

**FORCED INTO VICE.**

**Chicago Laborers Debauched and Robbed by the Saloon Pay Office.**

One of the abuses of capitalistic power none is worse than the practice of paying laborers in saloons. This is not done so much by reputable contractors, members of reputable contractors and carpenters' associations and unions, as by the small contractors in the foreign quarters of the city whose workmen are foreigners who have not the power of throwing of their yolks. Not only are workmen compelled to go to distant saloons for their wages, but they spend a large portion of their earnings over the bar in treats to their employer and fellow employees.

These small contractors are either saloon keepers themselves or they receive a percentage from the saloon in which they pay off their men. For this reason they not only compel their workmen to walk long distances to the pay office saloon, but give them to understand that unless they spend money liberally while there they will no longer be employed. To aggravate the evil and place additional temptations in the way of their workmen they establish a credit system by which all their workmen can get all they wish to drink, to be taken from their next pay envelope, which will be given to them in that saloon and nowhere else. It is a known fact that men, and especially the ignorant, will spend more money when they can do it on credit than if they had to pay out the hard cash. This fact is further brought into practical use by those contractors who pay fortnightly instead of weekly, as the law provides.

The result is that by the time the fortnightly pay day comes around half the two weeks' earnings are spent in advance, and by the time the workman staggers out of the saloon at midnight the other half is gone. Meanwhile his family is starving.

The evil has reached its most violent form among the Polish people of the northwest side. These people form a colony by themselves, and some of the residents in the colony are as ignorant of the language and customs of America as they were before they left their native land. For this reason they have become the dupes of slyster politicians, who consider them legitimate prey.

Here the partnership between the contractor and the saloon keeper is seen in its most aggravating forms. Almost every Polish contractor will acknowledge in the most matter of fact way that he pays his men in saloons and gets his own drinks free as a consequence.

Joseph Piatkiewicz, one of the larger Polish contractors, described a peculiar and novel system of bookkeeping in vogue among certain saloon keepers whose places had been selected as headquarters by the contractors. Pay day with the Polish carpenters comes usually every other Saturday night, or even at longer intervals if the contractor has failed to get his money from the owner. During the long intervals between pay days the workmen have credit at the pay office saloon, and any day a beer-pail procession can be seen travelling a beaten path from the "job" to the saloon. And here is where the queer bookkeeping comes in. Each workman upon calling for drinks writes his name and the amount of his purchase on a block of wood and hands it over to the bartender. These blocks are tossed into a huge clothes basket kept behind the bar for the purpose. When pay day comes around the basket is full, and the blocks are dumped out on the bar, sorted and stacked, and the amount of the indebtedness is subtracted from each workman's wages before they are paid over to him by the contractor.—Chicago Tribune.

Lord Bramwell's body was cremated yesterday in London.

**RUTS.**

Next to petitioning that he may love his neighbor as himself, the one good that every human being ought to pray for is to be delivered from ruts. Ruts are fatal to life, health, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The man who wears a big sideboard collar with a little skimpy black necktie because he got used to it when he was young may be sure that he is getting old and behind the times. There is no surer sign that a man is outliving his usefulness than that he is unwilling to change the fashion of his garments to keep pace with the prevailing moods.

As he falls behind in the fashion of his clothes, so he falls behind in his business methods and will be bankrupted. One thing that is absolutely fixed in this life is that all things are constantly changing. This is the meaning of the spirit of the times. The man who does not follow the current changes, whether in newspaper management, literature, commercial enterprise or manufacturing, is left. Wide awake and move on is the word. Feel the pulse of the time and change accordingly.

The man and woman who think the thoughts of their youth and never change them grows old. This is what age is—when one cannot learn new things any more. Mourning over past griefs and losses destroys us. The losses and griefs are past, let the sorrow for them be past also. The world is full of beauty and brightness, more and more full of joy and richness every year. Turn your face to the light and move on in the swim.

**NOTES FROM ENGLAND.**

**Defeat of Engineers—John Burns' Sacrifice—Tom Mann on Co-operation.**

The engineers' strike in the north of England, which has lasted 13 weeks, is now practically at an end. It has cost the strikers £80,000 and terminates in their absolute submission to the masters' terms. There is a moral somewhere in this. All the hands cannot be at once employed, owing to work having been sent away, and to the loss of contracts.

An amicable arrangement has been arrived at between the Salvation Army and the woodcutters, who complained of being undersold by cheap "rescued" labor. The Army bundles of wood will be of the same size and price as those of the regular trade hereafter.

The news-vendors and booksellers of England have formed a union, as a trade protection against the action of the big publishing houses and newspapers, who frequently force the small retailers to accept very hard terms. The new union is already 2,000 strong, and has abolished the discount system in several towns. London is now being stirred up, and a powerful daily which persistently refuses to adopt the "returns" system offers a fine object for the society's energies.

Tom Mann has been speaking of the new alliance between co-operators and trade unionists. Most of the trade organizations are regularly discussing co-operative principles, with a view to applying them on an voluntary basis, either as an offshoot of the union direct, or through the agency of the Wholesale Co-operative Society. Mr. Mann has been calling attention to the necessity of not only organizing as wage earners to get fair pay, but also the equal necessity of organizing as wage spenders, as a guarantee the trade unionists shall not be participating in upholding anything that can be covered by the term of "sweating." The co-operative movement is the best agency to carry this out. In some districts where trade unions have secured higher wages prices have gone up, and the wage earner has been no better off. What has been gained by the organized wage earner has been lost by the unorganized wage spender, is the explanation of Mr.

Mann to a Weekly Star interviewer.—M. Q. Holyoake's Special Correspondence to The Voice.

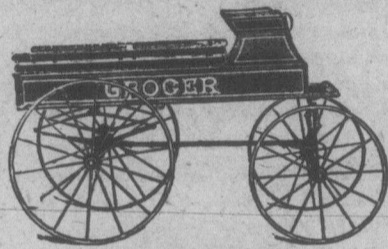
**TO PROMOTE PROFIT-SHARING.**

"The Association for the Promotion of Profit Sharing" has recently been formed in New York City. United States Labor Commissioner, Carroll D. Wright, is president, the two vice-presidents being President F. A. Walker, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and N. O. Nelson, a prominent manufacturer in St. Louis. The secretary and treasurer is Nicholas P. Gilman, of West Newton, Mass., author of the well known work on "Profit-Sharing." The Executive Committee consists of a railroad director, four manufacturers, who, like Mr. Nelson, practice the system in their business, and a professor of political economy in a Pennsylvania college.

It is the intention of the Association to establish a bureau of information for the benefit of firms interested in profit-sharing, and by various publications and addresses before commercial and other clubs to promote the discussion and extension of this industrial reform.

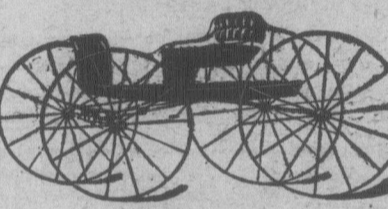
The annual fee for membership, open to all interested, is \$3. All communications should be addressed to the secretary.

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