

LABOR AND WAGES.

Cleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.

There are paper barrels. France has 180,000 Jews. Dublin grave diggers struck. Butter is made from coconuts. The Arctic whale catch is large. Snow ploughs run by electricity. Uncle Sam has 16,000 flour mills. New York janitors have a union. South America uses Canada coal. A ton of gold is worth \$602,799.20. American railroads employ 700,000. Russia's army has 127,000 Hebrews. A London editor gets \$15,000 a year. Aluminum is the metal of the future. Electricity is used in purifying sugar. A Moscow beggar gambled \$7,500,000. Lebanon, Pa., has the biggest bolt works. San Francisco beer drivers are organizing. Germany uses iron bricks in street paving. Weatherly, Pa., has the largest silk mill. The New York Hebrew bakers are winning. From "sun to sun" is a day in Southern fields. Belgium newspaper men are to be uniformed. Since 1851 3,276,103 persons have left Ireland. The world's diamonds are worth \$1,000,000,000. Horseflesh consumption increases in Germany. The printing trade is picking up in Indianapolis. New York piano varnishers are gaining nine hours. At Bangalore, India, laborers get 2½ cents a day. Lowell unions will make each candidate explain his policy. Co operative farming will be attempted in Cullman county, Ala. San Francisco painters and decorators will erect a \$20,000 hall. The Indianapolis coopers have received an advance of \$2 per week. Free evening lectures are given in New York public schools once a week. Nearly all the skilled workmen in Memphis are working nine hours per day. A dry goods store will be on the tenth floor of a twenty-story Chicago building. More than 300 different industries enter into the building of every ocean steamship. The Canadian Locomotive and Engine Co., Kingston, Ont., are crowded with work. The city of London, England, will build and rent houses to workingmen at a slight profit. Armour, the Chicago meat man, does a business of \$65,000,000 a year, and pays \$3,500,000 in wages. An English syndicate has purchased for \$4,000,000 the leading iron concerns in the Mahoning, O., valley. Labor has achieved more success and advanced more rapidly in the past five years than it did in the fifty preceding. There were sixty four strikes in the United States last month, most of which terminated to the satisfaction of the strikers. It has been proposed, and is now under consideration, to add a compulsory beneficial feature of the K. of L. in Baltimore, Md. The Baroness Burdett-Couts is a liberal contributor to the Home for Printers, in London, the cornerstone of which was laid recently. The Duquesne (Pa.) plate glass manufacturers failed to secure men in France or Belgium. The Knights of Labor there "queered" them. The South Boston steel works will at once commence the erection of its plant at Middlesborough, Ky. The main building will be 1020x150 feet. Detroit trade unionists are getting ready to entertain the A. F. of L. delegates next month. The city by the strait may be expected to do things handsomely. The Government of New South Wales has placed with the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, Pa., an order for twelve 10-wheel passenger locomotives. The new automatic machine now used for stamping in the New York post office will cancel, postmark, count and stack the letters and postal cards at the rate of about 25,000 per hour. The German government grows more lenient every year in regard to labor organizations. It has learned the fact that no country is prosperous where its laboring class is downtrodden. The number of employees on the railroads of the country amounts to 700,000. There are 1,318 different railroad corporations, and the total mileage of these railroads is 156,400 miles.

WAGES IN BOSTON.

Labor has not been so well paid in Boston, Mass., since the panic in 1873 as it is to-day. The hours of labor have been lessened in a large number of trades. This is noticeably the case in the building trades, in which about 15,000 men are employed. After the strike of 1886 their hours of labor were in 1887 reduced to nine per day. The free-stone cutting is the banner trade in this special industry. The cutters only work eight hours a day, at \$4 a day, or rather 50 cents an hour. The free-stone cutters have a fight which has been running six months and which may change these hours and wages. For the purpose of comparison, the prices paid in 1885, and hours

of labor, will be given after those now paid. About forty per cent. of the carpenters are working eight hours, and the remaining sixty per cent. work nine hours and eight on Saturday. They range from \$2.50 to \$3.25 a day. They worked ten hours in 1885 for \$2 and \$2.50. Bricklayers, nine hours, \$3.50 to \$5 a day. In 1885 they worked ten hours for \$2.25 to \$3. Plasterers, \$4, nine hours; 1885, \$2.50 to \$3, ten hours. Stair builders, \$2.50 to \$2.75, nine hours; 1885, \$2 to \$2.50, ten hours. Plumbers, \$3.50 to \$4, nine hours; 1885, \$2.50 to \$3.25. Painters, \$2.50 to \$2.75, eight hours; 1885, \$1.75 to \$2.50, ten hours. Stonemasons, \$3.75, nine hours; 1885, \$2.50 to \$3, ten hours. The building laborers, which includes the hod-carriers, diggers, etc., have made the greatest advance. Their union minimum rate is \$2.25 a day of nine hours, which affects the so-called "unskilled labor." In 1885 they worked ten hours for \$1.25 to \$1.75 a day.

WOMEN WORKERS IN PARIS.

A correspondent writing from Paris under date Nov. 22, says: The terrible condition of the working women in Paris has at last attracted the attention of the French Government and enquiries are being made with a view to alleviating some of their sufferings. The working woman's lot is not an easy one in any great city, but in Paris it is excessively hard. The statistics being brought out by the investigation referred to show that only three or four of the many trades in which women are engaged are fairly well paid, and these require not only natural talent but an expensive training as well. In the china manufactory at Sevres for instance only two women artists earn as much as 80 pounds a year, the rest earn not more than 50 or 60 pounds and the posts are hard to get. The men employed receive a retiring pension; the women do not. The reason is said to be that the latter are inferior to the men in originality and do not make good designers. Such trades as china painting are, however, far above the level of ordinary working women, and it is among the latter that the misery abounds. Those who have studied the subject assert that it is absolutely impossible for the Paris working girl to live upon her earnings, and the fate which too commonly overtakes her is a striking confirmation of the statement. Needle work brings in only about two francs a day and the plain sort less. It is said that from fifteenpence to eightpence represents the average daily earnings of working girls, a sum on which it is hardly possible for them to exist. Many die of slow starvation, many more, putting scruples aside, seize the readiest avenue of escape from their lot, and a residuum, to whom life in one manner or the other has become unbearable, seek in the Seine a rest that can not be disturbed.

WHEN THIS CRUEL WAR IS OVER.

The long agony endured by the people of the dis-United States of America during the continuance of their protracted civil war found expression, as always happens in such cases, in the lamentations of poets and the wailings of musicians. A languid breeze of pathetic ballads, set to sobbing airs, breathed throughout the continent. The mournful cadences were sighed in mediodious grief in millions of desolated or anxious households. The tortured nation evinced and relieved its sufferings by the universality of such harmonious heart throbs. Among the most touching of a multitude of such ballads there is one known by the initial line of the poetry; "When this Cruel War is Over." Brief as has yet been the period of the contention justly styled the Great Strike, in Australia, the sentiments of all the more temperate among the people and the speculations of the more thoughtful, already begin to bring in the direction which those words express. Every man of feeling longs for the cessation of the acute stage of strife. None but the superficial imagine that the settlement of the strike will signify the cessation of the struggle. The strike, in fact, is not the disease from which the body is suffering. It is but a symptom, unpleasant and painful in itself undoubtedly, but still only a symptom. Postures are very offensive and inconvenient. But it is the constitutional derangement which is really the malady of a smallpox patient. The eruptions are indicative of the nature of the disease, and, revolting as they are, of themselves, they constitute a hopeful sign. If these indications fail to appear the physician is liable and apt to make a false diagnosis and prescribe a fatal treatment. Suppress these outbreaks—the constitution is destroyed and the patient expires. When the subject of the socio-political disturbance affecting civilized communities in general is thus comprehensively regarded it is readily understood that it matters very little in what fashion the existing eruption may come to an end. It is but a pimple on the body afflicted. There occurred in Great Britain alone, during the period from 1840 to 1877 (the latest statistics we can lay hands on relating to this subject) no less than 2352 strikes. But there has been only one malady. The question really deserving of attention is—in what manner will that malady terminate? The first steps towards a solution of this question must of course be to ascertain what the malady actually is, and the next to investigate its causes. There is general agreement as to the character of the disease. It is a social fever. The sufferer—Civilized Society—is restless, irritable, subject to convulsions almost epileptic in their character, the patient losing sense and biting his own tongue in the paroxysms. He is afflicted with terrible waste of substance, with general lowness of spirits occasionally intensified to sheer hopelessness, with intermittent reactions and irrational gaiety and sanguineness. The treatment hitherto recommended and adopted by the physicians has been very nearly identical with that period approved for bodily derangements of all kinds indiscriminately. In the days of our grandfathers, if a man had a bilious attack the doctor whipped out a lancet and bled him. If he broke his leg, he was bled. If he had a fever, he was bled. If he were in

a condition of collapse from cholera, he was bled. If a wretch tainted in the street owing to starvation, he was promptly relieved of half-a-pint of blood. If one broke a blood-vessel, the chances were ten to one that the first practitioner who got at him would instantly bleed him.

Those pretenders to skill in treating the derangements of society—Monarchs and Ministers—are yet scarcely emerging from that ridiculous condition of ignorant empiricism from which the medical profession has extricated itself. The physician and the surgeon of to day look back with shame and indignation upon the brutal practices and unwarrantable presumption of their by no means remote predecessors. But the scientific physicians are still the arrogant, pretentious humbugs that these diplomated quacks were. They still prescribe blood-letting for every complaint. Their faith in the efficacy of the remedy has, it is true, begun to waver. But on all occasions when they find themselves nonplussed, and really cannot conceive what they should properly do, they take out the lancet and the actual cautery. Steel and fire, the bayonet and the cartridge, these are the last resource of the Governmental quacks, even when they are not the first.

The remedies lie deeper, and are complex. Land monopoly must be abolished. Other monopolies must be repressed, and thereafter competition can be dealt with and co operation established in its place. Even though the late strike had been successfully gained unless other and larger victories be won. It is absurd to imagine that wages can long be maintained at a high level in Australia if they be at a low level in Europe. Protection coupled with Trades-Unionism can save off the inevitable for a while. And during the interval additional measures might be adopted were the people but properly acquainted with the steps to be taken.—Australian Paper.

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