

# 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.

Reports from the Chicago K.O.S.C. are unfavorable, a general dullness is said to prevail.

A reduction of puddlers' and ironworkers' wages is being acceded to in Scotland.

The Amalgamated Weavers of Leeds have lately determined on adding an Out of Work fund to all their branches.

The Valley furnaces and rolling mill at Sharon, Pa., are idle. They have a large stock of ore and pig iron on hand.

The London carmen have decided on memorialising all the railway and town master carriers for an increase of wages and a shortening of the hours of labor.

Another window glass works is about being built at Wheeling Va., on a capital stock of sixty thousand dollars, all of which is subscribed.

The spirit of re-organization has taken possession of the St. Crispins of Baltimore—one lodge having reinstated 175 members at one meeting.

All puddlers and boilers are hereby warned that the puddlers of Cumberland are out on a strike for their just rights, and persons of that trade are requested to keep away and let them settle their own difficulties.

The number of London bakers, according to the *Bakers Record*, is from 13,000 to 16,000, and yet not more than 2,000 are enrolled in the two Unions that exist in their trade.

The carpet weavers of England and Scotland met on Thursday the 8th ult., and agreed to advance the workmen's wages 10 per cent.

The second conference of the Amalgamated Laborers' union commenced at Cardiff on Monday Jan. 5th. Forty-six districts, embracing 10,000 members were represented. The programme includes the question of labor representation in Parliament and the appointment of district agents.

The workmen employed in mining and smelting in Prussia are united in a kind of self-insurance society, the object of which is the supporting of the sick, superannuated, widowed, and orphaned members of the craft.

It appears from correspondence in the *Warehouseman's Journal* that a Belfast muslin weaver at hand-loom work, were he to work for 16 hours a day, could scarcely earn 15d.—less than a 1d. an hour.

The ship carpenters now on strike have determined to make direct contracts for repairs of vessels, as well as ship-building. They guarantee that all work shall be done in a first-class manner, as they are composed of skilled mechanics of every ship-yard in the Philadelphia.

The carpet weavers as a body still hold out in their strike as against reduction of pay in Philadelphia; but there is much suffering reported among them; and it is generally believed that they must eventually yield, as the small demand necessitates a reduction of wages or a stoppage.

The New Haven Union says:—The Sovereigns of Industry, the new order of the working classes, and all others who sympathize with the anti-monopoly movement, is making rapid headway here in the East. Its success promises to be as remarkable as that of its twin order, the Patrons of Husbandry.

The cigarmakers of Chicago are feeling the effect of the panic as severally as any branch of mechanics. The business is very dull at the present time, not more than one-half being able to find employment. The trade is in a worse condition than it has been for several years.

The case of the 45 colliers on strike at Messrs. Blackwell's colliery, Pressgavene, who were summoned for leaving work without notice, was heard on the 8th ult. at Oswestry. These men were summoned as the principal offenders, but the number who

left work was about 400. On the suggestion of Colonel Lovett, a compromise was effected. One man, John Davis, was fined 1s. and costs, the other 44 costs only. The men to return to work the next morning, giving a fortnight's notice, to allow time for an amicable settlement.

A conference of London employers in the engineering trade, called at the instance of those whose men have struck, was held on Wednesday to consider the demands of the men. It was resolved that the employers, whose workmen had required a minimum rate of 38s. per week, or a general rise of 2s., be requested to communicate to them that they entirely decline to treat with their employes as a body, but are quite prepared to consider the value of the services of each workman individually, and to increase the remuneration of such as deserve an advance. The meeting was adjourned in order to receive a report as to the result of this communication, and every firm represented pledged itself, in the event of the report being unfavorable, to lock up their establishments till a majority of their number determined otherwise.

On the afternoon of the 9th ult a meeting of the engineers on strike and lockout was held at the Volunteer, Limehouse; Mr. Shaw took the chair. The whole of the delegates gave in their statements, showing that interviews with the firms had taken place between the representatives of the men of Messrs. Ravenhill and Easton, of Stepney; Messrs. Hodges and Messrs. Dudgeon, of Millwall; Messrs. Blyth's, of Limehouse; and of Messrs. Jackson and Watkins. The statements were nearly all the same, and to the effect that their employers had stated that they did not wish to part with any of their old hands if they could help it. They were willing they said, to give the rise asked for to all men whose services were really worth the money, but they maintained that there were some to whom they could not give it, as, for instance, partially experienced men, and also in the cases of men who, as they got older, got more enfeebled. They all were firm in their determination not to treat with the men in a body. A long and exciting discussion ensued, and ultimately it was carried by a majority of about two-thirds, "That the men accept the master's proposition, and resume work on Monday morning at the usual hour."

## LABOR PORTRAITS.

"Men who, in advance of law and in opposition to prevailing opinion, have forced into national recognition the hitherto disregarded rights of labor."

MR. WILLIAM PATERSON,  
SECRETARY ASSOCIATED CARPENTERS AND JOINERS' SOCIETY, SCOTLAND.

Was born at Elgin, the country town of Morayshire, on the 3rd January, 1843. His father, a journeyman joiner, was employed in the district for a number of years prior to the birth of the subject of our sketch. He was sent to school when about four years of age, for the purpose (as his mother said) of keeping him out of mischief. He remained at the junior school about four years, when he was sent to the Elgin Trades' School, and continued there till he was nearly fifteen years of age. At this school he soon made his mark at arithmetic, and was successful at six examinations in securing the first prize in his class. The teacher Mr. McKenzie, took a lively interest in his progress, and stimulated him to greater efforts by the study of mathematics and other branches taught in the school. In 1856, he secured seven prizes in different classes in addition to a prize awarded to the best general scholar, by an old scholar carrying on a successful business in the United States. On leaving school he was occupied in various ways for some time, occasionally clerking, assisting in measuring land, and other work of a similar nature. In his early school days the wages paid in the district to joiners were 13s. per week, and it will be matter of surprise how both ends were made to

meet on this scanty sum; the family, including parents, at this period numbered seven, and in the winter time when working only seven hours per day, the wages to provide for the whole was 9s. 1d. per week. His father had commenced business on his own account some years before young Paterson left school, and was anxious that his son should not follow his own trade. All remonstrance was useless, the Elgin Academy had no attractions compared to the joiner's bench, and he began work in the winter of 1856. In December of that year he was sent to the Black Isle, Rose-shire, where his father had secured the joiner work of two dwelling houses which were to be erected on new farms there. His experience of this district were very similar to those of Augh Miller, so graphically described in his "Schools and Schoolmaster." No lodgings were to be obtained near to the work and the squad had to "booby," i. e., make their own food, &c.; the bulk of this work had to be performed by the youngest apprentice. All victuals had to be cooked, bread baked, &c., by him, and on more than one occasion during thunderstorms the squad had to rise in the middle of the night to clear the bothy of from one to two feet of water. A year of this life had no effect upon his determination to be a joiner. On returning to Elgin he wrought during the remainder of his apprenticeship in the city (for Elgin is a city) and district. On the completion of his apprenticeship he evinced the spirit which has since often been brought into prominence by going along with the journeymen on the first pay day and demanding his journeymen's wages. The wages were paid by his father without demur, and continued for fully a year, when his father got into financial difficulties through having granted accommodation bills to a firm with whom he did business.

As some unfinished contracts were on hand at this time, the architect arranged with the subject of our sketch for their completion, which he satisfactorily finished. Shortly after this (in November, 1863), he left Elgin for Edinburgh, where he joined the association, of which he is now General Secretary, in the following spring. His father and other members of the family soon followed, and took up their residence at Portobello, where he has since been employed. He soon took a lively interest in its affairs, and was elected on committee, and shortly after branch secretary. He had only served a few months in the latter capacity, when the Reform agitation of 1866 assumed a practical shape in Edinburgh. A meeting of trade representatives was held, at which W. Paterson was elected as interim secretary. His interim, however, lasted throughout the agitation, as he not only conducted the work in connection with the demonstration held in November, 1866, but acted as Secretary for a branch of the Scottish Reform League for a year after. In April, 1867, a delegate meeting of the Association was held in Glasgow, on which occasion he represented the Edinburgh branch, between whom and the Executive Committee considerable differences had existed for some time, and which differences had been the principal reason for calling the meeting. This meeting, more than anything else, brought him under the notice of the members of the Association. In October of this year the office of General Secretary was declared to be vacant, owing to the resignation of Mr. Matson. William Paterson was nominated by the Edinburgh and Edinburgh (West) branches; there were eight other candidates, but he had more votes than all the others combined. He took office on 1st February, 1868, having removed to Glasgow for that purpose.

Edinburgh was soon after elected as the seat of government, where he removed in February, 1869, where the seat of government still remains. He is now about to enter on his third period of three years, having been elected for the second term without opposition, and again elected last November by a very large majority over other two candidates. It may be interesting as showing the progress of the associ-

ation to state that it was formed in September, 1861. In October, monthly (which is the first printed report issued), there appears to have been 11 branches, and 630 members; in 1867 there were 55 branches, and 3,562 members; in 1873, 87 branches, and 5,007 members. The annual income of the association is nearly £6,000, and there has been expended, during the past twelve years—

Sick Allowance.....	£10,655	9	3d.
Funeral Allowance.....	2,827	0	0
Disabled Bonuses.....	2,700	0	0
Tools' Compensation.....	2,048	11	11d.
Cessation of Work.....	3,608	9	9d.

Leaving Funds on Hand at

31st Oct., 1873.....	7,630	3	4d.
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There is, perhaps, no other trade association that issues so completely detailed reports as the Associated Carpenters and Joiners of Scotland do every fortnight. Full details of all income and expenditure in each branch is published every month, and while it entails a considerable amount of work and expense, it enables each branch to acquire a thorough knowledge of the others. While William Paterson has been fully occupied with trade matters for the past eight years, he has not been idle as a politician. He rendered good assistance at the General Election, 1868, in securing the return of the three Liberal members for Glasgow. In 1870 he attended the conference of Scotch Trades Unions in Edinburgh, and was one of the committee who drafted the Bill adopted by the conference for the legalising of trades unions. In November of that year he came a candidate for the Edinburgh Town Council in the interests of the working classes, but was defeated, 932 votes having been given for Mr. Younger, brewer, and 872 for William Paterson. Since then he has rendered good service to the Liberal cause in municipal politics. The greater portion of the arrangements in securing the return of that advanced politician and social reformer, Baillie Lewis, when assailed by the Tories and liquor interest, fell upon him, while he also gave good assistance last November in securing the return of Councillor Buchanan. He took an active interest in the recent demonstration in Edinburgh for the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, being chairman on one of the platforms, and more recently took the leading part in questioning Mr. McLaren, the senior member for Edinburgh at a meeting of his constituents, on this measure. The answers to the questions not being satisfactory, he proposed and carried by a large majority a vote of no confidence in Mr. McLaren. It may be added that William Paterson married in 1866, that he has three children alive and two dead.—*Bee-Hive.*

## CURRENT EVENTS.

The Third Session of the second Parliament of the Province of Quebec has been prorogued.

The proprietors of the Whittenton Mills, in Taunton, Mass., have raised the wages of operatives to the ante-panic rates, and are working full time.

A wealthy London firm of four brass founders has just dissolved partnership. Three of them could not sign their names, and have always put their cross to the firm's documents.

A despatch from St. Paul, Minn., states that 20 men, engaged in chopping wood near Port Rice, Dakota Territory, were murdered by Sioux Indians early in the week.

Miss Sanders a high respectable young lady of Memphis, attended a masked ball on Wednesday night last and has not been seen since. It is feared she has been abducted.

The earliest Junta here announces that the municipality of Bilbao have offered to surrender that city in one week, but the insurgents refuse to grant more than four days before making an attack.

The Shah of Persia explains his reason for annulling his concessions to Baron Reuter, by stating that he did not think the enterprise would receive the necessary financial report.

One hundred and sixty barrels of flour have been sent by the millers of Minneapolis to the sufferers by the grasshoppers in the south-

western Counties of Minnesota. Their ravages were very severe, and great suffering is reported.

A mass meeting of Liberals who supported Thos Hughes was held in Marylebone last Saturday night, at which Mr. Hughes delivered a long address, in the course of which he declared himself in favour of a co-operative association of workmen.

Information received from the Gold Coast states that the main force under Sir Garnet Wolseley reached the river Prah. On the 1st of January the advance guard had penetrated thirteen miles beyond the Prah.

The new mayor of Liverpool, Mr. A. B. Walker, a wealthy brewer and colliery proprietor, has offered to build an art gallery in that city, at a cost of £20,000. The council has accepted the offer, and proposes to call the building "The Walker Gallery of Art."

The Chinese employed in the cutlery works at Beaver Falls, Pa., on Saturday attempted to kill Ah Poy the overseer and interpreter as he passed through the works believing that he had misappropriated their funds. The police came to his rescue. The Chinese then attacked the latter with knives, forks, pieces of iron &c. The police finally clubbed them into a retreat after wounding ten or twelve of them seriously.

A testimonial consisting of a rose-colored Irish poplin dress and a suit of Irish point lace, was presented to Madame Titien in Dublin the other day as a mark of appreciation from the Irish people.

The Prussian Upper House has rejected by a large majority the bill abolishing the stamp duty on newspapers which was passed some weeks ago by the Lower Chamber, where only six voted against it. Only last session the Upper House passed a resolution that the press stamp be abolished Jan. 1, 1874.

The *Richmond Enquirer* says hundreds of well-to-do English families are preparing to emigrate to Virginia in the spring. Land has already been purchased by Englishmen in Amelia county to the extent of \$60,000, and the settlers are well pleased to own their farms instead of renting land at home for \$25 an acre.

The *Ottawa Times* says:—The male convicts in the gaol are, so soon as the weather permits, to be put to the study of geology, for which the prison gaol affords a wide and profitable field. A considerable amount of stone has already been quarried out of it, and will be broken in order that it may be utilized for macadamising purposes.

A terrible boiler explosion took place at Shields' boiler works Peoria, Ill. on Saturday morning. The shock was like an earthquake, and was felt throughout the city. John Shields, the proprietor, was testing the boiler when the explosion occurred, and he was blown 150 feet against a pile of lumber, crushing his body into an unrecognizable mass, scattering his head and feet over the entire neighbourhood. No one else was seriously injured.

A China woman was stolen from one husband by another husband in Sacramento. After a long search the police found her, and she was taken before Justice Cantwell. The husbands were there, and equally strenuous in pressing their claims. There was no evidence in support of the statements of either, and Justice Cantwell was puzzled. Out of this dilemma, however, an expedient found a way. The husbands and the wife were ranged in a row in front of the bench, and the woman was told to choose between the two men. She hesitated a little, but finally took the youngest, and the police were instructed to keep the fellow away in future. The chosen husband was the one who had stolen her.

"One of those cute Yankees," says the *St. John's Tribune*, "so often heard of, yesterday cheated the Western Railway out of his fare very cleverly. He had a mile and a half to go, which would cost him five cents. He had no idea, however, of paying any money for a short ride, so he got on the train near Lincoln and in front of the baggage car, where the conductor does not go looking for tickets. At the next station the man got off, having paid pretty dear for his ride. Both his ears and two of his fingers were frozen solid. He thought that he would never steal a ride again when the mercury was 20 degrees below zero."

A despatch from Padding reports that cholera has broken out in Acheen. It was rumoured that the Sultan of Acheen had died of it, and the war is virtually at an end.

The prisoners revolted in Hudson, N. J., county gaol on Saturday, because the supply of tobacco was cut off, and nine of them were ironed and placed in the dark cells.