

STILL IDLE.

The Millmen Have Not Come to Terms.

BACKED UP BY FRIENDS.

Expressions of Sympathy and Support From Other Toilers.

MESSRS. McKEOWN AND McDADE TALK.

The Interviews All Pointed and Terse Show No One in Favor of Ten Hours—Plain Common Sense Talk From Their Leaders—All the Labor Bodies Talk.

One has only to walk along Water street from the "railing" to Reed's Point to see labor in all its dignity and independence. The men who work about the harbor are fully aware of the advantages to be gained from trades unionism, and when any difficulty arises are always of one mind. All of them know what it is to be without work, and what the consequences are, yet when their rights are in question they are a determined lot and something must happen before a point can be gained from them. PROGRESS talked with some of the longshoremen about the millmen's strike, and on all sides the idea of going back to the ten hour system was dismissed with but few words.

Ready to Help the Millmen.

Mr. Michael Driscoll, the secretary of the Ship Laborers' union, was standing at the International floats when PROGRESS' representative met him. "No," said he, in answer to a question, "the millmen will not go back to a ten-hour day; not if the ship laborers' union can help it. Of course, we have nothing to fear in the way of being compelled to comply with a similar request to that made by the mill owners. Our society is too well organized and too strong; but I think that if the millmen went back to the ten-hour system, it might have an effect on other trades, that have secured a nine-hour day, but are not so well organized as we are. So far the strike has had very little effect on work in the harbor, because there are very few vessels in port, and no demand for lumber, but it is expected that there will be a fleet in port next month, and in that event we will have no deals to load them with. The delay will not affect the shippers, as there is a clause in all these contracts that provides for strikes.

"But the members of our union have thought very little about how it will affect them. They sympathize with the millmen because they know what it is to handle lumber nine hours a day; that is long enough for any man to work, at the best of times, and at hard labor ten hours will tell on him.

"We have offered the millmen the use of our hall free of all charge; we will give them all the light, paper, and in fact all they want to hold their meetings, so that they will be under no expense whatever. The union has opened a subscription list for the strikers, and the only reason that the contributions are not large is because our men have an idea that the strike will not last much longer. However, if the strikers do need financial aid, our subscription list will grow very rapidly. I do not think the strikers should give the matter of a reduction in their pay any consideration. They have lost considerable time now, through no fault of their own, and should not give in an inch. One thing is certain; there will be no return to a ten hour day. Even if they did go back to it, it would not be for long, because it is a thing of the past. The present time is very favorable to the millowners, especially those who cut lumber for the American market, but the demand will come up again. When it does the mills will have to run and they cannot get men to take the place of the strikers, because it is work that every man cannot do."

What the Cartmen Say.

"The cartmen have not given the strike very much consideration," was the remark of the union's president, James D. Daly, as he was about leaving Magee's coal yard Wednesday morning. "You see our union is different from the others. We have no day work, but are organized simply to see that the laws made by the council in regard to cartage were carried out. We are out from the other unions altogether, and I could not say what we would do unless the matter was put to a vote."

A group of cartmen on Market square had more decided views on the question than Mr. Daly. They were with the millmen first, last and all the time. They were working men, they said, and knew what it was to work hard, and although the strike would not affect them, there was no doubt

in their minds that the union would give the men substantial assistance if the matter came up.

The Painters' President.

Mr. Nathan Godsoe is president of the Painters' union, and he is a very active official. The painters are now well organized and know what unionism means in the way of benefiting the trade. Mr. Godsoe is a firm believer in organization and has decided views in regard to the nine hour question. "The millmen should stick it out," said he to PROGRESS' representative. "There is no use talking about a reduction of wages now, and to go back to the ten hour system would be too great a concession. The millmen have the community behind them, and I think I can speak for the Painters' union. We have now 52 members, and if there is any need for assistance the millmen will get it. I don't think their going back to a ten hour day would have any effect on the painters, as our union is getting into good shape and will be in a position to hold out for any of our present privileges."

The painters have held a meeting since PROGRESS saw their president, and have given the strike some consideration, expressing approval of the millmen's action, extending their sympathy, and financial support if necessary.

Heavily Assessed, But Willing to Help.

The masons and plasterers' union has probably felt the effects of strikes more than any other union in town. This has not been due to difficulties between the men in St. John and their employers, but from strikes in other places. The local union is a branch of the International Masons and Plasterers' union, and while a strike is on in any city in the United States or Canada, every other union must contribute to the support of the strikers. This spring the assessments of the St. John union amounted to \$36 a week. Strikes in Toronto, and several large cities in the United States were the cause of this. It is a rule with the International union that only three local unions can be on a strike at the same time, but when the strikes all happen to be in large cities and thousands of men are out of work, the assessments are necessarily large. Notwithstanding this the St. John union is a strong one and has fought and won some hard battles. Mr. William Mellday, the president, is a staunch union man, and works hard in the interests of the union.

"No, we have not given the strike much consideration," said he, when spoken to by PROGRESS' representative. "We did not think it was going to last so long, and besides we have been under such heavy assessments ourselves this summer that that is probably the reason the matter was not brought up. But I don't think even this would prevent the masons from coming to the assistance of the millmen if it is needed. The nine hour day is something that the working men will not give up now that they have secured it. A concession on the part of the millmen would not effect us, because we are thoroughly organized and could hold out. The union is smaller now than it was some time ago, but this fact is not to be regretted because there were a number of incompetent men in it who were charter members and could not be expelled. These, however, went to work contrary to the rules of the union, and we had a struggle. The result has been that we have all the good mechanics in the city in our union, and the scabs cannot get work; there is not one of them working today."

"The millmen have a good deal to contend against in their fight: they have to compete with the cheap labor of Maine, and only those who have worked with people from that state know what that means. I worked in Boston when the masons there struck on these grounds. The Maine men were willing to work 24 hours a day, if necessary, and none of them were mechanics. It is pretty hard to fight against such men as these, but at the same time the millmen are not getting more than living wages, and any concessions on their part would make anything else more desirable than working in the mills. They should stick it out, and there is no doubt that the workingmen will see them through."

The First to Get Nine Hours.

The Caulkers' union is one of the oldest and strongest in the city, and Mr. Bart Horton has been in office long enough to be able to voice the sentiments of his fellow workmen. "We were about the first to have a nine hour day," said he, when spoken to by PROGRESS. "The caulkers secured it about two years before the other workmen around the harbor, and now that it has become general, almost any concession on the part of the millmen would be better than to go back to the ten hour system. Without considering whether it would be right for the men to go back at reduced pay after being out so long, even that would be better than going back at ten hours. It looks very much as

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though the millowners have taken advantage of the present bad state of the market to force the men to return to the ten hour system, but they have evidently made a mistake. All the working men in the city will help them out if necessary, and although our union does not meet until August, I think we could do something before that time if the matter was urgent. We could not give them the same assistance that the ship laborers might give, in refusing to handle the lumber until everything was arranged satisfactorily, for the work we do is begun just after the arrival of a vessel, and it is finished before anything is done in the way of loading her. Still, we would stand by the millmen, as workmen should stand by each other."

The carpenters were among the first to pass resolutions of sympathy and support to the millmen, and when seen Thursday evening, Mr. W. E. Case, the secretary of the union, exhibited a great interest in labor matters and spoke freely.

The Views of a Carpenter.

"The carpenters," he said, "were the first to agitate for nine hours last summer, and we had up-hill work. The painters came in with us, and although there was a good deal of opposition—even among the men, some of whom said that ten hours had become a standard and it would be hard to get anything else—we gained the point. Then, when the other trades saw how successful we had been, they all made a move in the same direction. As the system has only been general for a year or so, it is hard to say just what effect a concession on the part of the millmen might have on other trades. It would be much better for the millmen to accept a reduction than return to the ten hours—although I am not prepared just at present to say whether it would be well for them to accept it now after being out so long. You can readily understand that the millmen have to cut a certain amount of lumber, and the shorter the hours the longer the time they will have to work. The majority of millmen can get along better with work the year round at small pay, than by working half the year at large pay, for although they may handle the same amount of money, it is in smaller quantities, does not offer so many temptations, and can be used to better advantage."

"We have over 100 members on the roll of the union, but this does not by any means include all the men who are working at the trade in the city, yet I think the union can claim all the good mechanics, with perhaps a few exceptions. If we could only get the bosses to understand that we are working for their interests as well as our own it would be a great help to us, but this seems to be a difficult thing to do. There is a great deal of work done by incompetent men for almost nothing, and the bosses lose by this, but if they worked with the union a great advantage could be gained in this respect."

"I doubt whether it would be advisable to take all who are at present working at the trade into the union, but as it is only the workmen who feel that they can take their place beside anyone who are joining us. It was the union that secured the nine hour day for the carpenters, yet the outsiders who did nothing whatever to help us got the same benefits that we did. We thought that when the nine hours were secured the outsiders would join the union, but in this we were mistaken."

"No, I think there would be a struggle before the carpenters would go back to the ten hour system. It would only be a question with the bosses, whether it would be better for them to give the men a nine hour day, or have all the good workmen leave the city. As you probably know, the average carpenter's wages are too small to let him drive a stake down very far anywhere; and when he wants to get up and go away, it does not take him long to get ready. And I think that this is what the men would do, because a good workman can secure employment almost any place, and he will go where he can get the largest wages and the shortest hours, and nine hours are the rule everywhere. I do not think it will be very long before nine hours shall constitute a working day, for it will be made a law as soon as possible. However, as regards the carpenters, it is only a question as to whether it will be better to have good workmen or poor ones in the city. And in this connection, even those who do not go away, will only stay long enough to learn the trade, and be able to work beside good mechanics elsewhere."

The Printers are Ready.

President Alex. McLean, of the typographical union, said there was no question of their sympathy and assistance. The millmen could count upon them doing all that an organized body could do. The union had passed an informal resolution of sympathy and backed it up in a practical way by directing that if assistance was called for before the next meeting the chairmen in the different offices should make collections for the fund.

Picnic Prizes, at wholesale prices at McArthur's Book Store 80 King st.

MR. McKEOWN TALKS FREELY.

He Says the Men Will Win—The Reasons Why.

When Mr. McKeown was seen by PROGRESS he talked readily and freely upon the subject, saying in substance: There does not appear to be anything new in the matter. The numerous expressions of sympathy extended to the men have been of so encouraging a kind that they are more than ever determined to see the thing through if the mills don't start still spring. They notice with satisfaction that other branches of labor organizations regard this difficulty as a blow at the nine-hour system, and are prepared to stand by their friends with substantial assistance. You see the millowners were playing a double-barrelled sort of a game in this circular business—they didn't care much whether the mills shut down or not, as lumber is so low, and they doubtless figured it out that if the men stopped working they were quite satisfied with the result, and the burden of stopping then would be thrown on the men; and on the other hand if the men went on working the distasteful nine-hour business would be broken up, so they stood to win in either event. Their is no doubt but that the men will eventually win, and the running of a few of the other mills is a guarantee to that end. There is just this, however, that I want to say, and that is the millmen quite well understand that the owners have a perfect right to do as they like with their own property, and if a man's work is not worth as much now to the employer as it was a year ago, the employer has a right to say "I can't pay you as much as formerly; you will have to consent to a reduction." Had the millowners at the start taken that position, no one could blame them, especially as lumber is so low; but it is quite another thing to break in on an almost universal rule regulating the hours of labor. Mill work is hard. The machinery keeps the men on the jump continually, and no one will deny that nine hours is sufficient. It is also freely stated, and never to my knowledge denied, that as much lumber is turned out in 9 hours as the men used to manufacture in ten. If that be so, the injustice of the owners is more than ever apparent. This thing is a most serious matter, and involves the prospect of a large number of shop keepers whose trade is principally done with the working class. If the thing continues they must suffer and others through them must suffer, and this is very clear, that whatever stringency or suffering is occasioned by this strike, will be attributable to the cupidity of those mill owners who are seeking to use the present depression to their own advantage, no matter who may be injured by their action.

FAIR WORDS FROM MR. McDADE.

The Situation As It Appears to One of the Millmen's Speakers.

Mr. M. McDade (of Fredericton), who was again in town this week, in answer to questions by PROGRESS, said: "Being no longer a resident of this city, I somewhat dislike to express any opinion lest it might in any way interfere with the settlement of such an important matter. Since, however, you seem to think my opinion worth having, it is this: On no account would I advise the men to go back to the ten hour system. If they do, all other wage earners in St. John will be expected to do likewise. Regarding your question about a reduction of wages, that is a matter that the men might properly consider from the standpoint of what would be their best policy under the circumstances. If the millowners gave no alternative to the proposition to go back to the 10-hour system, and if they did they kept the matter very quiet, then they should not expect the men to accept a reduction of wages after having lost so much time in fighting against the ten hour system. If on the other hand the millowners can show that they proposed at the commencement of the trouble a slight temporary reduction of wages instead of the ten hour system, they would stand in a more favorable light with all fair minded men."

"If it could be shown that the millowners did suggest a temporary reduction of wages instead of a return to the ten hour system, would you advise the men to now accept a reduction of wages rather than have the difficulty continue?"

"I do not in any sense pose as a leader of the men. In accepting their invitation to speak at their meeting, I did so because of a feeling that their cause was just. I have the same feeling still, and while I do not think it right to now ask the men to submit to a reduction of wages, after they have lost so much time, if the millowners could make out a good case, I would not be unwilling that the men should meet them half way; I would have to be satisfied, however, that there had been a proposition from some of the millowners at the commencement of the strike for a temporary reduction of wages instead of the ten-hour a day system before I would be a

(Continued on eighth page.)

WE WANT THE TRUTH.

GIVE THE SAILOR, COOK, A FAIR SHOW.

His Story is Straightforward and Honest—His Charges Are Grave and Important—He Offers Witnesses and References—Work for the Chief.

There is another "extraordinary story" in police circles, another of those questionable affairs that have continued to agitate the people for the past twelve or fifteen months. To PROGRESS, this appears one of the most serious scrapes the police force has yet been into. Four officers are implicated—the charges are grave and important, and the most searching investigation will not be too much to expect.

The object of the attention of the force this time is a young man, William Cook, mate of the schooner *Energy*, which is commanded by his brother, Capt. Cook, and owned by Mr. J. Willard Smith. Mate Cook is a young man of about 30, quiet in manner and appearance, and with frank, straightforward methods. He says he has not tasted strong liquor three times in five years, and yet he was arrested on Water street for drunkenness last Saturday night!

His story is one of keen interest for all citizens because if it is true—and PROGRESS cannot well see how it can be proved utterly false—the liberty of no man who walks the streets after the sun has set can be called his own.

From Cook's story it appears that about 11 o'clock last Saturday night he was on the wharf near Water street talking to Captains Scord, of the schooner *Gulster*, and Dalton, now mate of the schooner *M. L. Bonnell*, and Owen Davidson. They had been standing there for some time when they separated for the night, Cook proceeding to Water street on the way to his vessel. He had not left his companions five minutes, and was proceeding slowly along Water street when four policemen came upon him suddenly, grabbed him and ran him into the Water street lock up.

To say that he was surprised does not express his feelings. He was astounded, and when he asked the officers for an explanation they told him he was drunk and to keep quiet. Then an offer was made to him in effect that if he would hand over \$2 they would let him go. Refusing to do this the policemen left him and prepared to enjoy a soft time for the remainder of the night. They laid down in the lock up and slept until nearly 2 o'clock, shortly before the time they were joined by other policemen.

Cook says that he walked back and forth in the lock-up the entire night and will swear to his story. He was taken to the central station early in the morning and lodged in a cell until 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when he left \$8 on deposit and secured his release. During all the day, however, he says that no person came near him, either to offer him a drink of water or a crumb of food. He did not volunteer this information, and when asked about it said it was the case, but that he could not have eaten had the food been offered him, for, to use his own words, "I have sailed in every quarter of the globe and this is the first time I have ever run afoul of a policeman or a lock-up."

Cook has not the appearance of a liar; he talks like an honest sailor, giving facts and other particulars with a readiness that was astonishing. He spoke of an interview with a "big stout man with long, heavy moustache," who told him to get out when he attempted to tell his story as he paid his \$8, and that there were lots of men just like him in St. John who were arrested and yet never drunk. Cook's reply was that if his vessel did not tow up river early on Monday he would stand trial and prove that he was not drunk. But the *Energy* was towed above the falls at 4 o'clock Monday morning, and did not return until Wednesday night. It is his first to the credit of Cook's story that his first step when he reached the city was toward the police office where he learned that by his non-appearance, Monday morning, his deposit was forfeited, and that he was convicted and published as a drunk.

This was rough. It is bad enough for a man's name to appear in the police court report when he is drunk, but to have it come out when he is not drunk and to lose \$8 in addition is more than human nature is expected to stand.

Cook had no possible redress save the press. He went to the *Globe* and so impressed the editor that he recommended an investigation, and he came to PROGRESS and gave such additional facts and references as are presented in this article.

There are too very remarkable additions to Cook's story. He has been known in this city for many years—well and favorably known—and when the fact of his arrest spread, there was general surprise and wonder. One of the oldest officers on the force gave him an explanation of the arrest. "It would not do," said he, "under the present rule, for the division not to show something for a night's work. It was nearing midnight and you were the nearest victim. If you were arrested, one of the

men could go home for the rest of the night."

The other remarkable statement made by Cook is that he has not tasted strong liquor three times in five years, and yet was arrested for drunkenness. He offers the evidence of the two captains he talked with that he had not been drinking; he offers the knowledge of his employer that he is not a man who drinks; he says that 100 men in St. John know that he does not indulge in liquor, and he rehers the chief of police to the proprietor of the Sackville house with whom he boarded for four years, or to A. Tower, of the North End, another hotel keeper, or to Stephen R. Cook, Robt. McKay, of the North End, or to Capt. Duncan, with whom he sailed and who should know him.

PROGRESS has given Cook's story and would recommend that the chief of police give it more than a cursory investigation. Public opinion demands it, Mr. Clark, and it will pay even a chief of police to defer to public opinion sometimes. Take every fact into consideration and do not forget that two of the men, Woods and Harrington, whom Cook says slept after he was arrested, were suspended this week for the same offence.

MONEY IN THE HOTEL.

Messrs. Pugsley Securing Good Rents for Their Offices.

The impression that the Messrs. Pugsley have an elephant on their hands in the shape of their new building on Princess and Canterbury streets is not very correct. PROGRESS imagines that it will prove one of the best paying properties in the city in the course of a short time.

The land it is situated upon cost the Messrs. Pugsley \$12,000. The Wiggins' estate which owned it wanted \$20,000 in the first instance, but they finally sold for \$12,000. The office building just erected cost in the vicinity of \$25,000, perhaps \$27,000, which makes a total value at the time of land and building of \$40,000. Five per cent for investment, four for taxes and other expenses, and the rental would require to be \$3600 to bring the owners out even.

They are likely to come out more than square. The Halifax Banking company which has the corner now at \$450 per annum has secured the office of the hotel—as it was planned—for ten years at \$850 a year and Messrs. Pugsley are holding their old office for \$700 a year. PROGRESS understands that they have been offered \$600.

Mr. M. A. Finn has secured for between \$300 and \$400, the cellar under the new office of the Halifax Banking company while there is some talk of a merchants and bankers exchange room being made of the dining hall, provided 100 subscribers can be found at \$10 a year, which would mean another \$1000.

It is not hard to figure \$2,500 a year out of the new building already, and not one tenth of the space rented. It is true it is the most valuable part of the space, but anyone with half an eye can see the "cream on the milk."

Look Out For Fleecers.

The "Mystic Seven" did not prove a howling success. The delegates either struck the wrong town or gained too much publicity all at once. Their customary haunts know them no more. There was about as much truth in their denial that they canvassed ladies as in their general statements. PROGRESS is prepared to prove what it said. Since last week an interesting table from the official reports has come to hand, and the showing these "benevolent" orders such as The Mystic Seven, Order of Unity and Bay State League make would paralyze any man with good common sense. According to the report up to December of last year, the Mystic Seven order spent \$3,895 for salaries to its officers out of a total income of \$9,653. It had no deposit whatever in the state treasury, and its assets amounted to but \$3,714! The Order of Unity, which is striving for a foothold in this province, spent \$20,447 for salaries alone out of a total income of \$44,755, and its total expenses amounted to \$34,367. Its assets were only \$12,856. The Bay State League, which is also looking for suckers where it can find them, spent \$28,989 in salaries out of a total income of \$53,134, with total expenses amounting to \$39,968. The state treasury deposit of the Order of Unity is only \$5,200, while the Bay State League has even less, \$2,145. PROGRESS will print the entire table in its next issue. The orders pay their officers well, and a few policy holders get enough to lead the others on. But the shearing time is coming. Look out that you are not among the fleeced.

Needless Opposition.

The establishment of another church school at Rothesay is not regarded with as great favor as it might be, had not Father Davenport and the Mission church previously announced their intention to found a school. It seems a genuine pity that there cannot be greater harmony in such good work as this.