

# In The World Of Labor

A Budget of News For Those Interested in Labor

By G. A. M.

Gleaned From the Exchanges and Other Sources

## How Girls Exist, Not Live On an \$8 Weekly Wage

The recently completed field work of the New York State Factory Investigation Commission shows that the working girl who earns \$8 a week has to spend at least \$4 for board and room. Not much of a room can be had at such a price. The girl generally has in New York City, a folding bed in order that there may be a place to sit when she is not sleeping. The people who conduct the Room Directory at the Young Women's Christian Association in that city think that \$4 a week is about what is required to get a decent room. Four dollars a week then, for food and lodging, surely a substantial standard of living in most cases. It may be that the food is insufficient, or it may be that the apartment is overcrowded, or it may be that the room does not furnish any degree of privacy.

Clothing demands another dollar and a half a week. Any one who has tried to figure out a satisfactory clothing budget on \$8 a year, knows how little that sum will buy. Stockings at 10 cents the pair from a 5 and 10 cent store are expensive for it often takes a pair a week; likewise shoes at \$2 are costly. But one who never has a reserve fund is forced to buy in this uneconomical manner.

The next inevitable item of expenditure for a great many is care, which comes to 50 cents a week. Thus all but \$1.90 of the \$8 wage is used for food, clothing and transportation to and from work. She does her own laundry, very often after a hard day in store or factory. This work is a heavy tax on strength.

What must be covered by this \$1.90? Ten cents a week paid to an industrial insurance company will buy a girl starting at the age of 21, a death benefit of \$200, or a 20-year-endowment policy of \$66. This burial insurance is necessary. Then there are the innumerable demands of the toilet to be met from this sum, and the regular but certain calls of the dentist

for service, or the physician or the oculist. If these incidental items do not consume the whole of the \$8, something is left for amusement. But the fact seems to be that the girl is dependent for her pleasures mainly on men. She has, therefore, to attract the men. She may be tempted to various arts and actions that are a bit unconventional.

But this is not all, the girl is liable to several weeks of unemployment during the year. After these weeks she has generally a debt to the landlady against which she must struggle. The \$8 girl does not save, neither does the \$9 girl. It is not until the wages of \$10 is attained that a third of the women are able to save. How can the \$8 girl provide for periods of slack work?

So much may be said of the \$8 but half the girls in the factories are receiving less than \$6 so

Miss Esther Packard, assistant secretary of the Consumers' League, who made an investigation for the commission, told how working girls live on \$6 a week. She stated that it was only at the sacrifice of practically all comfort and frequently of health, that a girl can exist on this meagre salary. She interviewed 100 girls in this city and 200 in other large cities of the state.

"A girl of 21 was sick last winter," said Miss Packard, "and absent from work a week. She is a clerk getting \$6 a week as saleslady in the white goods department of a large upstate store. 'You see I've figured it all out,' she said, 'I pay \$2 for my room—that bill has to be met every week. Then once a month 25 cents is taken out of my tiny envelope for the store benefit fund. That also is regular and can't be cut down on. I've got to dress decent to keep my job. If I didn't spend \$1.25 a week on clothes they'd fire me sure. So you see yourself the only thing that is left for me to economize on is food. Fifteen or twenty cents is the highest

she ever pays for lunch or dinner. 'You know some times I just long for a 30-cent dinner,' she said, 'But I haven't the price of it in my pocket-book, so what can I do? I get so tired of those 20-cent dinners year in and year out, that often think I'd rather not eat at all.'

The investigator said that "statistics tell us that thousands of working girls are receiving only \$5, \$6 and \$7 a week. Such figures, no matter how imposing, mean little to the average person, unless it brings immediately to his mind a picture of just what this wage actually means to working girls.

To one girl \$5 will mean lack of food, to another it will be poor living quarters, and yet to another no savings for a rainy day. But invariably it will mean to thousands a cramped, subnormal way of life—a mere existence, not a real living—Frank H. Streightoff, Director of Cost of Living, Investigation of Factory Commission.

### James M. Lynch

His Address at the Canadian Club Luncheon Was a Masterpiece. Many Prominent Citizens and Trades Unionists Pleased with His Presentation of Labor's Case.

The address of James M. Lynch, Labor Commissioner of the State of New York, given before the Canadian Club, Toronto, at the luncheon last Monday, is generally conceded to have been a splendid effort. There was a very large attendance of the members, composed of prominent manufacturers, professional and business men, and a number of prominent labor men, including Controller James Simpson, James Watt, president, and T. A. Stevenson, secretary of the District Labor Council; Duncan McDougall, president of the local Typographical Union; J. T. Marks, Industrial Banner, and others were present as invited guests.

Mr. Lynch was delayed by his train and did not arrive until the luncheon was almost over, but in the meantime

the chairman, after a neat speech, called upon Controller Simpson, who referred to the personality and work of the ex-president of the I.T.U., who entered the dining hall while he was yet speaking.

Commissioner Lynch shortly after began his address upon "The Ideals of Trades Unionism and Labor's Attitude Towards War." Suffice it to say that all present greatly enjoyed the brilliant manner in which he presented his case to the audience, and it was conceded on all hands that it was one of the best efforts that has ever been made before the Canadian Club.

The influence of a speech of this character coming from a man of the standing and influence of the ex-president of the I. T. U., is not to be underestimated and goes to show that it is recognized everywhere to-day that the leaders of the labor movement are men who can hold their own in the best minds of the age. Mr. Lynch must have impressed his hearers with the idea that organized labor stands for infinitely more than the mere shortening of the workday or an increased rate of wages.

### The Failure of Civilization

Men and Women Prefer Death, to Existing Conditions. In the Hopeless Struggle for a Bite of Food There is Always the Last Alternative.

Never in the history of the Western Hemisphere have there been so many suicides as during the last thirty days. It is almost impossible to pick up an issue of any of our big daily newspapers without reading of the self destruction of despondent men and women, the down and outs, who have lost in the battle of life and prefer the alternative of entering the unknown in preference to eking out an existence that has grown to be an intolerable burden, so much so that the cross has become heavier than they feel they can longer bear.

These are ghastly facts that we opine not a single reader of this paper will feel disposed to question. The great public is well aware of the fact that such a state of affairs does actually exist, that thousands of individuals of both sexes do not know where their next meal is to come from and that men and women and little children go hungry to bed in comfortable habitations that are as cold as the wintry streets themselves.

What may one who can really think—and feel—have to say in extenuation of a civilization where such things are possible, and still it is a fact that daily thousands of the unemployed

hopelessly wander in a vain search for work and at night wearily drag their flagging footsteps to the miserable place designated by the name of home.

Is it any cause for wonder that under such circumstances men and women deliberately resolve to end it for once and all, preferring to risk that which may be ahead in preference to maintaining a worthless existence which they have come to look upon as worse than any possible hell that may await them in the beyond.

Men and women do not deliberately choose death because they want to die, but to escape from something which they fear infinitely worse, the numbing, weary, hopeless struggle that holds out no prospect whatever ahead.

True, to the younger work-girls there is another alternative too horrible to mention that may tend to prolong life under still worse conditions. Mr. Lynch must have impressed his hearers with the idea that organized labor stands for infinitely more than the mere shortening of the workday or an increased rate of wages.

What may truly be thought and said of any social system where such staggering tragedies are looked upon as natural results by no means out of the ordinary?

Just think of a state of society in which death is a welcome messenger to thousands who are endowed with the God-bestowed faculties to exist and enjoy life to the full.

These things are not dreams, but actual realities that cry no halt. May it not be that in the future a state of society will be evolved where such an awful tragedy will be no longer possible or thinkable? Must opportunity be ever chained down or will humanity emerge into the light that men have long dreamed of?

### Labor Educational Assoc. of Ontario

Ontario Educational Association—Official Circular.

Toronto, Dec. 19th, 1914.

To the Central Labor Organizations Throughout the Province of Ontario.

Brothers—During the month of October the Secretary of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario took up the project of establishing a work-shop in Toronto for the purpose of manufacturing toys and like articles, whereby members of Labor organizations who might be unemployed dur-

ing slack seasons may be provided with work.

In November a meeting of interested trades unionists was held, and the Trades Industrial Toy Association was organized. It was evident that it would not be possible to do a great deal in the way of manufacturing goods for the present Christmas trade, but the idea entertained was to make a start, so as to be in a position to capture a share of next year's and future years' work.

The Toronto Board of Control kindly granted the use of St. Andrew's Market Hall for a workshop, but after benches had been built and arrangements made for the necessary machinery, it was found that as the building was not heated, and the cost to make it comfortable would entail a considerable monthly expenditure, it was decided to secure other quarters. Fortunately the committee of management was able to secure a suitable place which had been used for a machine shop and was owned by the city, and arrangements were made to remove there forthwith.

The result has been that at the present time the benches have been erected and a circular and bent saw bench drills, squaring shears, folders, rollers, and other wood and metal working machinery has been installed.

A new electric motor, belt and other appliances to outfit the machinery and run them by electricity have been purchased, and the plant has now commenced operations and models and patterns are now being turned out.

Your executive, who has taken the initiative in this work, are pleased to know that the new factory is in good condition, and that the machinery installed is valued at about five hundred dollars, but the aim is to still further develop it and secure considerable additional machinery to further facilitate the work.

As we believe that other industrial centres can co-operate and turn out these goods, and that they can be manufactured at a fair profit it has been decided to ask the various industrial bodies throughout the province to appoint a committee to take this matter up without delay and forward their names and addresses to the Secretary. There is no reason why the workers in the various towns and cities of the province cannot manufacture for their home demands.

Trusting that you will consider this communication at your first meeting, so that steps may be taken to organize "for work" early in the year, and that you will advise us of action taken, we remain yours, on behalf of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario,

The above communication has been

sent to all central labor bodies in the province, and the movement is being taken up in this city by the local Trades and Labor Council, Patterns and Descriptions, also -making models of the different toys to be made, are expected to arrive in the city very shortly. It is a movement along the right lines, now that the German trade in these goods has been completely wiped out. Let all our toys be made in Canada, and so help on the good work to solve the question of unemployment.

### A Creed

Faith in him who calls me friend, Faith in what is sweet and clean, Faith that just around the bend All is peaceful and serene, Faith that after care and strife Come the happy days of rest, Faith that everything in life Really happens for the best.

This my faith and this my shield 'Gainst the arrows of distrust, Much of justice is concealed, In what seems to be unjust, Now what seems a dismal way That alone I'm forced to tread I may come to see some day Is a glorious path instead.

Undisturbed by petty wrongs Undismayed by what is mean, Though the false attracts the throng, Though the multitude's unclear, Though at times I stand alone, Though I'm oft misunderstood, Faith I still would keep and own In the decent and the good.

—Detroit Free Press.

### OPEN NOSTRILS! END A COLD OR CATARRH

How To Get Relief When Head and Nose are Stuffed Up.

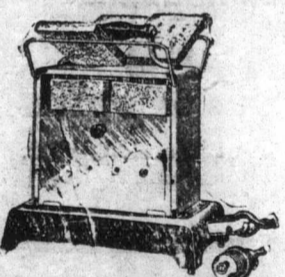
Count fifty! Your cold in head or catarrh disappears. Your clogged nostrils will open, the air passages of your head will clear and you can breathe freely. No more snuffing, hawking, mucous discharge, drowsiness or head-ache, no struggling for breath at night.

Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist and apply a little of this fragrant antiseptic cream in your nostrils. It penetrates through every air passage of the head, soothing and healing the swollen or inflamed mucous membrane, giving you instant relief. Head colds and catarrh yield like magic. Don't stay stuffed-up and miserable. Relief is sure.

# FATHER — MOTHER — BROTHER — SISTER Make It An ELECTRICAL CHRISTMAS

## Give Something Useful

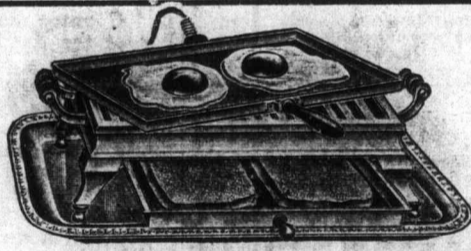
## These Gifts Give Joy and Comfort Long After Christmas is Forgotten



### The Best Toaster on the Market

Toasts the bread an even, golden brown. An ornament to the best table. Easy to clean. Bread does not curl up.

Price \$6.00  
NOT A CURRENT EATER  
ECONOMICAL, EFFICIENT AND QUICK



### NO MORE HOT WATER BOTTLES The Simplex Heating Pad

is safe, clean, holds the heat as long as you want it. As a bed-warmer it can't be beat. Gives 3 degrees of heat. Easy to attach. One man says: "I wouldn't be without it for any money."

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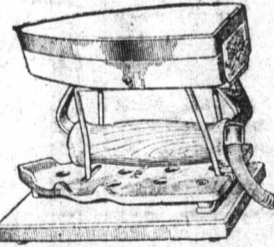
### An Electric Stove for \$6.00

Boils, Toasts, Fries, Broils. No mess, no dirt, no heat, no smell. Always ready. Economical.

ONLY A FEW LEFT

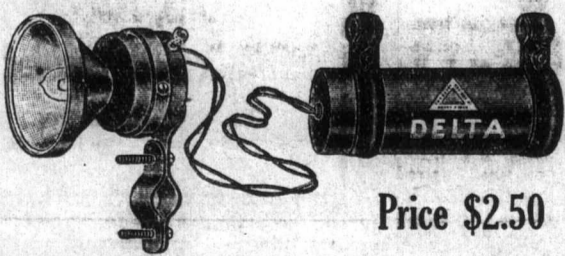
### This Iron Costs a Little More Money, But

it's worth it. Saves electricity. Will not burn out with a little overheating. Is sold complete with heavy stand and stove attachment. Give a good Iron while you're at it.



### For the Man or Boy With a Bicycle

An Electric Lamp will last for years. Uses ordinary No. 6 battery. Strong, clear light. No trouble.

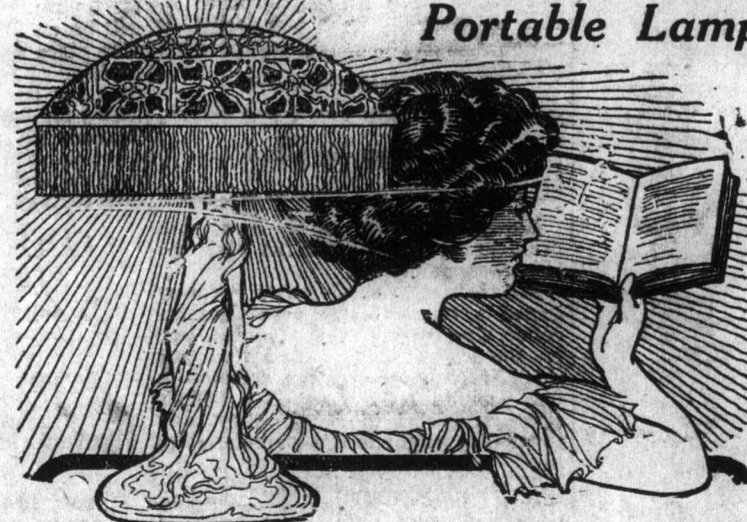


Price \$2.50

### THE LAMP OF 1000 USES

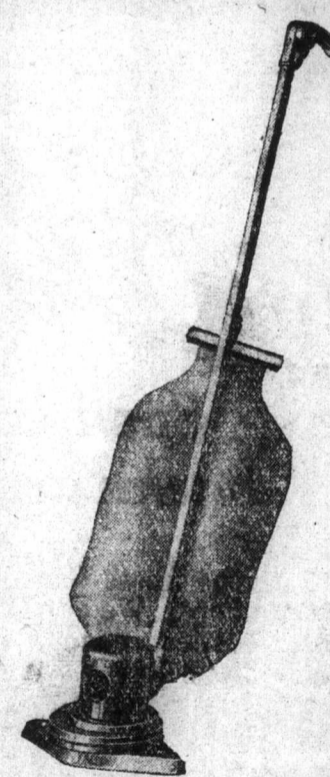
Electric Hand Lantern, uses ordinary No. 6 battery, safe, cheap, handy. Everybody needs it.

Price \$2.50



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for the Den, Living-Room, Piano, Office, Study or Boudoir. Beautiful, up-to-date designs. See our display. Pick your choice—NOW.



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It means housework with the drudgery left out. It means a dust proof home. Carpets and Furniture lasts longer. You may depend on it, this cleaner is right or we wouldn't handle it.

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The right way to make Coffee—as you like it, handsome in appearance, Economical. SEE THEM NOW!



Electric Curling Tong Heater  
No Fuss—No Trouble  
Every Lady Wants This

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The Kind You Have Always  
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and always Febrishness  
has been in constant  
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Diarrhoea. It regulat  
assimilates the Food,  
The Children's Panacea

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- Electric Toys.....35c
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frequently sold at top  
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next time you order  
BRANT CREAM  
choicest, rich cream from  
dairy herds.

It is a peerless table  
rich, nutty flavor all  
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and see Brant  
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