

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOR.

The opinion used to be commonly expressed that to shorten the hours of labor would simply be giving the workingman more time to spend in the bar-room. If there ever was ground for such a statement it is absolutely false to-day. The workingman has long since emerged from slavery and he is now through the diffusion of education, the strength and bulwark of the nation. It has been amply demonstrated that good wages and short hours stimulate men to build and own their homes, and to educate and maintain their families decently and respectably. Men who are crushed down by long and hard toil and mean wages become careless, drunken and cynical, and no wonder—despairing and hopeless, they find in the saloon their only solace. But with good wages, the day's work over at five o'clock and the Saturday half-holiday, they find some joy in living and the whole community experiences at once the benefit. The widespread recognition of the rights of the working classes is indeed one of the most hopeful signs of the times.

COLLECTION OF CHARITABLE FUNDS.

There is much duplication and haphazard work in the collection of funds to carry on the charities of a large city. Certain men, whose generosity becomes known, are daily overwhelmed with requests for money; others equally wealthy, by a few curt refusals, are classed as hopeless and thenceforth they escape much of the begging that goes on. Some large firms never know a forenoon to pass without at least one call on them for a charity contribution, and various subterfuges have to be resorted to by heads of the firm to escape these wearisome and painfully pathetic interviews. Occasionally one sees in the vestibule of a large office building, the legend "No Charity Collectors Admitted" while in many large offices, the appearance of a good lady with her little book, immediately sends all the officials into the most hidden recesses. The ladies dislike it about as much as their victims, but the money must be raised somehow, and so they make themselves martyrs to the cause. Some charities pay as much as forty per cent. to hired collectors.

Now, what is the remedy! Easier asked than answered, but there are two or three suggestions that might be thrown out. This is a day of over organization in charity. The humane sentiment is so highly developed that almost everyone wants to start some new enterprise for the good of humanity. Without unduly checking this kindly impulse there should be some central authority to sanction or stop new movements of this kind, particularly where charitable relief is the object. In a town where there were already four children's homes, a lady started out to collect subscriptions for a fifth, and an absolutely unnecessary institution was only prevented by a serious illness making it impossible for her to continue. In this way there are frequently several institutions doing the same kind of work, while another branch of charitable endeavor, not quite so popular, is ignored.