New York Sun

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LABOR'S HOURS.

nother Division of the Business Man's Crowded Years.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: It may be that the following explanation will help to correct the mistaken opinion of the gentleman who wrote in THE SUN of March 1 that the average business man works but three full days in the entire year.

The average business man works from 9 to 5 during the day, and of this time one hour is spent in eating lunch—thus he actually works seven hours a day for five days of the week. On the sixth day, Saturday, from 9 to 1, he works four hours, thus making a total of thirty-nine working hours a week.

He sleeps eight hours a day for seven days a week, or a total of fifty-six hours of sleep a week. The remainder he spends in recreation: nine hours a day for five days, or forty-five hours; plus twelve hours on Saturday and sixteen on Sunday, or a total of seventy-three recreation hours a week.

In one year there are fifty-two weeks and one day, thus $39 \times 52 = 2,028$, plus seven working hours of the extra day equals 2,035 hours of work a year; $56 \times 52 = 2,912$, plus eight sleeping hours of the extra day equals 2,920 hours of sleep a year; $73 \times 52 = 3,796$, plus nine recreation hours of the extra day equals 3,805 hours of recreation a year; making a total of 8,760 hours a year.

But from the total number of working hours a year should be deducted the working hours of ten holidays, New Year's, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, election day, Thanksgiving and Christmas, or seventy hours, and also the working hours of two weeks vacation in summer—seventy-eight hours—or a total of 148 hours. These 148 hours are presumably recreation hours and should be added to the total number of recreation hours.

Thus the actual number of working hours a year is 1,887; the actual number of recreation hours a year is 3,953, and the number of sleeping hours remains the same, 2,920, again a total of 8,760 hours a year.

Thus on the basis of twenty-four hours to a day the above number of hours a year would be equal to the following number of days a year: 1,887 hours, equal to 78⅝ actual working days a year; 3,953 hours, equal to 164 17-24 actual recreation days a year; 2,920 hours, equal to 121 2-3 actual sleeping days a year.

From the above it will be seen that we work approximately seventy-eight full days a year.   E. M. L. MICHEL.

NEW YORK, March 8.