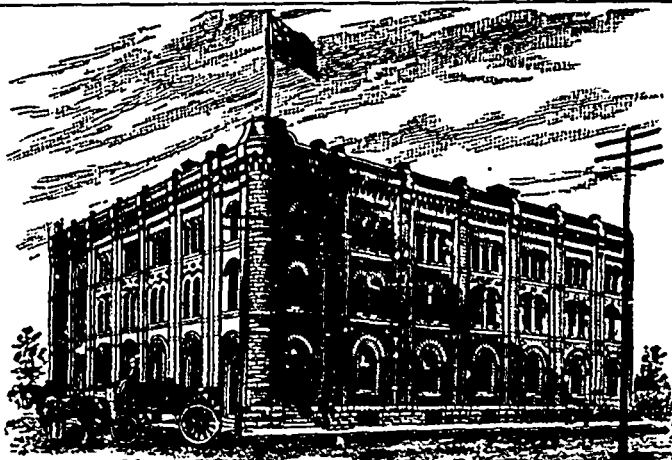


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THE movement in favor of the eight hour day's work has been progressing well in the United States during the past two weeks, and it now seems as if any serious striking troubles were likely to be avoided, owing to the inability and in some instances the unwillingness of employers to oppose the demands. In New York, Brooklyn, Chicago and quite a number of less important places, the demands of the mechanics have been conceded generally, and the number of strikes has been reduced very much during the past week. There is undoubtedly a strong drift of public opinion in favor of the eight hour's day of work, and it is very probable, that in a very few years, it will be adopted and acknowledged in almost every branch of industry throughout this continent. It seems only a natural adjustment of affairs, that as mechanical improvements quicken and cheapen the cost of production, the laborer's hours of toil should be lessened.

THE telegraphic news regarding the Hudson's Bay Railway legislation at Ottawa, as published in our local dailies, has been of a very conflicting character during the past week. In the *Free Press* telegraphic dispatches have been as changing and mistifying as the transfiguration scenes of a pantomime. One day the news was as dark and grim looking as the stage representation of the abode of Demons, and the next it would be as brilliant as the illuminated representations of Fairyland, while the scores of people in this city who might be classed under the vulgar term of suckers, have been gazing on as would a youngster at his first visit to matinee, amused, scared, tickled or enchanted as the view of the moment might impress them. The news, if it might be called news, has been dished up in a highly spiced style that furnishes a certificate of wondrous ingenuity for the Ottawa correspondent who did the work, and but for the fact that the Dominion Parliament extended the time of the Hudson's Bay Railway charter five years, the telegrams would have been spice and nothing else. Thus far probably the desire of a majority of Manitobans has been granted, but what else will be done is a matter for the future consideration of Sir John Macdonald's Government, and consequently an unravelled conundrum to an interested North-

western public. Even the five years extension was not granted without some kicking, and to ourselves we must admit that such kickers as Senator Power of Halifax spoke some truth about the way the project has been handled in the past. The extension has been granted, however, and with the question of further aid left for decision by the Governor-General-in-Council, the crowd of Manitobans who have waited and watched so anxiously during the past two weeks are in much the same position as were the street corner audience of that mythical Hebrew with the peep show, who as he bundled up his bulls-eyed wonder box exclaimed, "The next thing you shall see, you shall see vat you shall see."

THE recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on the seizure of intoxicating liquor by an officer of the law in the prohibitory State of Iowa, has caused quite a flutter in prohibition circles, and has brought forth some strong language from leaders of that party. By this decision the Iowa state officials have no power to seize intoxicating liquors imported from a foreign country, or from another state, so long as they remain unbroken in the packages in which they were imported. Of course such a decision leaves open a wide gateway through which unscrupulous parties could evade the prohibitory laws of the state.

A bill has been introduced in the United States Senate to relieve the authorities of prohibitory states from the restraint such a decision imposes upon them. The special provisions of the bill are:—

"Be it enacted, etc., that no state shall be held to be limited or restrained in its power to prohibit, regulate, control or tax the sale, keeping for sale or transportation as an article of commerce or otherwise, to be delivered within its own limits of any fermented, distilled or other intoxicating liquors by reason of the fact that the same have been imported into such States from beyond its limits, whether there shall or shall not have been thereon any tax, duty, import or excise, to the United States."

This law should be stringent enough to suit the most rabid prohibitionist, and it is to be hoped the bill will pass Congress, so that Iowa may get a fair trial of pure prohibition. It

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has not obtained such a trial in any western country as yet. The cumbersome and anomalous Scott Act has proved such a failure in Ontario, that hundreds of total abstainers there, freely admit now, that as a temperance influence it is much inferior to a well regulated license system. In Kansas total prohibition exists, because the doctrine is so closely associated with the Republican party there, that it cannot be said to stand purely on its own merits, but is maintained by that party in a state where the Republicans are in an overwhelming majority. In Iowa, political parties are now so evenly balanced, that a few years of absolute prohibition there from this time forward would furnish a very good proof either for or against the doctrine. Many people would like to see the test squarely made.

Grain and Milling.

There is now stored at Brandon 50,000 bushels of wheat and 10,000 bushels of oats.

Another advance of ten or fifteen cents a sack on flour is contemplated by Manitoba millers.

Sixty-three varieties of wheat, twenty-eight of oats, twenty-one of barley and nine of peas have been sown on the Brandon Experimental Farm this year.

The Beautiful Plains Milling Company have awarded the contract for the erection of their mill at that place to Jas. Pyo of Minneapolis. The mill will have a capacity of 100 barrels.

The total quantity of wheat in store at Port Arthur is about 400,000 bushels and nearly all this is held on account of millers. Wheat in country elevators in Manitoba and in Winnipeg is held the same way and the opening of navigation will let loose but a very small quantity to go on eastern markets.

The Northern Pacific railway have issued a new time card to go into effect on June 8.

The Bank of Montreal, in a recent statement, shows that the profits for the last year were \$1,377,311.

All persons bringing horses into Manitoba must hereafter notify the Department of Agriculture and Immigration at Winnipeg.