

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

TRADES-UNIONS AND THE CRISPIN STRIKE—THE LABOUR MARKET AND IMMIGRATION—RECEPTION OF THE "TREATY OF WASHINGTON"—THE COMING ANNIVERSARIES—MORE LABOR NEEDED—PERSONAL, &c.

Some wavelets from the great sea of agitation upon one of the great social, and, we might add, moral, questions of the day—that of the true relations of capital to labour and labour to capital,—have reached us even in Ontario. While the reckless commune in poor, infatuated Paris—that wretched city, apparently forsaken of God and given over to suicidal frenzy—is shouting its battle cry, "Property is Robbery," in a far different sense from that in which its author originally used it. And while the United States has its own special Chinese question and in common with Great Britain its trade-unions difficulties, the champions of the last-named organization have at length thrown down the gauntlet here.—The trade-union Crispins have been indulging in a strike in Toronto, as they have a perfect right to do, and have been striving to force non-unionist knights-of-the-last-to-quit working likewise, as they have no right to do. The contest for a time threatened to wax hot. Dire threats, followed in some cases by actual assault, have been uttered against the poor shoe-maker who dared to fill a vacancy and earn bread for his family without the consent of the Union. In some cases valuable machinery has been injured, and kits of tools belonging to non-unionists mysteriously destroyed. Of course there is no evidence, that will stand the test of a court of justice, to convict the Union of having had any hand in the "ragging," however suggestive the chain of circumstances may be. I am happy to say that in this instance the freedom of both workmen and employer has been vindicated. After some delay and, no doubt, much loss to both parties, the machinery has been again put in operation and the threatened scarcity of Wellingtons, &c., averted.—We rejoice that the attempt has failed, not however from any want of sympathy with struggling labourers, striving to get the best return for their labour. There can be no doubt that in some departments of industry, such as those in which, if rumour does not greatly exaggerate, poor sewing women get one dollar or one and a half for manufacture of garments, whose making costs their employer's customer four or five, some protection for the weaker party is needed. But that protection can hardly be secured by the establishment of a petty tyranny, which aims not only to tax freely the results of the craftsman's toil, but to prescribe to him when and where he shall not work, and to fly in the face of all political economy and common sense alike by demanding a uniform scale of wages for all workmen, irrespective of skill and activity. The interesting fact was elicited in the case in question, that the "Union" of Toronto is but a branch of an organization having its headquarters in a large city in the United States, and its ramifications over a large part of the continent.

Should any one be disposed to infer from these troubles occurring now and then in special trades that there is anything like a glut of the labour market in the West, he would be far astray. The facts are quite the reverse. Notwithstanding the large immigration of last season the demand for labourers, at least in the agricultural districts has seldom been greater. Farmers have recently said to me that they were almost in despair as to the securing of help for the coming harvest. My neighbour told me the other day that he had offered a common labourer one dollar and a quarter a day for the whole season and been refused. The readiness with which the country proves itself able to absorb thousands of immigrants is surprising to some who were sceptical as to its ability to find employment for so many. But then manufacturing establishments are being constantly established or enlarged, railroads are in progress in almost every section—ranging all the way from the Intercolonial, already aspiring to the dimensions of interoceanic, (the preliminary arrangement for the survey of the Pacific route are already about completed) down to the local narrow-gauge of a few miles in length; the free-grant district is absorbing numbers of sturdy young men, ambitious of farms and houses of their own, and the departure of a considerable number of enterprising young men and even of mid-

dle aged yeomen for the fertile prairies of Manitoba, is making room for other incomers, even in the oldest settled districts. Thus the healthful circulation is kept up and stagnation rendered impossible. And already the copious stream of emigrants from the over-crowded districts of the old world is again setting towards our shores. The greatest drawback to the success of many of these incomers and the source of the occasional whines of disappointment, is to be found in the absurd fondness for city life which leads multitudes to prefer a precarious had-to-mouth existence in Toronto or Hamilton to independent plenty in the rural districts. Cases are by no means rare in which farmers have travelled considerable distances to the cities to meet emigrants and offer them comfortable homes and good wages, and have had their best offers refused by able bodied men, out of employment, who yet could not be tempted from their paradise of poverty in the back streets of the city.

Your exchanges will have given you the key note to the tones in which the Washington Treaty has been received in Ontario. Loud dissatisfaction is the rule, the condemnation of a very faint praise the exception. To some who think the best, and most christian course to be a quiet acquiescence in the interests of peace, it cannot but seem hard that a weak country should be compelled to sell against her will, for the sake of peace, to a powerful one, any rights or possessions, for any price, whether a full equivalent or not. Others seem to congratulate themselves that the case is no worse, assuming apparently that if Gen. Schenck and his fellow diplomatists had felt inclined to insist upon the privilege of digging potatoes in Nova Scotia, cradling wheat in Ontario for American subjects, offering permission to cut ice in Alaska as an equivalent, the gushing Thornton and his magnanimous confederates, would not have thought it worth while to split hairs about it. I aim simply to represent some of the different shades of opinion at present prevalent in Ontario upon this deeply important and serious question. Plenty of time will probably be given for calmer and wiser and juster views to prevail, and we can only hope that when the final question of ratification or otherwise comes before our legislators, they may approach it in the exercise of the spirit that neither fears to do right at all hazards, nor fails to appreciate all the mutual blessings which would flow from a cordial, bona fide understanding and friendship between the members of these two great and closely related families.

The season for our religious anniversaries is again close at hand. We are hoping that they may furnish us with evidence of more than usual progress of the cause and principles for whose promotion the Baptist body exists. The prospects in many sections are cheering. There is still a dearth of labourers. Christian Ministers of culture and piety would find excellent fields of labour in some of our churches now destitute of pastors.

The friends of Rev. A. H. Munro will be glad to learn, as an indication of the purpose of his people not to neglect their duty in respect to "carnal things," that the Alexander St. Church, has recently added three hundred dollars to his salary.

Our brethren of the Presbyterian Church have during the last year lost their most able and popular ministers Dr. Ornaiston of Hamilton. He disappeared from our horizon only to reappear as "a star of the first magnitude," in New York. His preaching eminently impressive and powerful, cannot fail to be productive of good in the great city, and we are glad it is so fully appreciated.

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

EDWIN BENT, ESQ.

Postmaster of Digby, died suddenly on Tuesday, May 9th. Mr. Bent's health had been failing for six months, but he continued to do his office work up to the Saturday before his death, and hopes were entertained that one so valuable to the community, the church, and his family, would be spared for some time, a sudden cold and relapse destroyed these hopes. Bro. Bent was converted in early life, but hid his light, keeping himself apart from the church he spiritually departed. He was restored, and he and his wife were baptized by Rev. J. Spencer eight years ago. From that time he made the interests of Christ's church his, and gradually took the place and work which age and infirmity compelled his father, our aged bro. Dr. Bent of Digby,

to relinquish, thus becoming a chief support of the Baptist cause here. By his death the community has lost a brotherly and useful man, the church an open-handed helper, a judicious counsellor and a praying worker, his family one loving and devoted in all his relations. Many feel his loss. Many thank God for what he was. He died as he lived, trusting in Christ and committing his family to His care. God comfort and care for them, and fill the gap his death has made in the church's ranks. D.

May 27, 1871.

A letter from Rev. D. W. Crandall by the same mail as the above says:—

Dear Messenger,—

You often cheer us by the good news you bring us, but all the tidings you bear are not good, at least we cannot understand it so at present, though we fully believe that "all things work together for good, &c."

With deep emotions we send you an account of the death of Bro. Edwin Bent, eldest son of Dr. W. L. Bent. We trust that Sister Bent and the three children, that are so early left to feel that loss, and also the father and mother, brothers and sisters of the departed may share in the sympathies and prayers of God's people.

Bro. Bent was one of the most faithful and useful members of our church. Our loss is great, and we can only look to God who has afflicted us for grace to sustain.

I think no one could wish to be more triumphant and happy in a dying hour.—As he was universally respected in the town and country, his funeral was large. Bro's. Armstrong and Gates took part in the services. May God grant us grace to live the life of the righteous, that our last end may be like his.

DANIEL C. UPHAM.

After six weeks of great physical pain, borne with patient resignation, though willing and longing to depart, calmly breathed his last on the 17th inst., aged 84 years. He was perfectly conscious the most of the time, and often spoke of the hope he had through the merits and atonement of the Saviour, of soon being permitted to re-join his wife and daughter who had gone before to the Spirit-land. The day before his departure he spoke of his pain, and prayed for release, it was said to him by one at his side, that it was the last enemy, and soon to be destroyed. "Yes," he replied, "but than's be unto God who giveth us the victory." The last word "victory," was pronounced distinctly and decidedly, and it receded as if he had indeed gained the victory. For some years he had been laid aside by the infirmities of age, but to the last he took great comfort and interest in perusing the Scriptures; and the columns of the Christian Messenger, they were his almost constant companions. The missionary and revival intelligence enquired for the Rev. Dr. Smith of Upper Stewiacke whose ministry he had formerly attended, and who entered into his rest just two hours after. Rev. O. Chute improved the solemn funeral occasion by an interesting and appropriate discourse from words of the Psalmist, "My feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem."

R. T. UPHAM.

MR. GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,

son of the late Major John Cunningham of Antigonish, died at Cape Canso on the 15th instant, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. Brother Cunningham removed from Antigonish to Canso about four years ago.—Although he was a subject of religious impressions for many years, he made no profession of religion until the revival of last Spring, when he, together with his wife and eldest daughter professed faith in Christ and united with the Baptist Church here. Since then up to his last illness he manifested a lively interest in the church's prosperity. In the beginning of March he began to break down under the power of heart-disease with which he had been troubled for some time. Medical skill availed nothing, he gradually sank under its power, suffering extremely until death released him. During all his illness he manifested perfect resignation to the Lord's will and died trusting wholly in the merits of Jesus. His stricken family, the church and community, have sustained a great loss in his death. His kindness and sympathy won for him the affection of all who knew him. The occasion of his funeral was improved by the writer from Rev. xiv. 13, when the 282 and 306 Hymns of the Psalmist, selected by himself were sung. May God console the mourning relatives and sanctify his death to us all.

A. W. BAZAN.

Cape Canso, May 21st, 1871.

LETTER FROM T. H. RAND, ESQ.

HALIFAX, May 31st, 1871.

Dear Sir,—In my letter of the 22d inst., replying in part to Rev. Mr. Hunt's of the 20th inst., published in the Messenger, I said: "Mr. Hunt's statements respecting my official acts refer (1) to the mode of conducting certain examinations, and (2) to the disposal of the papers of candidates examined since the law of 1867 came into force." Last week I concluded my reply to the latter group of these statements. I very much regret that I have been forced to ask for so much of your space in doing this. Permit me now to reply to the statements of the first group, which I characterized as grievous distortions.

Mr. Hunt said:—

"The Christian Brothers and Sisters whose examinations in 1870 are referred to (by the Witness) had, as I am informed in their possession, the following Minute of the Council of Public Instruction, passed December 22, 1864. \* \* \* signed by Mr. Rand:—

"Ordered to be recorded:—That examiners may in their discretion allow applicants for license to teach, to work their papers at home, any person so examined certifying that the work has been performed without assistance, and in good faith; but in all such cases the competency of the teacher must be fully established by an inspection of the school on the part of the examiners. (Sgd.) T. H. RAND, Secretary.

"That Mr. Rand did not deem that this discretion had been taken away by the Act of 1865; is evident from the following extract from a letter he addressed over his signature to Mr. Willis under date Dec. 16, 1867, which is as follows:—"In conformity with an order of Council made to meet the cases of those having conscientious or religious scruples against appearing at Public examinations, the Deputy Examiner will be instructed at the Spring examination to furnish papers upon application to those Sisters. The Christian Brothers and Sisters had, as I am informed, this letter in their possession at the time of their examination, and applied to be "allowed to work their papers at home." This application the deputy-examiner did not feel himself justified in refusing, reading the above Minute of Council in connection with Mr. Rand's letter of '67; and the certificate required by law was given by the Candidates.

"I have not time to go at length into the subject—but in justice to the Deputy examiner and the candidates, I must remind you that the 30th Section of the Act of 1865 gives the "Council" power "to prescribe the mode in which examinations should be conducted and to designate the time and place—at which candidates should present themselves for examination."

1. That such an order was made is true enough. The Council had power to issue it under the law of 1864, and of 1865. But when I found that the entire system of local examinations was retarding the progress of education, I addressed myself to the huge task of organizing a uniform system for the whole Province. The Council of that day heartily seconded my views, and in the winter of 1867, the Legislature swept away the old system, and established a new one, "in order to insure the uniform classification and licensing of teachers."

Mr. Hunt does not even mention the Act of 1867. Did he not know, when he wrote his letter of the 20th inst., that I published, in reply to a previous attack instigated by him, a letter on this subject, under date of Jan. 11th, 1871, in the Chronicle, and that I also published a week previous to his writing, a long extract from it in the Messenger, in reply to the remarks of the late Attorney General? I shall publish a portion of it once more:—

"Immediately on my return to the city I called at the Education Office. I told the Rev. Mr. Hunt what I had heard, and asked permission to see the papers. He showed me an order of the Council of Public Instruction bearing date 1864, and stated that the same had never been repealed. I called his attention to the fact that the act of 1864 was superseded by that of 1865, and that the provisions of this act respecting examiners were expressly repealed by the act of 1867; and said that it was obvious that no order of the Council of Public Instruction could be in force after the repeal of the enactment on which it rested. Mr. Hunt thought I was mistaken in saying that the portions of the law to which I referred had been specially repealed. I pointed out to him the last sentence of sec. 3 of the act of 1867:—"The foregoing provisions shall be in lieu of those contained in the Act for the better Encouragement of Education respecting Provincial and District Examiners." \* \* \* I then said to Mr. Hunt that as he had fallen into the error of supposing that an order which has been null and void for years was still operative, it was due to me that he should acquaint those to whom he had spoken of the matter of the true state of the case. He promised to do so. The order of Council of 1864, to which I have referred, authorized each of the 34 boards of local examiners to permit in their discretion, any person who was unable from alleged conscientious scruples, to go up with other candidates for examination, to work their papers at home, provided that the examiners required every such person to certify that the papers had been worked in good faith, and witnessed the candidate's skill in conducting a school, previous to the issue of a license. A similar mode of examination had been practised at times by some Boards of Commissioners, previous to the passing of the act of 1864; and that act, as did the one of 1865, continued the system of local examinations and local licenses. When in the discharge of my official duties I apprehended fully the unsatisfactory results that must follow even the most careful administration of the provisions which existed for the examination of teachers, I lost no time in bringing the whole subject to the notice of the Council of Public Instruction. It was decided to ask the Legislature, first of all to establish fixed grants of money for each grade of teachers, and then to apply for an Act under the provisions of which all the teachers could be examined on uniform standards, and classified by one and the same Board. The licenses to be issued on the reports of this Board were to be valid throughout the entire Province. My Reports

presented to the Legislature in 1866 and in 1867 urged the necessity of pursuing the course above indicated; and in 1867 an Act was passed with the design of placing the examination and classification of teachers on a satisfactory basis. From the passage of that Act till my removal from office, the records in the Education office, duly attested, will show that, with a single exception, every applicant for a license worked the papers in the presence of a deputy-examiner; and in every case, without exception, within the prescribed time. The case in which an applicant was permitted to work the papers alone was that of a teacher who was taken ill at the regular examination, and could not remain to the close.

If Mr. Hunt's setting forth of this matter is not grievous distortion, I know not the meaning of the words.

2. I am not discussing Mr. Hunt's official acts, except so far as they misrepresent my own. I may, however, be allowed to remark that his quotation from "the 30th section of the Act of 1865," is not contained in that Act, but in the Act of 1867. All the power conferred upon the Council by the Act of 1867 was, in the terms of the Act itself, for a specific end:—"in order to insure the uniform classification and licensing of teachers."

3. Another instructive instance of distortion is seen in the play upon the word "examiners." Mr. Hunt certainly knew that the word as used in the obsolete Minute of 1864, meant a local board of three examiners. There were 34 such boards of examiners previous to their being superseded by one Board of four Examiners for the whole Province in 1867. In attempting to revive the Minute of 1864, which became obsolete in 1867, Mr. Hunt represents the word "examiners" as meaning the present examiners. Such play upon the word is very wrong. But Mr. Hunt must be consistent. Did the present board of Provincial Examiners visit the schools kept by each of the persons licensed by Mr. Hunt under the Minute of 1864? Such a question exposes the absurdity of what Mr. Hunt says. The examiners performed no such work; and had they been asked, they would at once have made answer that the law imposed upon them no such duty.—But the language of the old Minute is explicit:—"in all such cases the competency of the teacher must be fully established by an inspection of the school on the part of the examiners."

4. Mr. Hunt says that the deputy examiner who conducted the irregular examination in September last at Halifax, was applied to by the candidates to allow them "to work their papers at home. This application the deputy examiner did not feel himself justified in refusing, reading the above Minute of Council in connection with Mr. Rand's letter of 1867." Now it happens that on the 14th day of January last, I made a copy of this letter at the Education Office, and read it to Mr. Willis in the presence of Mr. Rousselle the deputy examiner referred to. Both these gentlemen stated that they had never seen or heard such a letter. Last week I called upon Mr. Rousselle and told him that Mr. Hunt, now said that the letter purporting to have been issued by me in Dec. 16, 1867, was read by him (Mr. Rousselle) at the time of the examination in September, and that under its authority he was unable as deputy to refuse an irregular examination to those claiming privilege under the Minute of 1864. Mr. Rousselle said the statement was entirely incorrect, for he had never seen such a letter till I read a copy of it to him on the 14th of January last.

I have something more to say of that letter. When Mr. Hunt caused an extract from it to be published in the Morning Chronicle on the 14th of January, I stated in the public press that I had no authority to write such a letter in Dec. 1867, and that if I did write it, I had done so inadvertently. I had no recollection of writing the letter, and, assuming it to be genuine, I offered the only reasonable account of it in my power:—

"The explanation would seem to be that the paper shown me is the draft of a letter which was not issued, because seen to be on its completion not in accordance with law. Not being destroyed at the moment it got "stowed away" in the archives of the Education office." If such be not the true explanation, I can only say that if the letter was ever issued by me it must have been corrected verbally or otherwise, for every gentleman connected with education in the city knows that no attempt was ever made by me, since the passage of the new law (of 1867,) to carry out the order of 1864."

After investigation the following facts, were placed before the public:—

(1) There is no record in the Education Office of the issue of such a letter. (2) There is no record in the School Commissioners' office of its receipt, or of any correspondence referring to it. (3) Mr. Hunt alleged that the letter was stowed away in the archives of the Education Office, when, if it was ever issued, it should have been in the office of the City School Commissioners.—(4) Mr. Hunt also alleged that he received it from Very Rev. Dr. Hannan. (He states in the letter to which I am replying, that it was in the possession of the Christian Brothers and Sisters, last September.) (5) In February, 1869, Dr. Hannan applied to the Council to grant permission for the Sisters of Charity to be examined privately, which is unaccountable if he had the letter of Dec., 1867, already conferring such privilege.—(6) In reply to Dr. Hannan's application to the Council, I urged, in a letter to the President, strong reasons why the Sisters should be examined in the presence of a deputy examiner as other candidates, and expressly referred to the fact that previous to the Act of 1867, an order did exist of the nature sought by Dr. Hannan, but that its principle was inapplicable to the new system of examination. (7) No examination was ever sought or obtained under the permission of the letter in question.