

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.

The demand of the operative shoemakers in Dunfermline for an advance of wages to the extent of 15 per cent. has been conceded by the masters.

The Cleveland Trades' Assembly was formally organized June 4th, 1873. Twenty-eight delegates were present. There are nineteen trade Unions in Cleveland, with an aggregate membership of 2000 men.

Nine master shoemakers in Aberdeen had up to lately acceded to the men's demands for an advance equal to 10 per cent., and the others are expected to follow. A number of the masons have received an increase equal to 17 per cent.

A few firms outside the Employers' Association in Leicester, have given 10 per cent., leaving the other 5 per cent. to a future time, this has been accepted by the men and the same terms offered to the Associated Employers, but this had also been refused.

The Birmingham Trades' Council have taken up the cause of the letter carriers, who are unable to agitate of themselves for an increase of wages. A committee has reported on the wages paid to this class of public servants, and it was resolved to petition Parliament on their behalf.

The men employed by the Patent Shaft and Axle-tree Company at Wednesbury have been agitating for weekly instead of fortnightly payments. At a special meeting lately, the directors refused to grant the request, and there is now every probability of an extensive strike.

The claims of the carpenters and joiners having been laid before Samuel Hope, Esq., Recorder of Bolton, who again acted as arbitrator, the employers and the men being unable to come to terms, the award given is that the men shall receive an advance of 2s. 6d. a week upon the previous rate of wages, making it £1 12s. 6d., the working hours remaining as before.

This combination of laborers at Lincoln, has passed through a terrible ordeal, and with only £25 of outside assistance has fought and won no fewer than thirteen different "lock-outs," and over 280 of its members are now working nine hours a day only. At present there is a large number of the members migrating and emigrating, no fewer than thirty families having left the village in one week en route for Canada.

Arrangements have been made between the Carpenters and Joiners of Oldham, and the Builders, that the wages shall be 8d. an hour, being an advance of 1/4d. an hour, alterations have also been made in the working rules such as ceasing work at 4 o'clock on New Year and Christmas Eves, and yet be paid full time, men working at country jobs will have time allowed when necessary to remove their tools home or to the shops, in lieu of which, 2 hours wages will be allowed. The working time during 8 weeks in winter will be 46 1/2 hours, and for the remaining 44 weeks, 51 1/2 hours.

A very important and largely-attended meeting of delegates representing the miners of Scotland, to the number of about 40,000, was held in Glasgow lately. The delegates gave in reports, from which it was found that the miners in all the districts were willing to defer the proposed strike until the conference between the mine owners and the men had taken place, after which action could be taken according to the result then come to. Mr. McDonald, president of the National Association of Miners of Great Britain, suggested the propriety of the men continuing work until the 1st of June, and if no arrangement was come to by that time then let the whole of the miners come out on strike. The meeting unanimously agreed to this proposition. Comments were made by a number of delegates on the action the Home Secretary had taken in the matter.

The whole of the engine cleaners and firemen employed on the North British Railway system have signed a petition to Mr. Wheatley, the local superintendent, praying for the following advance on the pre-

sent scale of wages:—Engine cleaners to 18s. per week, pilot firemen 23s., and passengers main line firemen 25s. The workmen base their demand on the ground that the general work is becoming much heavier, and that the hours are longer than formerly, caused mainly by an excess of traffic and consequence delays of trains. They also point out that provisions and the cost of living have so much increased that their present rate of wages is insufficient to meet their personal necessities. The petitioners announce that if the demand is not granted they will cease to be servants of the company at the expiration of fourteen days from the date of presenting the petition.

A numerously-attended meeting of the Operative House Painters, Society and non-society, was held recently at the Harewood Arms, Harewood street, Leeds, Mr. John Shutt, the president of the society, in the chair. Mr. Cowell moved the first resolution, viz.:—"That this meeting, recognizing the importance of combination as a means of obtaining for the working man his just rights and privileges, pledges itself to support combination by every legitimate means in its power. This was seconded by Mr. M. Johnson, and supported by Mr. T. Shortland. The resolution was adopted.—Mr. S. Dennison then proposed the second resolution,—"That this meeting, viewing the advantages which have been obtained by the painters of Leeds, through the action and influence of the society, accords to the society its warmest thanks, and pledges itself to support it by every means in its power. After being seconded by Mr. Park, the resolution was supported by Mr. Frank Jackson, and carried.

SIR JOHN BENNETT ON FARMERS AND LABORERS.

On Thursday the annual "club feast" of the Mountfield Mutual Aid Society, at St. John's Cross, East Sussex, was the occasion of a gathering of farmers and laborers, whose assemblage adds another feature to the "laborers' question" in the present day. The chair was taken by Sir John Bennett, a freeholder and farmer of the district, and in proposing the toast of "Success to the Mutual Aid," he earnestly advised the farmers to take up the cause of the laborers, and the laborers to row in the same boat as the farmers. He dwelt at length upon the miserable condition of the laborers in that county, in their bad pay, the rate of wages which permitted the laborer with a family to taste meat once a week; in their housing, the cottages in which they lived being miserably unhealthy, besides the inconvenience in having to walk many miles to their labor; and in their general position as regarded the education and well-being of their families. He urged that the southern laborers should not be behindhand in following the example of their northern brethren, and that the farmers would find their interest in going with the laborers, and in obtaining for themselves their full political power, so as to remedy the evils of the laws, the game laws, and the other bad laws, which prevented those who tilled the soil from enjoying its fruits. He called upon the young men to join a society like that of the "Mutual Aid," not only for the money value in time of trouble, but for the feeling of sturdy independence which they would feel at having a friend in a time of trouble upon whom they had a right to call. He said he had seen the laborers much improved by these "aids," and when he first came down there he was quite struck with their depressed and low condition. He rejoiced to see that they were overcoming some of the evils which had afflicted them. It was time they were better fed and better housed; and it was time that no landlord or farmer should say, as was said there, that he would have no laborer who was not "under his thumb." The remarks were well received, and Sir John was escorted home with a band of music.

PREVENTION OF ARTISANS' DISEASES.

In a recent lecture by Dr. Mapother, on the subject of the prevention of artisans' diseases, he said that the special diseases which ill-regulated trades induce may be placed under three classes: 1. Those due to the entrance of dust into the lungs; 2. Those due to slow poisoning; 3. Those which constrained positions or overwork in close rooms engender. Stone cutters suffer from lung affections by inhaling minute particles of stone, which irritate the lungs and excite inflammation. The working of flax is also very detrimental, giving rise constantly to asthmatic complaints. At paper works the teasing of the shoddy, and at marine stores the picking of rags, create a most stifling and hurtful dust. The remedy for dusty trades was, first, to use a respirator which would filter the air. He had devised one some years since which was found to be very effectual, and cost only a few pence. It consisted of a wire gauze covering the mouth and nose, lined by a layer of cotton wool a quarter of an inch thick. Other remedies were ventilation by means of McKinnel's tube; the action of steam fans; and the peremptory exclusion from all labor requiring vigorous muscular and breathing efforts, of persons under eighteen, whose organs up to that age are not strong enough to resist ill-usage. Having referred to the diseases which occur among those who work with lead, copper, mercury, phosphorus, and arsenic, and the chemical and mechanical appliances for their prevention, he alluded next to the case of seamstresses. Weakness of sight, from over-use of the eyes, with badly arranged light, and indigestion, from bad and hasty meals and long sitting in a close room, are diseases which have been commonly observed among needle workers, who number in Dublin between seven and eight thousand.

THE ENGLISH PEACE SOCIETY.

The principal speech at the meeting of the Peace Society was made by Mr. Morley. This was the honorable Member's first appearance on that platform, although a subscriber of some standing to the funds. It is noteworthy that he was recognized as a sound peace man, notwithstanding his avowed conviction that England must keep up an efficient navy for defensive purposes. In his speech he showed his well-known confidence in the working men of the country, to whom, indeed, he devoted the greatest part of his remarks. He had heard, he said, with great pleasure what was said in the report about the growing interest on the subject. During a vast deal of intercourse with working men, he had always found among them a sentiment of opposition to war, and a desire to promote by every means in their power the adoption of the principle of arbitration. That sentiment was increasing under the leadership of such men as Mr. Cremer, Secretary of the Working Men's Peace Association. Beyond all doubt, the people, in the broadest sense of the word, were coming into power. He believed the extended franchise would be used on the side of principles that night being advocated. It was true wisdom to promote intercourse among nations; and he had always rejoiced when excursion trains brought working men from the Continent to visit working men in England. The more the people of the earth shook hands, the stronger would be their opposition to war; and he rejoiced in the almost entire disappearance of passports and the promotion of travelling facilities on both sides. In like manner, great good would result from international coinage; and he was sorry that in the reconstruction of foreign coinage there had not been more assimilation. He hoped what were termed the influential classes would seek to come more into contact with the working classes. (Cheers.) During an extensive commercial experience, he had had something to do with disputes between tradesmen, and had had the great satisfaction of preventing law

proceedings, and promoting a better understanding. He entirely subscribed to the opinion that men were bad judges in their own quarrels, and had often observed how the judgment was perverted and passions were excited in such cases. What applied in that respect to individuals, he held to be true also of nations; and the promotion of the best interests of nations, even in a material point of view, as well as in reference to the great principle of promoting "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace," was completely frustrated by the wretched arbitrament of war. For our own part, we are quite sure that the working men of Great Britain will justify all that Mr. Morley has here predicted of them, and will heartily respond to the noble sentiments which he here expresses.—*Bee Hive.*

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Her Majesty's commissioners are most desirous that the practical illustrations and processes of manufactures shown in each year's exhibition should be made conducive to the advancement of technical instruction. Her Majesty's commissioners venture to think that it comes within the especial function of the companies of the City of London, who for centuries have been connected with the advancements of arts and manufactures, to consider what useful lessons may be afforded by the exhibitions, and they invite their serious attention to the subject. Most, if not all of the City companies are interested in education in various schools under their direction. It is proposed to hold a meeting of representatives of all the City companies in the Royal Albert Hall; to invite them to look at the industrial collections of the present year, and afterwards to form committees representing each of the companies interested.

Among the scientific inventions at the exhibition, one of the most interesting and beautiful is the process of glass engraving by means of the sandblast. Though brought out some time since in the United States, it is only now that we in England have an opportunity of seeing this process at work.

Her Majesty's commissioners announce that they will allow a reduction of 25 per cent. on parties of workmen of any number not less than fifty visiting the exhibition.

Lately a very interesting addition to the exhibition was opened in the Indian court. The majority of the objects have been sent by the Indian Government, and comprise some very fine specimens of native workmanship. There is a very correct representation of a carpet bazaar, with the lay figure of an Indian smoking his hookah; while some very fine Indian tapestry is exhibited by London firms. Among the other exhibits are brass and copper utensils for domestic use, silks from Bombay and Scinde, and models of the various carts, waggons, and palkis used in the mountains. The gold and silver embroidery from Benares and Scinde is especially worthy of inspection. There is also a collection of water-color paintings by Mr. William Taylor, the late commissioner, an extensive collection of hookahs, some gold work from Central Asia, and some very pretty lacework from the missionary schools at Madras.

Two persons being engaged in a duel, after the first fire one of the seconds proposed that they should shake hands and make it up. The other second said he saw no particular necessity for that, for their hands had been shaking ever since they began!

"Here's your money, dolt. Now, you intolerable donkey, tell me why your scoundrelly master wrote me eighteen letters about this little contemptible sum?" said the exasperated debtor. "I'm sure, sir, I can't tell, sir; but if you'll excuse me, sir, I think it was because seventeen letters didn't bring the chink."

The greatest friend of truth is time; her greatest enemy is prejudice; and her constant companion is humility.

THE CHIPPING NORTON DELINQUENTS.

Have the public had enough of the Great Unpaid, now? The two clerical magistrates—dispensers of justice and preachers of mercy and charity—who sentenced sixteen women of Chipping Norton to hard labor for a new statutory offence, and upon the first conviction; are the latest, and, perhaps, the most splendid recent examples of the evils of the existing feudal style of appointing judges over their neighbors. Two of the women went to gaol with infants at the breast! The offence of the fair sixteen was that they had coerced or intimidated certain persons, with the object of making them leave their employment. The women were wrong in their disorderly and threatenings proceedings at the gate of a field where two new laborers were to work; but the offence was committed in ignorance, to begin with, and amounted to no more intimidation than a single policeman could quell. A reprimand from the Bench would have been a severe measure, for a warning was all that was needed. But hard labor in a common gaol, and inflicted by clergymen—one of whom has preached in the country for twenty-four years—is a measure of vengeance, that will not allay the bitter feeling which the unpaid magistracy has spread over the movement of the agricultural laborers. If there are noodles among the Great Unpaid, who imagine that agricultural strikes are to be put down by casting women into prison, they make even a greater blunder than any of which the late Albany Fonblanque convicted them; and for which he flogged them, to the great delight of lovers of justice, up and down the columns of the *Examiner*.

LONDON TRADES.

(From London Labor News.)

In the Northern District of London, the several industries from copper, tin, brass and iron, are in full activity, and bookbinders' firms are well on for work.

In the neighborhood of the West India Docks, the large timber merchants scarce know how to find thick timber and deals for their West end customers, and this is a good omen for building operatives.

The shipbuilding yards are fairly on for work again, and shipcarpenters are getting very scarce.

Steamship engineers are also at a premium, and at their trade-house in Wapping there are none on the books.

The Pool is full of shipping, and the lightermen, stevedores and all kinds of river labour are working overtime.

In the City the wholesale houses can scarcely attend to their numerous orders, and the commercials speak well of all trades.

At the West-end, coachbuilding is somewhat more slack. Cabinet-makers, upholsters, silversmiths, tailors, shoemakers and gunsmiths, are, however, still very busy.

At Lambeth, the potteries are well on for trade. In Southwark, the glass industries are as busy as can be, but as the weather gets hotter trade will get slack. Steam-engine works, engineers, ironworkers and moulders are in full swing, and the wireworkers are beginning to get busy.

Out Battersea and Wandsworth, the candle trades are well on for orders, and the patent horse-nails and shoes are employing a great number of hands.

The papermakers must be very busy, if the continued activity of London compositors and bookbinders be any gauge.

The London hat trade is somewhat slack. The rumoured strike of building operatives is, I hear, not likely to take place this year.

The number of new patents granted is greatly on the increase, and many, no doubt, will soon tell upon manual labor.—*Labor News.*

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