

Ontario Workman.

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

VOL. II.—No. 45.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1874.

No. 97.

THE TRADES' UNION CONGRESS, SHEFFIELD.

THIRD DAY—WEDNESDAY.

The delegates resumed their sittings at the Temperance Hall this morning, under the presidency of Mr. William Rolley.

THE COMMUNICATION FROM GENEVA.

Mr. McDonald moved:—

"That this Congress receives with great pleasure the expressions of goodwill contained in the papers read from the consul at Geneva, and as a mark of their interest in the welfare of their continental brother workers, would advise a prudent, an intelligent, and, above all things, a peaceable continuance of their efforts, on behalf of the cause of labour, a cause on which, to a great extent, depends the peace and welfare of society generally, and that this Congress without hesitation pledges itself that the trades unionists of England will, whenever practicable, give such counsel to their brother trades unionists on the continent as their best experience can furnish, as they believe the cause of labour to be the same everywhere, and its success tends everywhere to a peaceable and equitable adjustment of the present and conflicting interests of labour and capital."

Mr. Owen (Hanley), seconded the resolution.

Mr. Mottershead (London) moved— "That the question stand adjourned to the next Congress, and that the Congress further instruct its Parliamentary Committee to ascertain all information possible prior to the next Congress."

Mr. Allen (London), seconded the motion. He said it would be very wrong of them to pass a resolution without making any inquiries into the facts of the case. He thought if they identified themselves by resolution with the trades on the Continent they would make a great mistake. His constituents would find fault with him if he voted in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Frederic Harrison (London) supported the amendment. He considered it would be extremely unwise if the Congress were to put themselves into anything like formal and direct communication with a body of which they knew so little as they did of this society. It was one of the distinguished features of the trades unionism of this kingdom that it applied itself strictly to trade matters, and that it has never favored any general theories of social regeneration apart from their trade organizations, and the improvement of industry in a business-like way. Whilst he agreed with those who thought that friendly feeling ought to be extended to every body of workers in this country and in other countries, and that a real sense of brotherhood amongst working men should grow more and more clear over the whole extent of Western Europe, and whilst there was an amount of friendly feeling and friendly cooperation amongst them, he thought it would be most unwise to step out of the attribute of quiet reserve which had been hitherto maintained by the unionists in this country, and not to mix themselves up in generally ill-understood and very little known European confederations.

Mr. Lloyd Jones observed that as considerable difference of opinion prevailed he should refrain from saying one word whatever by way of recommending to the Congress any given course of action. He, however, did not think that by the resolution they were committed to the men or a policy in any part of the world. It simply expressed approval of their own action, advised it to be pursued in peace, and declared that if it were they were prepared to give any advice they could to help those who were carrying it on. He saw no danger in that. It mattered not to them who sent it. He saw no danger in it, and he thought they might adopt the resolution.

Mr. Mundella, M.P., said he thought the decision which they were about to come to was one of some importance. He had read with a great deal of care the resolution which had been submitted by Mr. McDonald. Certainly no resolution could be submitted of a more harmless character than the one Mr. McDonald had submitted. While he agreed with every word of it, he was bound to say he loaned to Mr. Mottershead's amendment. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Odger (London), said he should be very glad if they could co-operate with their continental brethren upon a solid foundation. The federation was one of a fantastical character, and not one with which they could safely amalgamate. He did not think they would be justified in taking that course, as hundreds of thousands of workmen would refuse to sanction this arrangement.

A show of hands was then taken. The amendment was carried by a large majority.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Mr. G. Potter (London) said the delegates who were instructed to prepare a resolution on this subject had agreed to the following:—"That this Congress expresses its satisfaction with the progress made during the past year in evoking public opinion in the country, and the great increase in the number of members of Parliament, who had promised to vote for the entire repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act; and that every delegate present pledges himself to assist in holding public meetings, arranging demonstrations, and making such other efforts as are in his power to remove this obnoxious piece of class legislation. If the Act is not repealed during the ensuing session of Parliament, it shall be the duty of working men to oppose all candidates at the next general election who uphold the Act. That the Parliamentary Committee be empowered to press the Government to undertake the repeal of the Act; and in the event of them declining to do so, to get Mr. Mundella to move for its repeal on the first night of the session."

Mr. George Odger seconded the resolution.

Mr. Cornish (Wigars) said the only way of carrying out this resolution was for the whole of the trades now represented to be in federation with trades councils throughout the country. If they were to carry out the resolution they must be united, and be in entire sympathy with the whole of the trades now represented.

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

THE CONSPIRACY ACT.

Mr. Broadhurst (London), moved a resolution on this subject, which had been prepared by the Standing Orders Committee. To discuss these Acts, he said would be a waste of time. They were all agreed that the Act required amendment. The prosecution of the London gasmen, and the Barnsley miners dispute, some of the leaders in which were now under notice of prosecution under this Act, were instances to show that amendment was need. In this latter instance, the matter could have been met by the Criminal Law Amendment Act, or the Masters and Servants Act. The resolution was—

"That the existing law of conspiracy was vague in its character and excessive in its penalties, and that it requires amendment in the sense of the bill introduced into Parliament by the Solicitor-General during the last session; and this Congress pledges itself to use every effort to ensure an amendment of the law."

Mr. Guile (London), seconded the resolution, which was then put and carried.

THE MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT.

Mr. Shipton (London) moved a resolution prepared by the Standing Orders Committee on this subject. Trades unionists he said, objected to the criminal clauses of this Act, because they were invidious and inflicted an injustice on working men. They wanted to be put on the same footing as employers—that the penalties should be the same for master as for man; in other words, that breaches of contract being civil offences, they should be met by a pecuniary penalty instead of by imprisonment. They intended to make it known that they did not mean to put up any longer with being criminally punished for a civil offence. The resolution was—

"That the Congress condemns and demands the criminal clauses of the Masters and Servants Act, 1867, for the following reasons:—That the Act does not adequately define the offences which it creates, that it institutes an unusual procedure, and that

it attaches a criminal punishment to a purely civil breach of agreement."

Mr. Bailey (Leicester) seconded the motion, and hoped working men would never rest until they had stood equal before the law with all other classes of their fellow men.

Mr. Halliday (Bolton) rose to support the proposition. Their could be no doubt that the working men of this country suffered great hardship in consequence of the criminal clauses of the Masters and Servants Act, it was high time the trades unionists of the country bestirred themselves to have those clauses repealed. A portion of the Act was being brought into operation in a very arbitrary manner on a body of men in Birmingham. A strike and lock-out having occurred there, a number of non-unionists men were brought from a distance by the employers, and summonses were issued against eleven persons for conspiracy. It would, therefore, be necessary for the trades unionists of the country to keep themselves wide-awake, for what applied to one body of men applied to another. The executive of the Amalgamated Society of Miners were determined to follow the case in which he had alluded to every nook and corner into which it could go. (Hear, hear.) He pointed out the injustice of a law which applied to one person and not to another. If, for instance, a merchant contracted with another merchant for the supply of a quantity of goods at a given time, and the goods were not supplied—if the contract were violated—the enactment had only a civil remedy; but in the case of a master who bought the labour, and the labourer who sold it, if the labourer happened not to fulfil his contract, the master could go before the magistrates, and not only obtain damages, but imprison the servant. They should adopt every constitutional means in their power to repeal these criminal clauses, and do all they could to get candidates at the forthcoming election to say whether they would or would not vote for their repeal.

Mr. Taylor (Peterborough) said he represented a number of agricultural labourers in the rural districts, and upon them much more tyranny was practised by the Masters and Servants Act than by the Criminal Law Amendment Act, or by the Conspiracy Laws. They were seldom prosecuted under the latter Acts, but they were frequently prosecuted under the former. The gentleman who constructed that Act were in many cases themselves farmers. He himself had had to defend labourers who had been charged under this Act for where two or three of the magistrates on the bench were farmers, they could easily imagine what sort of a decision they might expect. In the rural districts they were unlike those in large towns. Their unpaid magistrates were totally irresponsible. They had full power to construe the Act as they pleased, and they cared nothing about law, justice, equity or anything else. They had their own views on the subject; their only object was to sit on the bench and punish labourers; and that they did most effectually under this Act of Parliament. He could mention many hard and oppressive cases. In one case a member of the Labourers' Association had engaged himself for a year. He was about 17 or 18 years of age, and one morning he was most grossly assaulted by his master. He took him by the throat and shook him, knicked his head against a post, and then shoved him into a pond. When this occurred, the boy went home to his mother and father, and he afterwards came to see him (Mr. Taylor) who advised him to summons his master for an assault. A summons was taken out and a solicitor engaged; but before the case came on the boy received a summons for breach of contract. The magistrates decided that there was no assault, but found that the boy had committed a breach of contract. The boy was obliged to pay damages and go back to work or else go to prison. (Shame.) In the other case two young men were working for a farmer near to Wadsworth. They wanted to go to a village feast, and asked permis-

sion to do so of the foreman, who in that district had the same power as a master. They were employed at the rate of 15s. a week, and they went to the feast and returned the day following. They then found that two other men had been engaged in their places, and shortly afterwards were summoned for breach of contract. They went before the magistrates, and both swore that they had obtained permission to go away; but the master did not produce the foreman as a witness. The master's evidence to the effect that the men had no leave to go away was accepted sooner than the evidence of the two men before the employer of labour, who were sitting as magistrates. The men were convicted, and under the Masters and Servants Act, sentenced to pay a considerable penalty, and nearly £2 costs, or else go to prison. He (the speaker) was there at the time, and the men were not allowed to leave the court for the purpose of getting the money. He (Mr. Taylor) paid it for them, and if he had not done so, they would certainly have been imprisoned.

Mr. McDonald (Glasgow) drew special attention to the 9th clause of the Act, and suggested that an instruction should be given to the Parliamentary Committee to endeavor to obtain an alteration in it. That clause now gave the power to the magistrates to inflict a penalty of £20, or to assess the amount of damages. He knew a man who was employed under a week's contract, and whose wages did not amount to 20s. He was summoned for a breach of contract; and by virtue of the powers conferred under this clause, the magistrates assessed damages to the amount of £10. (Shame.)

The resolution was carried.

SUBPENA versus UNPAID MAGISTRATES.

Mr. Taylor (Peterborough) moved the following motion:—

"That whilst this Congress considers stipendiary are preferable to unpaid magistrates, it still thinks it desirable that where proceedings are taken for breach of contract under the Master and Servants Act, either party shall have the option of removing the proceedings into the civil courts."

Mr. Lowry (Liverpool) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Richardson (Bolton) did not rise to oppose the resolution, but he looked upon it as being as only a very slight step in the right direction. But he did not like trusting matters of deep importance in the hands of a lawyer. Workingmen should have a better chance of protecting their interests by means of personal efforts.

Mr. Owen (Hanley) said the only remedy for the evils complained of by the previous speaker was the adoption of courts of arbitration, by which means the men could be placed on the same footing as the masters.

Mr. Crompton (London) said, with respect to the law of arbitration, where a contract had been entered into, there was a power of compulsion to bring the matter before the magistrates, and compel the employers to submit to arbitration.

Mr. Juggens (Darlington) thought the less they trusted to county court legislation the better for them. At least his experience taught him this.

The resolution was put and carried, with only two dissentients.

THE NINE HOURS BILL.

Mr. George Howell read a paper in support of the Nine Hours Bill. Having adverted to the justice of the measure and the inability of Mr. Mundella hitherto to carry the bill through Parliament, the paper went on to state that although there was no doubt as to the equitable character of the Bill, unless they could have the assistance of the various trades organizations throughout the country it will be a long time before such a measure became the law of the land. It was, therefore to be hoped, that the delegates would endeavor by every possible means to assist in this work, by petition to both Houses of Parliament, and also by the deputations to their representatives soliciting their support for this sanitary and humane measure.

Mr. D. Guile (London) then moved

"That in the opinion of the members of

the Congress, the demand of the textile factory workers of the United Kingdom for a nine hours bill for the protection of women, young persons, and children, as introduced by Mr. Mundella, M. P., during the last session of Parliament is based upon reason and justice, therefore, we pledge ourselves, and on returning to our several constituencies to promote the advocacy of the factory reform in question, by all legitimate means within our power, and that the address just read be adopted, and issued by this congress through the means of the Parliamentary Committee."

Mr. Prior (Manchester) seconded the resolution, which was carried.

PROFESSOR FAWCETT AND THE NINE HOURS BILL.

Mr. Mottershead (London) strongly complained of a letter which had appeared in the Times from the pen of Mrs. Fawcett, condemning the nine hours bill as an injustice to the women. He warmly contradicted this, and he severely censured Mr. Fawcett for stating in the House of Commons what was utterly groundless with the respect of the bill. Mr. Mottershead moved the following resolution:—

"That this Congress considers the letter in the Times, of June 8, 1873, signed Millicent Fawcett, and the speech of Professor Fawcett in the House of Commons on the 11th June; on Mr. Mundella's Factory Acts Amendment Bill, averring that the movement proceeded from the inherent jealousies of trades unionists, originating in a desire to degrade women and destroy their opportunities of earning their own livelihood—this congress utterly repudiates such an allegation, and indignantly protests against the vilification thrown upon them by such erroneous statements."

The Vice-President seconded the resolution.

Mr. Lishman (Leeds) said they had imagined Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett were good friends of the working men, but on this question, at all events, they had done their best to oppose them. He warmly denied the theory that the Nine Hours Bill was designed to prejudice the interests of the women.

Mr. Townley (Manchester) vigorously denied a statement made by Mr. Hugh Mason, the president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that at the last Congress at Leeds, they legislated for themselves, and not for the women and children.

Mr. Mundella said the question was one in which he took the utmost interest, because he felt positive that he was right in his action concerning it. (Cheers.) He very much regretted that two such old friends of his as Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett should come under the lash at this Congress, but he would say this, that he could not help honouring Mr. Fawcett, for always standing up for what he believed to be right in spite of all opposition. He (Mr. Mundella) took up this question from the fact that he had had an intimate knowledge of factory working from his childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett, he believed, opposed this Bill in utter ignorance of practical results.

Mr. Lloyd Jones (of London) also spoke in favour of the Bill; after which Mr. Mottershead's resolution was carried, without dissent, and with loud cheers.

FOURTH DAY—THURSDAY.

This morning the delegates were entertained at breakfast, at the Victoria Hotel, by the principal employers of labour in the town; the mayor, J. Hallam, Esq., presided.

The chairman, in opening the proceedings, heartily welcomed the Congress to the town, and counselled moderation on the part of the delegates.

The Master Cutler, after referring to the great interest which the Sheffield employers took in their workmen, and the result of the deliberations of the Congress would be that the whole question of capital and labour would become better understood, and masters and men would thereby be enabled to work more amicably together. He expressed his gratification that rattening had become extinct, and said if any rat-traps were needed in any other parts of the country they could be had cheap.

Mr. Briggs (Brazilian consul), as an employer of labor, advised and begged

[CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.]

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies, from all parts of the Dominion, for publication.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS (INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE). Per Annum \$2 00 Six Months 1 00 Single copies 0 05

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Each insertion, ten cents per line. Contract Advertisements at the following rates:— One column, for one year \$150 00 Half 65 00 Quarter column, 50 00 Sixth 35 00 Eighth 25 00

All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes.

All communications should be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN, 124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

T O R O N T O.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

- Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays. Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday. Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday. Crispiens, (159), every Tuesday.

- The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday. The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.

O T T A W A.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rowe's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

- Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Limestone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.

S T C A T H A R I N E S.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

- K. O. S. C., 1st Monday. Tailors, 2nd Monday. Typographical Union, No. 147, 2nd Tuesday. Coopers, 3rd Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNETT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternett will please state if they wish the paper continued.

Mr. J. A. BRANDON, of Guelph, has kindly consented to solicit subscriptions for the WORKMAN in that town, and is hereby authorized to act as our agent.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

TRADES' ASSEMBLY.

We have been requested to remind the delegates to the Trades' Assembly of the meeting on Friday (to-morrow) evening. A full attendance is requested, as questions of interest will be discussed.

A plebiscite is proposed in Spain to settle the vexed question of the form of Government.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, FEB 19, 1874.

TRADES' UNIONISTS AND POLITICS.

Not unfrequently the question is asked, should Trades' Unionists be political? The question has as frequently been dismissed by a mere affirmative or negative answer, as the individual opinion may suggest.

As an illustration of this we have only to take a retrospective glance at English politics, and we see that, for the reason advanced, every atom of political power obtained by the operatives has had to be purchased at the expense of prolonged and severe struggles; and we would ask, whether this power, when obtained and used, has not paid the people back with magnificent interest,—not, perhaps, so much as yet in material gain, as in the additional growth of power it secures, and in the glowing promise of the future good it will bring, when popular intelligence has had time to grow with it?

Would the same results have followed had the trade unions of England contented themselves with mere discussion, and waited till the growing intelligence of the country, perceiving the unfairness of the operations of those laws, had championed the oppressed, and redressed the grievances under which they suffered?

of others, they might have had to wait for till the millenium had dawned upon them.

These considerations plainly point to the conclusion that, leaving out mere party political differences, there are political questions which come not only within the province of trade societies to discuss, but which it is their duty to do, in order to advance the interests of labor reform.

THE ASSESSMENT BILL.

The bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Crooks before the Local Legislature, entitled "An Act to amend the Assessment Law," we consider a most palpable piece of "class legislation."

The injustice of this exemption is apparent at the first glance. For instance, a workingman may desire to purchase a lot upon which to build a house. The investment altogether might involve a responsibility of say fifteen hundred dollars,—a sum, which it would require the savings of half a life time of the "toiler" to accumulate.

Again, a man may invest a certain amount of capital in any business, and whether that investment is a financial success or otherwise, he has to pay taxes upon the full amount of capital as invested; but an individual who may invest in bank stock, according to Mr. Crook's amendment, can only be liable to be assessed on the annual dividends that may be declared by such bank.

THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

The most absorbing topic with the city papers appears to be the discussion in connection with the charges that have been brought against the Chief Superintendent of Education, Rev. Dr. Ryerson. "Semi-occasionally" these charges have been preferred; but in all previous contests the Doctor has vanquished his assailants, and vindicated himself. In reply to the present charges advanced by Mr. G. M. Adam, publisher of the Canadian Monthly, the letters from Dr. Ryerson, published in

the daily journals, give evidence that he is no less vigorous in the use of the pen than in former years, and in conclusion the Rev. Dr. requests "the appointment and exhaustive investigation of a committee of the Legislature, or of a commission," before which he is prepared to prove the futility of the charges preferred against him.

THE VICTORIA RAILWAY.

The Victoria Railway Company have petitioned the Legislature for a subsidy in part cash and part land, and have very forcibly pointed their petition with facts relative to the importance and advantage of the proposed line of railway.

"To secure the rapid construction of the proposed Railway, your petitioners are willing to co-operate with the Government of the Province in assisting from 2,000 to 3,000 emigrants or others to go to work upon the line of Railway and make settlements upon the land in its vicinity during and after its construction.

The plan of building a 4 foot 8 1/2 inch gauge railway from a point above Uxbridge on the Nipissing via Lindsay and Fenelon Falls, right through the new country to the Upper Ottawa is fraught with immense consequences, not only to this city, but to the whole of the western peninsula, as well as to the country along the line of the proposed railway.

Many a mechanic and workman would gladly take a hundred acres of bush land beside a railway, if it could be paid for as proposed, by work on the railway.

No better plan has ever been proposed to secure the attention of mechanics to the actual business of acquiring homesteads in the country.

We invite the attention of our readers to this important subject, and shall be glad to have practical suggestions in reference to the petition now before Parliament.

We know that mechanics will not go to the remote settlements in the free grants, while to settle on the line of a railway and earn 100 acres of land by working for it in building the railway will induce thousands of workmen to acquire homesteads.

We shall return to this subject in future issues of the WORKMAN.

ANNUAL CONVENTION K O S C.

The fifth annual convention of the K. O. S. C. of this Province was opened, according to appointment, at two o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 11th inst., in the Trades' Assembly Hall, in this city, the following G. L. officers being present:—Wm. Silver, G.S.K.; Samuel Atkins, G.K.; Wm. Magness, G. S. and Treas.; John Calvert, John A. Brandon, Charles B. King, G. Trustees. The delegates present were, J. Johnson, David Strachan, Wm. Brown, No. 159, Toronto; J. Brandon, No. 202, Guelph; Michael May, Wm. Corner, No. 212, Hamilton; Sidney Mills, No. 234, Stratford; Jas. Harris, Jas. Clark, No. 242, London; Thos. Lane, No. 315, Toronto; Joseph Ryan, No. 326, Chatham; P. J. McGuire, No. 340, St. Catharines; Hamilton Sutton, No. 353, Barrie; H. Meredith, No. 366, Toronto; ——— No. 371, Galt; G.

McFedries, No. 372, Orillia; J. G. Irwin, Peterboro'; Wm. Singer, Brantford, with several other delegates and visitors from a distance.

The reports of the Executive Committee of the business done since the last annual convention gave entire satisfaction, and their action in sending a delegate to the Canadian Labor Union was endorsed.

There were only two grievances brought to the notice of the Executive Committee during the year—one in Orillia, where an employer, finding he could not regulate wages to suit his own ideas, caused the arrest of some members of the Order for combination and intimidation; but the case, on being brought to Court, was decided against him.

As the Sessions are conducted in secret, most of the business done is not allowed to be made public.

The title of the Ontario G. L. has been changed to the Canadian G. L., to allow sub-Lodges outside of this Province to come under its jurisdiction. All subordinate Lodges of the Canadian G. L., will receive their Charters and Numbers from the Canadian G. L., in place of the I. G. L., as before, and those already in existence will receive numbers according to seniority.

During the convention, the G. L. visited this office en masse, and on invitation the establishments of Sessions, Cooper & Smith, and Walker, Evans & Co., where they were shown the greatest courtesy by the proprietors, with whom, we hope, they will always remain on the same friendly terms. The following officers were duly elected for the current term:—Charles B. King, G. S. K.; David Strachan, G. K.; Wm. Magness, (re-elected) G. S.; Wm. Silver, G. Treas.; John Calvert, Gilbert McFedries and John A. Brandon, G. Trustees. After a session of three days, the C. G. L. was closed. The next regular meeting will be held in this city on the third Wednesday in July, 1875.

We also received a copy of the following resolution from the G. Scribo. Moved by Bro. Silver, past G. S. K., seconded by Bro. Magness, G. S., and

Resolved.—That the thanks of the Canadian Grand Lodge of the K. O. S. C. be tendered to the proprietors of the ONTARIO WORKMAN, for their able advocacy of the principles of Labor Reform, and the firm stand they have taken on the side of Labor. We would again take this opportunity of recording our entire confidence in the ONTARIO WORKMAN, and would recommend the journal to the most earnest support of our sub-Lodges. We would also thank them for their kindness and liberality in presenting copies of their paper to each member of this Grand Lodge.

Resolved.—That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to the WORKMAN Office for publication.

PAINTERS' MEETING.

The Painters of this city intend holding a mass meeting in the Trades' Assembly Hall, on Monday evening, March 2nd, to take into consideration "matters and things" affecting their interests. A general attendance of painters is earnestly called for, and we doubt not there will be a general response.

The Licensed Victuallers of this city have formed an association, and are rapidly progressing with the work of thorough organization.

A special meeting of the St. Catharines, St. Patrick's Temperance Society took place on Thursday night, and twenty-four new members joined. The idea of building a new hall was discussed, and two propositions were made to secure a room over the school in contemplation of erection, 40 feet by 80 feet. The other proposition was to form a joint stock company to build a hall in a central location. The latter proposal was not adopted, but it has many warm advocates.

The Home Circle.

BEAUTIFUL HANDS.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands! They're neither white nor small, And yet, I know, would scarcely think That they were fair at all.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands! Though heart were weary and sad, These patient hands kept toiling on That children might be glad.

THE VANISHED YEARS.

There are lonely hours when there comes no more A low, sweet voice from that echoless shore. There are hearts grown sad and eyes dimmed with tears

Those beautiful years that are swopt away, When life seemed one long, fair summer day:-- No broken vows, no sundered ties,

The daisies are blooming sweetly now Over the pearl of a saintly brow; And myrtle and ivy are growing green

'Tis only in dreams we now recall A low, sweet voice we have heard in the hall-- Only memory, dear and sweet, Can picture the patter of little feet.

Though the ivy is green over those we love, And birds sweetly sing in the branches above; Fond memories come through our blinding tears

When our tired feet the dark valley have crossed, And the vanished years give up our lost-- Beyond the River that washes the strand, On the sliding shores of that better land.

No sorrow shall dim our spirits light, No broken voices shall say "good-night." We shall ask for no voice from that far-away shore,

And the little feet that have pattered here, And the merry voices that rang with cheer, Shall have new charms to their echoes given

WHAT IS LIFE?

Our life is a strange combination of the mortal and immortal, physical and mental existence. The mystic link connecting the soul and body, what mortal mind can comprehend? The spring that moves to action--that invisible monitor which prompts us to think,

The physical system is indeed wonderful; the circulation of the blood, (the discovery of which theory was considered one of the greatest advancements of the age) respiration, uniting the vital gas, oxygen, with the blood;

How varied, also, are the circumstances and conditions of existence! The relations we sustain to others, the ties of friendship and family, and our influence on others.

Who can tell us what life really is? Whose experience has been so vast as to determine all the secret emotions which thrill the soul?

stricken its thrifty growth, and blasted its fairest flowers, if he clings to life. "Ah, life has grown weary to me, and full of sorrow, and fain would I seek some milder clime!" he cries.

The youth with merry laugh and cheery smile, cries-- "Life is sweet. What if some find it brings sorrow? Not so for me! Sunshine shall flood my pathway, and every pleasure earth can procure shall be mine."

To live is a privilege few can estimate. To live for a purpose, making others happy, improving our own opportunities by cultivating our good desires, refining and strengthening the intellect, is noble.

A RUSSIAN MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

The bride and bridegroom hold a lighted taper in their hands in front of a small altar placed in the center of the church. Rings were placed on their fingers, and their hands being joined, they were led three times around the altar.

A QUEER FISH.

The fish of paradise is one of the most peculiar of Chinese fresh-water fish. It is small in size, a pale gray in color, and at first sight having little about it to attract attention.

TAKE HEED.

No matter how intimate you may be with the friend with whom you have business transactions, put your agreements in writing.

ple would only put their agreements in writing, and sign their names to it. Each word in our language has its peculiar meaning, and memory may, by the change in a sentence convey an entirely different from that intended.

HOME.

When the summer day of youth is slowly wasting away into the nightfall of age, and the shadows of past years grow deeper and deeper as life wears to its close, it is pleasant to look back, through the vista of time, upon the sorrows and felicities of earlier years.

As the current of time winds slowly along, washing away the sands of life, like the stream that steals away the soil from the sapling on its banks, we look with a melancholy joy at the decay of things around us.

"BOYS WILL BE BOYS."

Never lose heart or stop praying because your boys are a little wild. While you sadly call to mind the things they have forgotten, you are ignorant of the things they remember.

Just sit down, if you have such a son, and recall your own early days. It may be difficult for you, just now, when you are in the middle of life, to see the fun which the boy finds in what appear to you to be utterly foolish,

Men seldom give pleasure when they are not pleased themselves; it is necessary, therefore, to cultivate an habitual alacrity and cheerfulness, that in whatever state we may be placed by nature--whether we are appointed to confer or receive benefits, to implore or afford protection--we may secure the love of those with whom we may have dealings.

CHEERFULNESS.

You should bear constantly in mind that nine-tenths of us are, from the very nature and necessities of the world, born to gain our livelihood by the sweat of our brow.

RISING IN THE WORLD.

The screams of Mrs. Slatterly aroused all the neighborhood and even brought out the department, so that by the time the baby was rescued from the wreck and the broken glass picked up, two engines had streams playing upon the house, and the front had been burst open by the police; and the firemen were engaged in dragging a wet hose over the entry

cherished and encouraged by the strange projects that we have witnessed of late years, for making the laborers virtuous and happy by giving them what is called education.

The education which I speak of consists of bringing children up to labor with steadiness, with care, and with skill--to show them how to do as many useful things as possible--to teach them to do them all the best manner--to set them an example in industry, sobriety, cleanliness and neatness--to make all these habitual to them, so that they never shall be liable to fall into the contrary--to let them always see a good living proceeding from labor, and thus to remove from the temptation to get at the goods of others by violent or fraudulent means.

HUMOROUS.

THE MEANEST MAN.

It turns out, after all, that the meanest man is not the man we referred to the other day, who split up his wife's tombstone. Burrows is even meaner than this. Burrows was an inveterate tobacco chewer; but as his wife detested the practice, and made home pestiferous and stormy for him when he indulged in the habit there, he always chewed when away during the day and declared to his wife that he had stopped permanently.

AN EXPENSIVE JOKE.

A man who plays practical jokes upon his wife deserves to be punished, and Slatterly of Muncy was punished. His wife has a dread of cats, and before retiring at night she always looks carefully under the bed to see that no stray puss, and no man on robbery intent, are concealed there.

"Oh, nonsense," grunted Slatterly; and then he made the sound again.

"I tell you, Josiah," exclaimed Mrs. S., "I hear a cat under this bed. I wish you'd get up and drive it away."

"Oh, go to sleep, Matilda," said Slatterly. "I don't hear anything. There's no cat about."

Then Josiah with his mouth beneath the covers, uttered a louder screech than before.

"Well, if you won't clear that cat out, you brute, I will," said Mrs. S.

So she reached over, picked up Josiah's boots, and put them on in bed in order to protect her feet and ankles from the infuriated animal. Then she took Slatterly's cane and stooped down to sweep it around beneath the bed.

AMERICAN HUMOR.

The American humor partakes slightly of the Spanish character and extravagance, but it is nevertheless, the growth of the soil. The vastness of the country, which has said to be bounded on the east by the Atlantic ocean, on the north by the Aurora Borealis, on the west

[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 (Leck), 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 employors 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. Iron-workers 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.

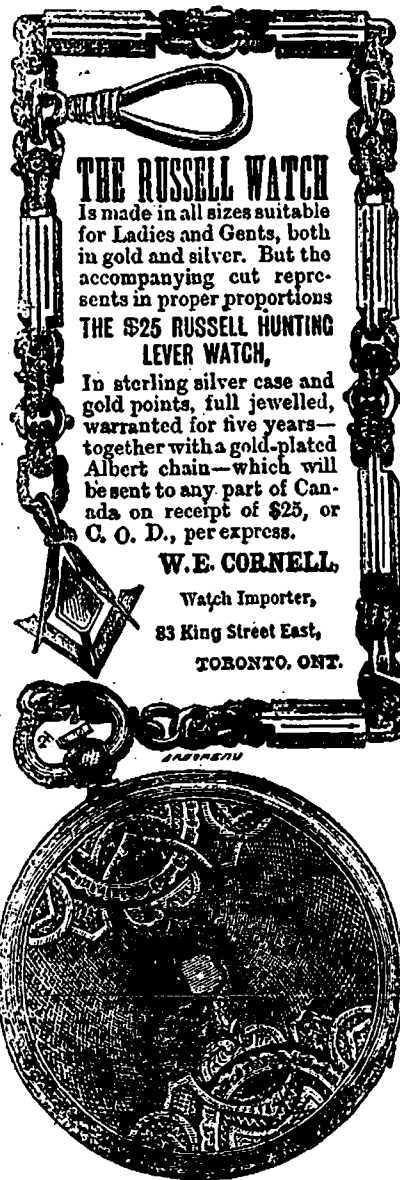
The members of the Amalgamated Association of Miners in the Darlaston district has invited the employers to a discussion of the question of a rise in wages.

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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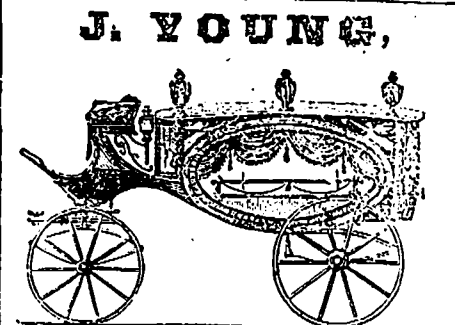
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