

LABOR AND WAGES.

CANADIAN.

The Grand Trunk railway officials practically settled the trouble with their employees at the conference held at the Union station, Toronto, on Monday. The sliding scale, which was the bone of contention, has been amended to suit the employees.

For some time past there has been a disagreement as to wages and hours of labor between the master painters of Halifax, N.S., and their employees. Several attempts on the part of the men have been made to settle the difficulty, but without success. This week negotiations have again been resumed, and it is hoped they will be successful.

Some little friction has arisen between one or two Toronto tailors and their men over the classification of goods. The men claim that the employers have in some instances been classing worsted and heavy serges as third-class work when they should be classed as second. The matter admits of an easy settlement, and no serious difficulty is anticipated.

United States Immigration Agent Stith, of Chicago, has served notice that the Treasury Department has decided that Canadian seamen can no longer be employed on lake vessels flying the American flag, but must make way for American seamen.

The decision results from the arrest of Captain Rabshaw last summer for violation of the contract labor law. Little short of a revolution will be caused in the carrying trade of the lakes, as many hundreds of Canadians have been employed every year on American vessels. The Seamen's Union and emigration agents will co-operate in a thorough enforcement of the decision. Only when an American vessel while in a Canadian port is deprived of its crew by desertion or otherwise can Canadians be employed, and then only temporary.

Delegates from every section of the Grand Trunk system in Canada, from Montreal to Sarnia, including the southern and midland divisions, assembled in Toronto on Tuesday afternoon in the local manager, Mr. Wragge's office, to discuss the situation with the authorities. They were met by the general superintendent, Mr. Jas. Stephenson, who had come from Montreal for the purpose; Mr. Stiff, superintendent of the southern division, and other officials. The conference lasted from two to seven o'clock. Every complaint was discussed, and it is understood all differences were settled. After the meeting Mr. Stephenson stated the conference was most harmonious in its character, and that all the difficulties were at an end between the company and its employees. The men who were interviewed say the same.

A Hamilton despatch says: Joseph Payette, the French Canadian who was sent to Montreal by the Gurney Company to secure moulders to fill the vacancies caused by the moulders' strike, has returned home. It was rumored he would bring a carload of moulders as a result of his week's stay in Montreal, but only four non-union French Canadian moulders accompanied him. In the meantime the union men claim they have succeeded in persuading some of the men who were at work to leave the city. The representative of the moulders' union is still in Montreal, and is doing his utmost to counteract the work done by Payette and other French Canadians sent to Lower Canada by the foundrymen to secure men. The foundrymen say they are hopeful of securing enough moulders to run their shops, and the strikers claim they have the best of the fight so far. About a hundred union men have left the city and secured work elsewhere.

AMERICAN.

The Reading Iron Co. has notified its employees that a reduction in wages will be made next month. The amount is not stated, but will probably range from 5 to 10 per cent.

The American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Co., of Woonsocket, R. I., George Munroe Endicott, president, and Edw. A. Jones, treasurer, the syndicate which lately secured control of nearly all the factories in this line of business in the country, has assigned for the benefit of its creditors.

About 50 weavers in the Arlington Mill at Lawrence, Mass., went out on strike Wednesday afternoon. The introduction of a new class of work reduced their pay from \$8 to \$6 per week. They asked an increase in pay from 80 cents to \$1 per out, which was refused, and they went out.

The National Union of Textile Workers of America met in convention in New York last week. Thirty three delegates were present from the cities of Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford and Fall River, of Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Pa., Dover, N. H., and Rockville, Conn. The secretary's report showed that the membership had nearly doubled within a year. Resolutions were adopted favoring fewer hours of labor for women and minors employed in factories, raising the school age to 16 years, and the

appointment by the State of sanitary inspectors of factories. It was decided to hold annual instead of semi-annual conventions hereafter.

EUROPEAN.

One thousand cabmen in the employ of six cab companies of Paris have gone out on strike.

The Durham miners on Monday voted to continue the strike. The police in the strike districts have been reinforced.

Some excitement was caused in London on Tuesday by the report that a body of unemployed workmen had endeavored to force entrance into the premises of the London County Council in Spring Gardens, S. W., with the object of demanding work. It was soon ascertained, however, that the facts were that a small deputation of men out of employment headed by a negro named Harry Wabes had tried to secure entrance to the meeting room of the council. They did not state the object of their mission, but it is presumed it was their intention to demand that they be given employment. The police on duty at the building prevented them from entering. Wabes persisted in attempting to get in with his followers and the police determined to arrest him. He resisted, and there was a short scuffle before he was taken into custody.

The average number of hands employed in the mining industry of Prussia in 1890 is stated as 341,904, or 24,892 more than in the preceding year. The number of persons who from one cause or another lost their lives in carrying on their work in the mines was 768, or fifty-six in excess of the number of similar fatalities in 1890. Coal mining is accountable for by far the greatest proportion of fatalities, viz.: 664 out of the total number of 768, and, going into further detail, we find that the most frequent cause of fatality in coal mining is the falling in of masses of coal or stone during boring and similar operations, the number of lives lost in that way having been 289 in 1890, and 276 on an average in each of the years between 1880 and 1889. A glance at the table of wages paid to miners in 1890 shows that the highest pay was given in the State coal mines at Saarbrücken.

The Legend of Standing Rock.

The North American Indians have some of the most beautiful legends of any aboriginal people. This simple race in its child like simplicity, devoutly believes in those poetic fictions which people every rock and tree, brook and prairie with goblins and fairies, good and evil spirits. The Helena Independent tells a pretty little legend of this kind, of how Standing Rock agency, in North Dakota, received its name.

Years ago, according to the Indian tradition, a buck and his squaw were on a journey down the Missouri river to visit some relatives at a distant point. Where Fort Yates now is the buck saw a young squaw of surprising beauty, with whom he fell desperately in love. In spite of the tears and entreaties of his lawful wife, he refused to proceed on the journey or in any other direction, but resolved to stay right there with his new-found passion. The deserted squaw exhausted her entreaties and her tears, and finally arose to leave the place alone. As she did so she fell back in the spot where she had been sitting and turned to stone. There she has remained ever since, a standing reproach to her faithless lord and master and to all his kind. By a faint stretch of the imagination the standing rock from which the agency gets its name can be made to take on the outlines of a woman.

The Indians believe the story and pay homage to the monument of man's perfidy and fickleness and woman's constancy. While the inspector was at Fort Yates he saw an Indian approach the rock, bow reverently, and lay something at its base. When the Indian had gone, the inspector and the agent went out to see what the offering was. It was a chew of tobacco, no heavy sacrifice, it might be said; but perhaps it was the last the Indian had.

How German Railway Men Are Paid

An official list has just been published of the wages paid in Germany to the whole of the railway employees on the State railways in that empire, beginning at the presidents of direction, of whom there are eleven, down to brakemen and the poorer officials. These presidents do not reap colossal wealth, their pay being a little over £500 a year, and this is by a long way the highest salary paid upon the railway. Telegraph inspectors, of whom there are only eighteen, get from £150 to £200; bookkeepers and secretaries, £100 to £180; ticket stampers and office clerks, from £50 to £75; porters, or rather portiers, and ticket guards, £40 to £60 a year; and the artisans and engine drivers get but very poor pay, indeed, compared to the pay on our English railways. Drivers and the electric machinists get from £60 to £100 a year the highest—that is, not over £2 a week; stokers and assistants and this class of helpers from £1 a week to 28s, and the semi-guard porters, who sit in their great coats in all weathers on the top of the train, get but from £40 to £60 a year.

Sinking in a Quicksand.

About five miles south of Plattsmouth, Neb., is one of the most dangerous pieces of road in this whole country, and while in some seasons of the year it is safe for travelling, at others it is all a man's life is worth to go over it. The cause of this is a quicksand which lies directly across the road which is used in the fall of the year, but is abandoned in the spring and summer.

Henry Girard, who lives at Joplin, Mo., came near losing his life here, and he tells the following story of his adventure: I was coming to Plattsmouth to transact some business regarding some lands in which I have an interest, and as I wished to see the land before I got here, I concluded to come on horseback. The horse is a regular pet and is one raised by myself. He comes at my call or whistle like a dog.

"When I got to the forks of the road I saw that the river road was not used, but that the travel went over the hill, but I concluded to go along the bank and thought I could pick my way without trouble. I got down off my horse and turned him loose to follow me as I walked along. He stopped to graze and I walked slowly, watching the river. Having got some distance ahead of the horse, I sat down to wait for him. How long I sat there I do not know, but I was suddenly aroused by finding that my legs were firmly grasped by the quicksand. I was slowly but surely being drawn into the earth.

"I threw myself on my back and tried to draw myself from the sand, but all my efforts were unavailing, and I was slowly being drawn under the sand. I shouted for help until almost exhausted, but could get no response, and was forced to believe that my last hour had come, and that I was to suffer a most horrible death. It was late in the evening, and I was wondering why my horse did not come. I called him time and again, but he was evidently too far away to hear me.

"As I lay there, sinking deeper and deeper every minute, I heard a party of people on the river. It appeared to be a pleasure party of young folks, and as they floated down the stream they were singing. The song came distinctly over the water, but for some reason I could not make them hear, and they passed down the river singing 'Home, Sweet Home,' while I lay there thinking I had seen my home for the last time. By this time the sand had pulled me down until it was almost up to my shoulders, and I lay with my arms spread out in order to give as much resistance to the terrible suction as possible.

"I thought I heard my horse and called with all my might, giving a peculiar whistle which I had taught him to answer. He heard me, and came running to where I lay, but could not see me on the ground where I was in the hole, as it was rather dark by this time. I called him again and again until he found me where I was, and then he came to me and I tried to reach up and get some sort of a hold on the saddle or bridle, but I was too low. By some chance he stepped by me, and I got a firm hold on his tail, and then urged him to go on. It was an awful pull, but I could feel that I was being dragged out of the sand.

"It was such a strain that I was compelled to stop and rest often, but at last I was pulled so far out that I could extricate myself, and then managed to hold on to his tail until he dragged me away from the place, and there I lay until I heard a wagon on the road, and was brought to this city to recover from the terrible mental and physical sufferings. It was a narrow escape, and I do not think I will ever hear 'Home, Sweet Home' again without feeling a spasm of thankfulness."—Fort Worth Gazette.

THE VAGARIES OF "JUSTICE."

One Law for the Rich and Another for the Poor.

A correspondent of an English paper writing about the administration of justice gives several pertinent examples. He says: "An Old Subscriber" is puzzled because she finds a case which she considers indicates that there is one law for the poor gypsy who tells fortunes for one shilling and another law for the professor who charges a guinea for presumably the same thing. Cases like this are, I think, by no means uncommon, and these are instances occurring daily which drive one to the conclusion that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor.

Take a brief abstract of a day's work at the county court of a certain English town. In one day at this one court, one hundred and thirty-four men and women were committed to jail for non-payment of small debts, and this in spite of their emphatic protests of their inability to pay.

One woman told the debt collector that she was chafing for a living, and was thereupon committed to jail. Another woman stated that her husband was laid up with a bruised leg, but yet she paid seven shillings and sixpence on account and promised to pay the rest in a fortnight. Even that availed her nothing, her hus-

band was sent to jail. So the whole of the cases were disposed of, fully seventy-five of them being committed to prison for forty days by way of punishment for their misfortunes and their poverty.

In one case, however, where the debt was for a hundred pounds, "an adjournment was made pending an arrangement"; for it is pre-eminently clear to the respectable mind that a man who may owe a hundred pounds must needs be respectable too, and it is essential to the honor and glory of the British Constitution that respectable men should not be sent to prison for debt.

Again, does not the truth grow increasingly distinct that the greater the plunder the smaller the crime?

A clerk forged a letter of credit for £5,000, and got it cashed. Charged at the Central Criminal Court, he is let off with four months' imprisonment. On the same day at the London County Sessions a man, charged with obtaining £171 by false pretences, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labor. On the same day, at the Central Criminal Court, another clerk was convicted of stealing, by means of forgery, a sum of £17. He got eighteen months' hard. And on the same day, at the London County Sessions, two men charged with stealing two parcels of sugar, valued at 10s 6d., were sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

This, then, is the law:

Steal 10s 6d you get 48 months	
" £17 " 18 "	
" £171 " 12 "	
" £5,000 " 4 "	

Perhaps some of your readers may be in a position to give some explanation of cases like these.

The doings at the small debt courts mentioned in the early part of the letter, it should be stated, are deemed too tame and monotonous to deserve the dignity of regular journalistic notice. It would seem that imprisonment for debt is virtually abolished for those who can afford to pay, while those who have no fleece on which the talons of the law can take hold are made to suffer two-fold, and in spite of their beggars' cries are punished for their penury with infinitely less mercy than is shown to a gentlemanly forger or fraudulent trustee.

Every sixty-ninth person in Scotland is a Smith and every seventy-eighth a MacDonald.

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