

Progress of the Prairie States.

The Philadelphia Press says: "The most interesting of the series of articles on the progress of the United States which Professor Michael G. Mulhall is preparing for the North American Review appears in the August number of that magazine and relates to what he calls the prairie states. Under this head are included all the states between the eastern boundary of Ohio and the western boundary of the Dakotas and north of the Ohio river. Missouri is also included, making twelve states in all. These cover what has been generally known as the west, this side of the Rocky Mountains, and which is known to have made the greatest progress of any part of the union. The five easternmost states of the group are now known as the middle west, and the twelve other states as the northwest."

"Much of this region was practically unknown in 1850, the year with which Mr. Mulhall begins his comparisons, and five of the states did not then exist. In 1850 what is now the prairie group of states had 5,402,000 population, and 1890 this number had grown to 22,362,000, an increase of 314 per cent. Its population is now estimated at 26,320,000, and by 1900 when the next census is taken, it will doubtless have nearly 29,000,000 people. They exhibit the same tendency to gather in cities as seen in the states farther east. In 1890, 5,493,000 of their population lived in cities, an increase of over 300 per cent in twenty years, and 16,869,000 lived in the country, an increase of less than 50 per cent in the same time. As it is known that a large percentage of the foreign immigrants go west, it is not surprising to find that the foreign born population in the prairie states increased 563 per cent during the period between 1850 and 1890."

"As agriculture is the chief industry of these states the progress they have made in this interest is naturally the most marked. In 1850 the prairie states produced 58 bushels of grain per inhabitant and a total of 634,000 tons of beef, mutton and pork; but in 1890 the same section produced 118 bushels of grain per inhabitant and 2,088,000 tons of meat. This great product was made possible by an increase in improved area from 27,210,000 acres in 1850 to 184,300,000 in 1890. This was an average increase in cultivated area of 13,000 acres a day and an increase in the average of improved acres per inhabitant from 5 in 1850 to 3.1 in 1890. The great product of these states can be better understood by comparison. It produced nearly as much grain as France, Germany and Austria, with 130,000,000 people, produce, and almost twice as much meat as France or Austria produces."

"Mr. Mulhall adds that 'one hand in the prairie states raises as much food as five can do in the most advanced countries of Europe.' The increase in farming wealth in the forty years between 1850 and 1890 was \$7,569,000,000 or an annual average of \$190,000,000. 'Less than half a century,' says Mr. Mulhall, 'has sufficed for a comparatively small number of farmers to convert the western prairies into one of the most productive regions of the globe, and to create and build up as flourishing a community as can be found to-day in either of the hemispheres.'

"Manufacturing, while showing great progress between 1850 and 1890, is not so important an industry in

the prairie states as agriculture. Nevertheless the number of operatives increased more than twelve times. The value of their product rose from \$147,000,000 in 1850 to \$3,161,000,000 in 1890. The wages per operative grew from \$270 to \$478 and the product per operative, from \$1,324 to \$2,247. As the average produce per operative rose 70 per cent, and the wages per operative 77 per cent it is plain that the operative was the more fortunate. The creation of wealth in the prairie states has been very rapid, the total now standing at \$25,256,000,000, or an average of \$1,130 per inhabitant. This gives a yearly increase of \$45 per inhabitant, while in Great Britain the increase has been only \$19 per inhabitant. Perhaps the most encouraging comparison of all is the one between the value of farms and houses and the amount of real estate mortgages. The total value of farms and mortgages in the prairie states is placed at \$15,125,000,000, and the mortgages at \$2,078,000,000, or 14 per cent of the value."

"In concluding, Mr. Mulhall says: 'Compared with the Union at large, the prairie states stand for 36 per cent of population, 47 per cent of agriculture, 34 per cent of manufactures, 31 per cent of mining and 39 per cent of wealth, so that they may be said to constitute all round 25 per cent of the republic. In many respects they surpass in importance five or six European empires and kingdoms rolled into one.' And yet men still living can remember when their population did not exceed that of the island of Sardinia."

Loss from Strikes.

The great waste and damage to a country's industries involved in a great strike is well shown by some lately published statistics of the losses caused by the strike of the Welsh coal miners, which ended recently. This cost is placed at \$30,000,000, or \$1,500,000 weekly during the period the strike lasted. If the damage were confined to the mining industry itself this would be bad enough, but the interdependence of modern trade and commercial life make it necessary that a wide circle of industrial workers and enterprises should drink from the same cup. For instance, it is estimated that the loss in coal freights alone was fully \$7,000,000, while the losses of the railroads are placed at fully \$2,000,000. That the wages of sailors, too, amounts paid for dock dues and other fairly measurable items were heavily reduced goes almost without saying. The indirect loss, some of which may never be regained, caused by the diversion of the coal trade to other countries is, of course, incalculable, but the decided boom given the United States export trade in coal to British colonial ports is of too close a date to be forgotten. It has even been stated—though, it is claimed, without adequate foundation—that the annual autumn manoeuvres of the British Channel fleet were postponed because of the strike."

Acetylene Gas.

The carbide calcium manufactured in France is guaranteed to give 300 cubic liters of gas per kilogram. The output is constantly increasing, and the supply is fully equal to the demand. The retail price of the article

is from 55 to 60 francs per 100 kilograms or \$10.61 to \$11.58 per 220.46 pounds, not including packing."

There are two villages in France completely lighted by acetylene. They are Alzonne a town of 1,500 inhabitants, and Saurat-par-Tarascou, a place of 3,024 inhabitants. The ordinary method of introducing acetylene gas into towns, up to the present time, has been the same as that used by the local gas companies. For the privilege of furnishing gas to consumers at certain rates, the municipality usually demands of the contracting company that the lighting of the city itself shall be virtually free. It is claimed by the French acetylene gas companies that the installation of a gas plant in each particular house has become so simple that the consumers will not pay an increased price for gas on account of the free city lighting, but prefer to have their own plants thus having their light at a reduced cost and independent of the city plant."

Tenders.

Winnipeg city council will call for tenders for fire wood for civic buildings.

The Winnipeg school board will call for tenders for plumbing the Gladstone street school.

Tenders for the carrying of mail by stages in the different parts of Manitoba will close at the department at Ottawa on the 28th inst.

British Cattle Markets.

London, Oct. 10.—Trade in cattle was weaker. Choice States cattle sold 1-2c lower at 111-2c; choice Canadian 1c lower at 10c; Argentine, 1c lower at 10c, and ranchers were quoted at 9c. Sheep were also 1-2c lower, at 10c for Argentine and at 9 1-2c for choice Canadians.

Liverpool, Oct. 10.—Choice Canadian cattle and sheep sold at 9 1-2c to 10c. The outside figure for cattle is 1-2c lower than this day week.

A private cable received from Liverpool on Monday quoted choice Canadian cattle at 9 1-2c to 10c, and one from London also quoted them at 9 1-2c to 10c.

Freight Rates.

The Montreal grain freight market was firm at 3s to Liverpool for heavy grain, a load of oats being placed at 2s 9d; London 3s 6d. Flour 12s 6d to 15s, to Liverpool and London 15s. Cheese, Liverpool, 20s. Butter, Liverpool, 25s. Cattle, Liverpool 35s; London, 35s; Glasgow, 45s; Bristol and Manchester 35s.

J. A. Kinsella, of the Dominion government creamery department, reports that Prof. Robertson has disposed of almost the whole of the August make of butter at the government Territorial creameries at 20 cents a pound, chiefly to the Kootenay and the coast. This no doubt means 20 cents delivered, freight paid to British Columbia points.

Miss Sheafe—Oh, just look at that wheat rising and falling in the breeze. How beautiful it is.

Mr. Cityman—Ah, but you ought to see it rising and falling in the Corn Exchange.