

THE ENGLISH LABOUR OUTLOOK.**THE WORK AND WAGES QUESTION IN ENGLAND.**

The disturbed state of the labor market in Europe.—"Red Rag" agitators find a resting place in jail—General notes.

The labor market all over Europe appears to be in a more disturbed condition than for some time past, the socialists and their followers in Paris openly going in for stirring up the masses for revolution, while in Germany several strikes have taken place among the miners—who, by the way, are not coming in for much sympathy, and, consequently, support.

The unemployed in London have been "demonstrating" as usual on Tower Hill, and at their gathering on the last day of the old year a Mr. O'Keefe openly advocated robbery if bread or work could not be otherwise obtained. Certain it is that these "Red" advocates will find themselves in the clutches of the police, a fate which has already befallen W. Ben Tillett at Bristol, where he has been summoned to answer a charge of inciting to riot at a recent labor meeting in the Horse Fair of that city.

On New Year's Day the London unemployed varied their monotony of meeting and marching, by attending the afternoon service at St. Paul's Cathedral to the number of some 3000, when a telling sermon was preached to them by the Rev. Cannon Scott-Holland, who was frequently loudly applauded, and on one occasion even received by a universal clapping of hands notwithstanding that he more than asked his hearers to keep quiet. This was a strange scene to be enacted in our metropolitan Cathedral, but with these exceptions, the men behaved themselves admirably—though I cannot see how they improved their position thereby as no collection was made—the disasters which attended the Mansion House Fund some years since being against any public charitable effort on a large scale.

Some of our theaters are announcing performances in aid of the London poor, but such help as they can give will be but as drops in the ocean—what is wanted is a sufficiency of such work as unskilled laborers can do to tide them over the winter months, when skilled departments of industry are suffering from slackness or stoppage. As before remarked our distress is not abnormal, the time of year and weather considered, although, of course, there is plenty of distress unfortunately for the charitably inclined to relieve.

At Bristol there has been more trouble with the unemployed, the police and the military having to be called out, with the result that several persons have been injured and others got into prison.

In London the local authorities are extending their plan of employing additional hands on parish works—a very good idea, as both worker and taxpayer benefit. With the above exceptions there is no very great change to report in the labor market since last I wrote—certainly not in the skilled departments.

The Christmas holidays, carried over the New Year in the North of England, have rendered the employment of skilled labor somewhat unsettled and more quiet than was previously the case, but there are no indications of any further decline, in fact the outlook in some branches is indicative of an increased activity—which it is hoped will prove lasting, and not fleeting. One good thing has been done by the admiralty in the abolishing of all overtures for the future, this meaning the permanent employment of 1500 at Chatham alone, and correspondingly at all the other yards. It is calculated by one of the labor associations that there are 100,000 men unemployed in London alone—I think the figure is very much over stated.

WITH THE MINERS.

Among the Welsh miners there is a great diversity of work, work being plentiful in some districts, while in others it is slack; in others there is even a probability of another reduction of 5 per cent. being enforced. The Fifeshire and Clackmannanshire miners have been advised to accept a reduction of 10 per cent. against 12 per cent. demand in wages, and it is very likely they will agree to this. The Durham men have decided that all men out of work through depression shall have 10s. a week. The North Lincolnshire miners have turned out on strike on the principle of trade unionism. Five ironstone pits and eight blast furnaces are idle in consequence. The Monmouthshire and South Wales men are very much exercised just now as regards the settlement of a new sliding scale—if any.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The employers in the Yorkshire Glass bottle trade gave their hands notice of a reduction of 3s. a week in wages which was refused, with the result that the whole of the hands some 12,000 in number, have been locked out. Dundee compositors have had their wages raised to 30s a week.—The strike at the Sportsman still continues.—The Hornsey scavengers are now paid 28s a week.

W. N. E.

Length and Breadth of Gould's Fortune.

The size of Mr. Gould's fortune has been pictured in all sorts of ways, but perhaps the most graphic description of all is that of a London clergyman, who told his congregation that if the late millionaire's money were in five-pound notes they would stretch from London to Moscow. Or if it were in sovereigns they would make a column seventy-three miles high. The queerest calculation of all changed the fortune into shillings and the clergyman showed that it would take nearly 240 years, working night and day, to give away one shilling to each person, at the rate of ten persons each minute. Considering the provisions of Mr. Gould's will, this last calculation must have been intended for delicate sarcasm.

Correspondence.

While we give full publicity to the views of our correspondents, we wish it to be distinctly understood, we do not hold ourselves responsible for them.]

How the Beneficiary Works.

The Editor ANGLO-SAXON:

Sir,—To those who have come in personal contact with the orphans and widows of beneficiary members, the contrast between them and the orphans and widows who have through neglect or disbelief in the beneficiary been thrown on the world with the heartfelt condolence coupled with the proceeds of a charity concert or subscription list is very marked. If it were possible to look beyond the grave, how sorry some would be that a little neglect should cause so much sorrow and suffering, but it was ever thus the wise and foolish will continue to jog along side by side to the end of time.

In asking the attention of the members of the beneficiary, I do so not as having fault to find, or as one dissatisfied with its past work, but as one who from its inception could see in it a measure of great success, so much so that the writer predicted it would in magnitude and usefulness, overshadow all other branches of the Order, that it would prove the boon promised by its promoters, and would prove itself to be the cheapest insurance worked by benefit societies in the Dominion.

But to come more clearly to the object of this letter, let us ask ourselves this question, is the beneficiary in as good a position as it is possible to be? Let us examine it just as we find it today. Its financial standing is as follows:—

Membership, 2,000; total funds on hand, \$1,000; liability, \$200,000.

This statement, to any one with a knowledge of assessment societies, will at once be taxed as an unfair one, simply because the incoming and the present members' personal responsibility does not rank as an asset, therefore cannot be given a place in a financial statement.

Nor must it be supposed that the 2,000 members who created a liability of \$200,000 will have to liquidate the same; it is to the unknown incoming members who will have to largely supply it. Still each of its present members is fairly entitled to the conviction that he has a perfectly safe certificate for the amount he is assured for without any consideration of incoming members, such is the principle of assessment societies. Then to reduce this question to a small compass we must place it this way:—Liability, \$200,000; assets, \$1,000, coupled with sentimental and personal responsibility of an unknown cash value. Such, I think is a fair balance sheet of the beneficiary.

Having looked this statement fairly in the face, are we satisfied with it? Does it show that security that ought reasonably to be expected in such an important contract? I feel confident that few will accuse me with pessimistic views, when I say it does not, and why? Simply because it has grown to such large proportions that it has outgrown that security, that is usually to be found in a small membership. Nothing more is needed to demonstrate this than for king cholera when he makes his promised visit next year to take 30 or 40 of our members with him. Then personal responsibility would be unable to produce the cash, and the beneficiary would receive a blow that might prove fatal, at any

rate it would cripple it so that only a part of its liability could be paid. To illustrate this another way, let us take average losses of 10 in 1,000 to 10 assessments in the year; now 10 assessments is about what a man expects, but suppose 20 came along—what happens then? Do the losses double too, certainly they do and more, for we would find 35 to 40 losses would be nearer the mark, showing that at the very time personal responsibility ought to be at its strongest it really is at its weakest. Assessment societies the world over, with very few, if any, exceptions, show this illustration to be correct. The reason is very apparent. A man is called upon to pay unexpectedly more than he calculated on, and finds he cannot do it, so he becomes a lapsed member, and that ends his personal responsibility.

To divert a little from the beneficiary let us take the history of an ordinary lodge in its first and tenth year. We find in the first year personal responsibility and sentiment working hand in hand, the few dollars required come freely, the liabilities are almost nil, there is no danger signal up, the doctor's office is a regular snap, the social element has full swing, and the treasurer is wondering when he will have to get a bank book. Now skip to the tenth year, and what do we find, a substantial banking account, often as much as 20 per cent of the total lodge liability, a contingent fund to meet extraordinary claims, and all of the members guarding its funds most rigorously, ever trying to make the lodge more substantial, by additions to its funds. Just here I want to ask which is in the best position, the lodge with its cash or the beneficiary with its visionary sentimental personal responsibility. All of which lead us to the statement, that at the next Grand Lodge changes will be advocated, that will, if nothing more change the system to allow of the creating of a rest or reserve fund, such fund to remain intact until it assumes the proportion of so much per cent of the total liability, and then only to be drawn on when the assessments go over the average; or the interest having accumulated to a sufficient sum to allow of a call being paid. A change of this kind—a call for \$1,000 now realizes \$1,200; take the \$200 and divide it this way: \$75 to a rest fund, pay the expenses of the call, and the balance put in a management fund, all funds accumulating in the management fund over \$1,000 to be placed in the rest fund. Something tells us that such a change as this would receive the hearty support of such an able man as the Grand Secretary.

To go into detail and examine the expense account of the beneficiary, what does it show? Why each call cost from \$45 to \$50, not saying a word about the work the lodge secretaries have to do. Now it must strike the average mind that \$50 to collect \$1,000 from those who are anxious to pay is somewhat excessive. I think I am perfectly safe in saying that \$25 ought to be sufficient, thus enough could be saved in that way to create in a few years a respectable reserve fund.

In conclusion I would like to ask all delegates to Grand Lodge, and all beneficiary members to study up and get posted as to the actual security in mutual benefit assessment societies, and compare it with mutual societies which have adopted the regular monthly or quarterly payment system. Although we have a beneficiary second to none; let us make changes as our investigation has proved would be beneficial, and add to the security of the beneficiary, making it so secure that even the most timid will not hesitate to join it. Let us brethren get the best possible results for our energy and our money. Yours, etc., HAYWARD.

Toronto, Jan'y. 27.

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Some Distinctions Between Resident and non-Resident Patent Attorneys.

ATTORNEYS WHO DON'T PREPARE THEIR OWN CASES.

An important factor to be borne in mind when applying for a patent, is to have an attorney who is close to the Patent Office. A resident attorney has many advantages over a non-resident, inasmuch as he can personally appear before the patent tribunal and plead his clients claims, while a non-resident has to conduct his business by correspondence, which causes delay, and often valuable time is lost and in many cases the patent also. Almost every session of parliament has before it a bill for the resuscitation of

HOW TO OBTAIN A PATENT

Send to the address given below for a Circular (48) on the above subject.

a patent, which had been lost through the carelessness of a non-resident attorney's clerk. Here is a case:—Two years ago a firm in Toronto sent (as they thought) \$20, for the renewal of a patent, the application arrived just in time, but there was \$10, short. The applicant was at once notified and sent the balance, but before it arrived the time expired and the patent was lost, and they had to go before parliament (a very expensive proceeding) to renew the patent. Now if this firm had sent their application through a resident attorney they would have been safe, as we could have kept the case open until the deficit was made good. The case cited only refers to a renewal

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of a patent, not on application, but the same thing is apt to happen to a patent application, therefore, what is said above is said again; viz. send your application to a resident attorney. Another point to be noted by an applicant for a patent, and one that is of far more importance, is to apply for a patent through an attorney who prepares his own specifications. This is a point of great value, as it is important that an attorney should write his own specifications and not like other attorneys who give their clients work into second hands and care no more about the case except to receive their fees, and when opposition has to be overcome he is unable to plead his clients case himself and

PATENTS PROCURED

in Canada, United States, England
France, Germany and all
foreign countries.

simply gets the inventors to do it. Would it not be better and cheaper in the end for an applicant to look after his interests himself than to give the work to a non-resident who will do no more than the applicant can do himself? If the attorney cannot get the inventor to amend his case, he gives it again into second hands, and the applicant has again to pay a fee. It is a matter, perhaps very bitter known, but still a hard fact that inventors spend \$2000.00 a month more by sending their business to outsiders than if they patronize insiders. The non-residents fees are in most cases cheaper at the start, but dear in the end. One has only to look up the correspondence of The Patent Records to be convinced of the

TRADE-MARKS, DESIGNS,

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trouble, annoyance and loss, 50 per cent. of the inventors are put to continually by employing attorneys at a distance who can neither write their own specifications nor plead their clients claims themselves but must (at the applicants expense) employ second and even third hands. If you are an inventor just, think of your invention (which perhaps is a valuable one), being hawked from hand to hand, running the risk of being universally known, and before the patent was issued, you find that someone has seen the idea and started to manufacture and sell, and all this, because to save a few dollars, you put it in the wrong hands.

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A. HARVEY,

formerly of Manchester, England.

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