

LOOKS LIKE A COAL STRIKE

PRESIDENT MITCHELL ON TOUR CHEERED BY 10,000 MINERS.

Mahanoy, City, Pa., Sept. 13.—Five thousand mine workers paraded here to-day in honor of President John Mitchell, who was given a rousing reception. Every colliery in the Mahanoy Valley was closed and 10,000 employes made a holiday of it. There were only two banners in the procession.

"The union," said Mitchell, "is now stronger than at any time in its history, and is prepared to move in one solid phalanx to victory in its fight for right as it did in 1902. We shall demand a decrease in hours and an increase in wages."

GOOD RESULTS.

Of the Eight-Hour Work Day. Figures Tell the Tale.

Massachusetts Workmen Render Better Service and Receive More Pay—An Equitable Arrangement.

Bulletin No. 36, issued by the Massachusetts Bureau of the Statistics of Labor, presents some interesting data on the eight-hour question, especially as to the influence of the shorter workday upon wages.

In the early days of the eight-hour agitation many workingmen were among its opponents, because of their belief that shortening the day meant lessening the daily wage in proportion. The uninformed still hold that such must be the natural result; but few, if any, union workingmen are now unaware that just the opposite has been the experience.

There has also been a change of opinion from the employer's point of view. It is now pretty generally conceded that the workman renders better service under the shorter workday system than under the old system. And while there has been an advance in the quality of the work performed under the new as against the old system, there has not been a corresponding diminution in the quantity.

The Massachusetts report deals only with labor on public works, but with rare exceptions, the conditions of public employment in any community run parallel to those of private employment.

The statutes of Massachusetts fix the hours of labor required of employes on public works at nine per day, but each city or town is allowed to reduce by referendary vote the workday to eight hours. The two sections of the law covering the subject read:

"Nine hours shall constitute a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics who are employed by or on behalf of the commonwealth or of any county, city or town therein, except as provided in the following section."

Following is the section referred to as the exception in the above:

"In a city or town which by a vote taken by ballot at an annual election accepts the provisions of this section, or has accepted the corresponding provisions of earlier laws, eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics who are employed by such city or town. If a petition for such vote, signed by 100 or more registered voters of a city, or twenty-five or more registered voters of a town, is filed with a city or town clerk, respectively, thirty days or more before an annual election, such vote shall be taken at such election."

In the presentation of wages the bureau considered only the rates paid to

laborers. The article in the Bulletin states: "The wages paid mechanics and other workmen employed by the commonwealth are practically standard rates."

Of the 354 cities and towns of Massachusetts the report of the bureau covers all but two towns. There are seventy cities and towns which have the eight-hour day on public work, 213 with the nine-hour day and 56 the ten-hour day. "Five-sevenths of the cities and towns where eight hours constitute a day's work the wages are \$2 per day and upward. One-sixth of the nine-hour places pay \$2 or more per day. Out of the fifty-six ten-hour places but three pay as high as \$2 per day. Six only of the eight-hour towns pay as low as \$1.50 per day, while ninety of the nine-hour and forty of the ten-hour towns pay \$1.50 or less. In one nine-hour town the daily wage is \$1.25, and in three others of the same class it is \$1.35.

A glance at these figures will show that on the average the short day drains the long pay. And what is so of public work in Massachusetts is so pretty generally everywhere in the country; and it is equally true of private as well as public employment.

I leave each reader to determine for himself, applying the knowledge he may have, gleaned from personal observation, just why it is the tendency of the shorter workday to increase wages. While the general principle is the same in all cases, there may be and are special influences that operate in some instances. —Joseph B. Buchanan.

"It is not to die, nor even to die of hunger, that makes a man wretched. Many men have died; all men must die. But it is to live miserable, we know not why; to work sore, and yet gain nothing; to be heart-worn, weary, yet isolated, unrelated, girt in with a cold, universal *Laisses-faire*."—Carlyle.

EPIGRAMS.

To win a woman man must flatter her; to win a man woman must fool him.

How seldom is that which costs little, worth very much. Nevertheless most of us love bargains.

Life may be a huge joke, but too often either the joke is not evident, or it is on us.

If advice is good why give it away? Those who are wiser than we are are irritating, which may be why most people irritate us.

We generally accuse the man who has better eye-sight of seeing things which do not exist.

A man who can stand much of his fellow-men has to have a vast amount of patience and tolerance.

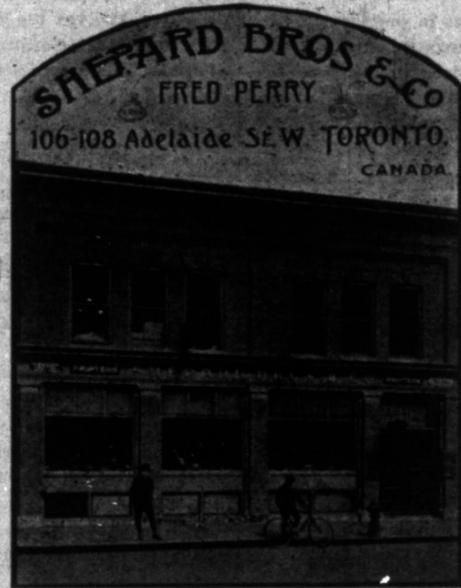
The difference between the man who expects much and the man who expects little, is that the former is disappointed in getting little and the latter in getting less.

They who quote, "There is nothing new under the sun," are those who have sought in vain and who cannot understand that others may succeed where they have failed.

"Every little helps," but that is small consolation to him who gets that little.

The man who uses himself as a standard rarely finds others come up to it.

Others imagine that we are deceived as readily as they are.



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