

THE ARID LAND PROBLEM.

Canada is to be congratulated in that she has no irrigation problem in connection with her Great West. Nature has watered "the world's granaries." The United States Government is now about to invest \$10,000,000 in arid land reclamation. By this expenditure they hope to add at least \$50,000,000 to the landed values in the irrigated regions. Land now completely valueless, when assured of a permanent water supply, will be worth a minimum of fifty dollars per acre.

The plans of five enterprises have been submitted to the Government. These are the construction of a reservoir on the Sweetwater River in Wyoming; the building of the unique St. Mary Canal in Montana, which will divert the waters of one watershed and turn them through the divide upon another watershed, so that they will eventually find their way into the Gulf of Mexico; the "Nevada project," which involves the construction of reservoirs lying in whole or in part in the State of California; the construction of a six-mile tunnel to serve as a conduit for the flow of the Gunnison River in Colorado; and the storage of water in the Salt River near the mouth of Tonto Creek in Arizona.

A STRIKE FOR LOWER PAY.

One of the curious fruits of unionism is revealed in the strike in a boiler-shop in Jersey City. The union had fixed the minimum wage to be paid in that shop at \$3 per day. But it was found that the firm was paying \$3.75 a day to a few men whose work was much better than the average. The firm was then notified that it must establish a uniform rate of \$3 per day, and no more. Compliance with this order was refused. Accordingly, the men went on strike; the more skilled workmen, who were getting \$3.75 per day, went with their companions, thus striking against their higher pay. The police had to be called to protect the non-union men who took the place of the strikers.

The principle that the lazy, incompetent workman is worth as much as the most skilled of his companions

can never be promotive of the interests of the labouring class as a whole. It is self-evident that such a stand can only tend to discourage self-development, and reduce the whole class to the level of the lazy and incompetent. The labouring classes have undoubtedly had their grievances, with which all right-minded men have sympathized, but this suppression of the inducements to rise above the mediocre is undoubtedly one of the bad fruits of the struggle. To be sure, all union men are not in sympathy with the Jersey City strike.

Judge W. H. Thomas, of Alabama, thus summarizes recent statistics:

Killed on American railways,	
three years ending June 30,	
1900	21,847
Killed (British forces) during	
South African war, including	
death from disease	22,000
Homicides (three times the	
number for one year, 10,465)	31,395

That is, the homicides in the United States are nearly half as many again as either the deaths from railroad accidents in the same country in time of peace, or the deaths in South Africa from war. The figures show an appalling disregard of human life in the United States.

The New York Commercial Advertiser has the good sense to say: "As a matter of fact, annexation becomes every year a more and more improbable dream. Canada is growing up into a strong and prosperous state, with interests and with an individuality that are peculiarly her own."

In addition to the Atlas Line weekly service from New York to Jamaica referred to on another page, there is a monthly steamer by the Pickford & Black Line from Halifax, calling at Bermuda and Turk's Island, and a fortnightly steamer for Bermuda, Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Demerara. This might be more convenient for the Maritime Provinces. The rate to Jamaica by all the lines is, we think, the same—\$40 one way, \$75 for the round trip.

Wait then, my soul, and edge the darkening cloud
 With the bright gold that hope can always lend;
 And if to-day thou art with sorrow bowed;
 Wait till to-morrow and thy grief shall end.—Henry Burton.