights. Capital must admit the same of labor.

The moment you begin to threaten a man, that moment you run the risk of making him an enemy. Capital and labor ought to be fast friends. They are naturally dependent on each other. Their interests are one and the same. Their friendship, therefore, should be natural and perpetual.

Capital cannot afford to quarrel with labor, any more than labor can afford to quarrel with capital. It is on this account we very much regret to see in certain influential quarters the threat thrown out that the payment of the wages of labor, at the rate of nine hours a day, shall be made up to capital by an increase of the prices of the means of subsistence. We earnestly hope that this threat will be withdrawn, and that its enforcement will not be attempted.

The honest laborer, who works nine hours a day, renders a fair equivalent for what he receives. He needs every one of these hours for his support. The remaining hours of the day are needed for his family and a due regard for his health and success as a workman. Will you repay the attempt of labor to rise in the scale of society by increasing the prices it has to pay for its daily bread?

We contend, and the result will yet prove it, that capital and labor will both be equal gainers by the establishment of shorter hours of labor. Labor will be improved in the character of its working force. The amount of work done, in the end, will be the same. The work will be better done. Best of all, the moral tone of labor will steadily and permanently advance, and every good interest of society will be promoted.—*SHOPLATE.*

THE WORKINGMAN ABROAD.

In Russia the condition of the artisan during late years has materially improved. A goodly portion of the working classes spend their winters in town, and summers in the country, flocking to the latter as soon as the warm weather sets in. Wages vary according to locality and seasons of the year, but are lowest in the districts where the hand-loom weavers congregate. Good mill hands in the cotton, silk, linen, cloth and carpet trades receive from \$7.50 to \$15 a month; ordinary mechanics, joiners, blacksmiths, etc., are paid from 75 cents to \$1.50 a day; while skilled mechanics and engine-drivers can earn from \$1.50 to \$2.50 or even more. In Austria every trade has its special guild, the members of which are divided into three