

£4,000 compared with the corresponding week in 1890. The total decrease for six weeks is £56,000.

Owing to the depression in the iron trade operations at many of the principal iron works in the Cumberland district have been suspended for some time past, and the inability of the workmen to procure employment is causing the most acute distress. Six thousand men have been thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the works, and a large number of them have earned nothing for a year. Many families have struggled along hoping for better times, but hope of the works again starting up has been abandoned now, and the outlook for the coming winter is of the gloomiest nature. The families of the iron workers, men, women, and children, all show traces of the privations they have suffered through the enforced idleness of the bread-winners, and it is an absolute fact that hundreds of them are on the verge of starvation. So serious has the situation become that the authorities have decided to start public works to give employment to the many idle men in the district and thus avert the starvation which is threatened.

For the purpose of studying the actual effects of the McKinley law, as far as they could show themselves since the law became operative, the Associated Press correspondent recently visited some of the most important industrial centres of Germany, such as Leipsic, Chemnitz, Plauen, Greiz, Nuremberg, and Frankfort. All reports agree that the measure has had a paralyzing effect upon certain industries.

Of all the industrial centres in Germany, perhaps in Europe, Chemnitz, in Saxony, and the district surrounding it have suffered most. The principal industry is the manufacture of knitted goods, especially of hosiery. There are 250 manufacturers of hosiery in the city. Many thousand skilled workmen employed in the "house industry" depend upon it for a living. The McKinley law came and trade languished.

Many Chemnitz manufacturers say that the present dullness is only a consequence of last year's overproduction. But if the tariff is not reduced they fear that in the future they can not manufacture at a profit, and that factories springing up in America will deprive them completely of the trade. One of the largest manufacturers said that he had sent a number of his best young men to America to initiate them into American business ways, as he thought seriously of putting up a factory in the United States.

It is the "household industry" people, the poor, who suffer. The Associated Press correspondent visited many of their homes while in Chemnitz. In every house there were one, two, or three looms. Their earnings at present average from \$1.50 to \$2 a week. One of them, a man with a wife and four children, was asked how he managed to get along. "Well, we don't," he replied. "Most of us had something laid by from better days. We used that up. We still have our looms left, which are worth \$250 to \$300, but if we should mortgage those the end would be near. Things cannot last much longer this way."

These people live almost entirely on potatoes and rye bread. At the present high prices of food staples in Germany they get scarcely enough of these. There is some movement on foot to induce these people to emigrate to America and to establish their industry there.

Plauen, in Saxony, is the centre of a great manufacturing

district. Woollen dress goods are the main article of exportation. The largest firm is Arnold & Sons, which employs nearly 2,000 hands. Mr. Arnold said he had foreseen the present trouble, and had so managed his affairs that he had other countries to rely upon for his trade—Russia, Austria, and the Balkan countries. He had established a factory at Passaic, N. J. He said that the duty makes up for the increased wages he has to pay there. Other manufacturers were not so well satisfied. Their trade was almost ruined, they complained.

At Nuremberg and Furth the main staple of export is plate-glass. This branch of trade is beginning to feel the influence of the McKinley law, but so far not to a great extent. No disposition is manifested at either of these places to transfer the manufactures to America.

Breslau, the largest consular district, geographically, in the German Empire, does not seem to have been affected by the McKinley bill. The wages of the workmen have not been affected because they were already so small that they could not be lowered. This is the district where the weavers and other working classes are in constant danger of starvation.

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRATION.

A NEW YORK contemporary blandly talks of the possibilities and responsibilities of American life in connection with the present policy of restricting immigration. It is fine talk, but entirely beside the issue. The truth is that the United States labor market is now in a very congested state despite what the McKinley Act and the Alien Labor law have accomplished in the way of easement in certain industries at the expense largely of the British laborer's welfare. But no relief has been afforded to dozens of trades. Take tailoring, for instance. "Sweating" is more an evil in Chicago to day than it ever was in London, all conditions considered. The Chicago *Tribune* asserts, and what is more, proves that pantaloons are made at six cents a dozen. There is no mistake about it. "Seams sewed, bottoms hemmed, buttons on for half-a-cent a pair." These things are among the modern responsibilities of American life, but the intending immigrants who try to evade the regulations have to come to the country in order to find them out.—*Toronto Empire*.

There is no doubt that the labor market in the United States is in an exceedingly congested condition, that is, in certain trades, and that much misery is resulting therefrom, and it is because of this unhappy condition that the American Government are endeavoring to restrict that class of immigrants who but add to and intensify the congestion. Time was when the immigration into the United States was of a very desirable character. It was chiefly from Great Britain, Ireland and Germany, and the location of the people was generally upon western farms, where the land was fertile, and to be had almost for the asking. This class of immigration has almost entirely ceased, and in its stead steady streams have been pouring in from Russia, Italy and Eastern Europe, the individuality of the immigrants being exceedingly objectionable. Instead of seeking homes on farms they decline to go outside the larger cities, and never having been accustomed to any but hard labor, long hours and infinitesimal remuneration, they have been steadily and surely crowding out of employment all who were not inclined to work for starvation wages. This condition is quite truthfully depicted in a press telegram from New York a few days ago, in which it was