

THE FIGURES DO LIE

A Review of the Census Returns

BY AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER

The Government and Chinese Immigration

LABOR DAY DEMONSTRATION

Civic Work for the Unemployed—
An Interesting Immigration Incident.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Owing to the holiday last week THE ECHO was printed one day earlier than usual, which necessitated leaving out our usual weekly letter from Toronto. That our readers may not feel disappointed, we give the most interesting portions of the letter this week:

TORONTO, June 30, 1892.

I am just in receipt of Bulletin Number Census of Canada, dated June, and signed George Johnson, statistician. I have often heard it asserted that figures will not lie. This may be quite true as to the figures themselves, but when some men manipulate them I am just as satisfied they can be made to lie—and most outrageously at that.

I read in this Bulletin, in an Analysis for the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, dealing with manufactures, that the proportion of wages to total value of products was, in

1881—19 per cent., and in
1891—20.7 per cent.,

and "that after deducting wages and cost of raw material capital got, in

1881—\$ 75,436,071, and in
1891—112,255,270."

The proportion of the wage-earners' receipts to capital's receipts was, in

1881—75.4 per cent., in
1891—83.5 per cent.

The Bulletin also tells us that, after giving other figures, "it is thus seen that the development of manufactures has added nearly ninety million dollars a year to the wealth of the country, as against an addition of thirty-three millions a year in the previous decade," etc.

"In 1881, after deducting wages and cost of raw material capital had a percentage profit of 42 per cent. out of which to pay expenses of interest, insurance, depreciation and loss by bad debts. In 1891 the percentage profit was 33 per cent." It is a source of regret that the astute statistician did not see fit to go a step further and tell us how much more, over and above the percentages just named, was set aside and distributed as profit to the capitalists immediately interested.

Mr. Johnson does tell us, however, that the ultimate analysis of all these figures show:

1st. That there has been a large increase in the number of hands employed; a large increase in the wages paid, and that the largest increase is in the capital invested.

2nd. That the average workman in 1891 is a more skilled hand than he was in 1881, inasmuch as he turned out 6 per cent. more of finished products (judged by value) than he did in 1881.

3rd. That the average workman in 1891 earned 16 per cent. more wages than he did in 1881.

4th. That as every dollar invested produced in 1891 less than in 1881, the capitalist has had to be content with a smaller profit.

5th. That notwithstanding the reduction in the gross profits of the manufacturer the workman has received a larger share of the total value of the products by 9 per cent.

6th. That the cost of raw material was, on the whole, higher in 1891 than in 1881, though this may be apparent rather than real, the returns of 1891 requiring the cost at the factory, while those of 1881 are silent on the point. It might thus be that in some cases in 1881 the first cost, without the added cost of transportation and customs duties, was returned.

7th. The facts of the census appear to substantiate the general proposition which expresses the experience of all progressive and prosperous countries, viz., that in proportion to the application of science, invention and skilled labor to the arts of production the product is increased, the share falling to the owner of the capital is diminished in ratio to the joint product, but the share falling to the skilled workmen is augmented, both absolutely and also relatively to the joint product.

If Mr. Statistician Johnson can only make the workman FEEL that he has received a larger share of the total value of the product by 9 per cent. than did the manufacturer, then we must concede him power beyond the ordinary. When I call up in mind the increased wealth and opulence of many a manufacturer and many a manufacturing company known to myself and make a comparison, relatively, with the circumstances of the employees, I cannot and do not believe in the correctness of the figuring of Mr. Johnson. How could it?

The following speaks for itself, and while being addressed to city labor bodies only, yet it may convey some useful information abroad:

Fellow-Workingmen, — Toronto Trades and Labor Council having secured the affirmative views of the several bodies represented therein as to the advisability of holding a labor demonstration in this city at the time the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress holds its annual session (which will be held in Toronto this year, commencing on Sept. 9th.) Saturday, the 10th, of September next, has been selected as the date for the demonstration.

The workingmen in Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec have, each in turn, when the Congress met therein, honored it and themselves by the warmth and activity displayed on these occasions, as well as in the very large numbers of all branches of labor, organized and unorganized, taking part in their parades. Each city seemed to vie in outdoing its sister city in this particular.

Toronto Trades and Labor Council, having faith in the working elements of this city, are making every preparation to be at least not second to any city in the Dominion both as to the manner and numbers taking part in the demonstration of 10th of September. To this end arrangements have been entered into with the Executive of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition by which the demonstration will be in connection with, and one of the attractions of, the Exhibition. As a consequence the demonstration, after parading several streets of the city, (and the details of which will be arranged and published later on) will conclude on the grounds of the Exhibition at an early hour in the afternoon. This will enable all who participate to see and enjoy the many attractions of the exhibition generally as well as the special attractions in the programme for that day.

The T. and L. Council feels assured that but a very slight reminder is required (if required at all) to secure the hearty co-operation and personal support and attendance of each and every member of your body on that occasion so that the assemblage may be as imposing and at the same time as creditable to the working people of Toronto as the Council is desirous it should be.

The T. and L. Council, besides other arrangements, will provide a good band to lead in the parade, leaving to each organization taking part the duty of making such display of a distinctive character and the providing of such music as may be most suitable to themselves.

The Demonstration Committee of the T. and L. Council is composed of one delegate from every body represented in the Council, and through your representative (if he is attending to his duty) your organization may learn of any further details in relation to the demonstration which may be desired, or the same will be promptly furnished on application to the undersigned secretary.

T. W. BANTON,
President T. and L. Council.
R. GLOCKLING,
Chairman of Committee.
F. C. CRIBBIN,
Secretary of Committee.

One evening last week some gentlemen who had acted as a committee for Mr. Thompson in the recent bye-election in this city held a meeting—there were six present at all events. They formed a permanent labor legislation organization, and are shortly to present to the public a platform which it is announced, will be very new and popular—much beyond the narrow limits which present labor organizations are satisfied with. In fact, as I understand the gentlemen moving in the matter, the platform will be on the lines of German and French radical Socialism rather than on the more conservative views obtaining in labor circles in Great Britain and on the Continent of America. This these men have a perfect right to do, if they so think fit, but it should be done openly and above board. But here is the way it is being got at. The Toronto Mail of Friday last contained (evidently inspired and intended to deceive) a short and pithy little paragraph, but lacking the element of truth, as the sequel shows. This paragraph reads as follows:

"It is said that representatives of the Trades and Labor Council, Knights of Labor, Single Tax Association, the Nationalist and Secularist societies have met and decided to form a party independent of any of the present political parties."

Since the above appeared Mr. Cribbin, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, and Mr. R. Glockling, secretary D. A. 125, have both written denying that their respective bodies had any representatives at the meeting.

It is pleasing to note that Sir John Thompson, in the House of Commons recently moved that Mr. Gordon's bill to amend the Chinese Immigration Act be transferred to the Government orders. He said it had been found necessary to adopt means to prevent the return certificates being duplicated by the Chinese. The sale and duplication of these certificates prevailed extensively among the Chinese who intended migrating to America. New regulations should be made, and in order to do this, new legislation was necessary. What Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin (my illustrious,

talented, and pernickety countryman, and an enthusiastic lover of Chinese—well, not men anyway) will have to say on behalf of his proteges remains to be heard. I opine it will depend very much upon how the oracle is working in Nicholas Flood's interest.

The labor element in this city made no mistake last January in the choice for mayor. While taking every precaution to protect the general interests of our city, Mayor Fleming has not for a moment lost sight of the fact that there are very large numbers of idle men in the municipality. To secure them work he has put forth every effort to have started such works as would tend to that end, and he has been to an extent successful. The construction of sewers, the building of permanent and works of like character have been put under way and on a plan suggested by his worship so as to give work to as many as possible. In short, his idea is that the work shall be continuous day and night from start to finish—three gangs being employed, and each gang working eight hours. By this means the largest possible number of men get a fair show of the work, while at the same time the work is carried to completion so as not to interfere but as little as possible with the public convenience.

I see that Mr. A. M. Burgess, of the Department of the Interior, was recently examined before a committee of the House of Commons to explain the manner in which that department intends to conduct the immigration business of the Dominion in future. In explaining about the abolition of the agencies in Ontario, he said the change would save some \$21,000 per year. But it won't; and for this reason: While the offices are abolished and a saving, as a department item, secured, the agents will have from nine to eleven years added to their actual years in office and will be then superannuated with pensions equal to the amounts recently paid them annually as salaries. In other words, they will in future have no work to do; a few subordinates lose their situations, and the money saved in their discharge will, through the addition of the years I have named, be thrown into the pensions given the retired agents, and a saving to the country is secured in this way forthwith. This reminds me of a circumstance with which I have only become acquainted within the past few days, and which will bear detailing so as to adorn a moral, if it does nothing else. Agent Donaldson, of this city, whose office has just been abolished, lured a young Englishman and kept him for years employed around his house as a servant at a monthly salary of \$15. This man always had to sign receipts in blank for his wages. Meanwhile the agent was charging and was being paid \$31 per month for the services of this same man. After awhile this man began to court a female servant employed by the agent, and she in turn told her lover (they are now married) how he was being victimized. Before this, however, the agent secured the employment of his son as assistant in the office. He then discharged the young Englishman. The latter then took legal action to recover the money he had been defrauded of. The agent was defiant at first, but finding that he was to be put in the box to swear as to the matter, he changed his tactics. The plaintiff put in two claims—one for services as servant and the other for the moneys withheld as an employee of the Government. Of course he could not recover both, and so he accepted the offer of the agent and took the Government arrears, as that was the largest sum. And so the matter rested. Now this HONEST agent is seeking to be pensioned off with an annuity equal to the salary which he had been receiving. Not only that, but I have every reason to believe he is also trying to get a pension for his son, who was in the office only about three years—that is, he was paid for that time, but put but little time in the office. I forgot to mention, too, that the young Englishman wrote to Hon. John Carling giving details and asking for justice in the premises, but was ignored and never received any answer. He subsequently wrote to a subordinate in the department, asking that he see the Hon. Minister and ask that the certificates of character which he had forwarded with his letter of complaint be returned. In time the certificates were returned as requested, but not a word said about the complaint. Further comment is not necessary.

URIM.

Ships That Are Lost.

It has to many persons been an interesting speculation as to the aspect of the countless wrecks which have been swallowed up by the North Atlantic since the churn of waters has been ploughed by the keels of ships. Their number is probably to be reckoned by the tens of thousands and the greater part of them lie in a comparatively small part of that field. If we count this portion of the Atlantic which is most peopled with wrecks as having an area of 3,000,000 square miles, and estimate the total number of such ruins within this space as

80,000, we would have an average of one sunken ship for each hundred square miles of surface. If all these crafts were at once sailing over the surface of the sea we should from the deck of any one of them be likely to note the masts of several others. But as they lie on the floor of the ocean the greater part of them are probably reduced to low mounds of rubbish, so that if the ocean floor were converted into dry ground and we crossed it in a railway, seeing the fields as we do the prairies, it would require an attentive eye to discern the existence of many of these ruins.

Origin of the Name America.

Mr. Jules Marcon, of the Paris Geographical Society, has lately spent a great deal of time in making researches into the origin of the name "America," says Pearson's Weekly. The popular notion that America was so called from the Christian name of Amerigo Vespucci, is, he says, wholly unfounded, the name really being taken from "Amerique," the Indian name of the mountains between Juigalpa and Liberated, in the provinces of Chontales, which separate Lake Nicaragua from the Mosquito coast.

The name in the Maya language signifies "the windy country," or the "country where the wind blows always." The Christian name of Vespucci was Alberico in Italian and Spanish and Albericus in Latin, but it is subject to a great number of variations, and consequently M. Marcon suggests that the name Amerigo is an adaptation of Amerrique, added to Vespucci's name to distinguish it (Amerrique being a name already known and applied to the new world) in the same way as we now say "Chinese Gordon" to distinguish this particular Gordon by suggesting one of his heroic feats. Vespucci's claim to the discovery of America is put out of court by the fact that he was in Seville when Columbus made his voyage. He did, however, make two or three voyages to the new world later on, and, being a vain man and acquainted with map makers, he would be nothing loth to see his name associated with the vague splendors of the new continent.

A Moslem University.

A writer in the Boston Journal describes his visit to the great Moslem University of El Azhar, at Cairo, Egypt. A short time ago it would have been as much as a Christian's life was worth to show himself within its walls, but with the British occupation greater toleration has come, and Europeans are not infrequently drawn by curiosity to gaze at the strange spectacle. The most striking feature, says the visitor, was not the sight, but the sound; the distracting riot reminded one of a corn exchange. Before us hundreds of white-turbaned students were seated cross-legged on the pavement of the open court, some alone, others in groups, but all as closely packed as was convenient. Each was repeating aloud the passage he was endeavoring to learn, and accompanying the words with a rhythmic cwaying of the body. It was a roaring, rolling, human sea, and we marveled at it as a seat of higher education. The training must give a wonderful power of concentration, what else one would hardly venture to surmise. We visited the adjoining court, where the students made their toilet, and were extremely edified. Some twenty men were bathing, first their feet and then their faces, in one common, muddy pool of water.

Iron in Ancient History.

That the Hebrews, Greeks and Romans had some idea of the value of iron is known. About half a century ago metallurgical students declared that, ancient as metal weapons might be, cast iron was a distinctively modern product. This, as far as Europe is concerned, may be true, cast iron statistics going back no farther than the latter part of the fourteenth century. After prolonged study the late Dr. Gurli, of Bonn, concluded that cast iron is a child of the dim past. In China wrought iron and steel were known 2000 B. C., and cast iron about 400 B. C. A Chinese author describes the process at length. In the first century of the Christian Era a Chinese ravine, 1,000 feet deep, was spanned by a compressed bridge with cast iron columns. Cast iron is mentioned by Aristotle and Pliny. The Greeks and Romans do not seem to have used it extensively, judging from the fact that, while wrought iron relics are common, cast iron relics are rare. Dr. Gurli is none the less convinced that investigation will disclose many more such relics. He describes a little statue, representing a priestess of Isis, or the goddess Isis herself, which he supposes to have been made by an Egyptian craftsman or under Græco-Roman influence. Cast iron has also been found in parts of Moravia where the ancient Chlitz mined, under the direction of their German conquerors.—Age of Steel.

The Morning Post reports two deaths from Asiatic cholera in London.

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