LIFE AMONG THE HOBOES.

An Omaha Man's Tramp Through Arkansas, Texas, Indian Territory and Missouri.

the unfortunate. Still there is a large number of men in every city who have neither

In October, 1894, I was removed from my position as government tagger at South Omaha for reasons which it is not necessary to repeat here. Finding, like Davy Crockett my occupation gone, I resolved to leave this part of the country and seek employment elsewhere. With this purpose in view I began reading the want ade in the papers. At that time there was a standing advertisement in The Ree which, as near as I can remember, read comething like this:

WANTED, 1,500 MEN FOR MEMPHIS, AR-kansas City, Helena and Louisiana. Good wages. Ship tonight. Kramer & O'Hearn, Labor Agency, corner 11th and Farmam streets. I answered this ad in person at the little office in the old frame building at the corner of Eleventh and Farnam streets, and was

confronted by a young man, who, for frigid dignity, was head, shoulders and body above anything that it had ever been my fortune to come across. Indeed, so important was he that I could not get a civil answer to the questions I asked him, and was obliged to go eisewhere to get the information I was seek-ing. There was another one of those agencies close by, under the management of a Mr. who had a similar place of business in Kansas City. A woman was in charge of the Omaha end, and to my inquiries as to what a ticket to Memphis would cost was politely informed \$10.50. As that was more money than I had in my possession I told her I would be back next day and buy a ticket. In order to do this I had to pawn my watch, which I did, securing enough to purchase the ticket and have left \$3.85.

BOUND FOR MEMPHIS.

The next day I went back to the office and paid in the \$10.50, for which I got a receipt, and was told that the train would leave the Webster Street depot that night at 9:20. There were nine of us bound for the same place, and as there was but the one ticket for the nine we had to stay together, We left Omaha the 11th of December for Memphis, from which place we took boat up the river fifty miles and were landed at 1 a, m. in a dense forest. We camped in the woods for the night and the next morning started for the levce camp, which we found to be two miles distant. It was my first experience in a place of this kind, and in truth the first time I had ever seen anything of the like. We were to receive \$1.25 per day, with a proviso that we would be dis-counted 25 per cent if we left or were discharged before we had worked twenty-six days. This provise proved to be a financial success in two ways—it enabled the con-tractors to pay off their men at starvation wages, besides keeping them on the move, thereby making room for the new contingents were arriving every day from the different employment agencies up the country. There was one thing I noticed among the men at the camp and which impressed me a little. It was the utter inability of men to remain still, either standing or sitting, for the shortest space of time. was out of the question. In order to be satisfied in regard to my condition I went out into the woods and examined myself. that one of us was put off the train, the one I was forced to admit when the evidence was all in that I had "got 'em." The mystery was explained. The vermin were trouble in convincing the conductor that I so thick in the came that the same th mystery was explained. The vermin were so thick in the camp that to a new beginner life was made miserable until his cuticle got toughened by friction and he by degrees

Another thing about those comps, which was made clear-if strong circumstantial evidence can make anything clear-was the understanding between the employment agencies and the contractor to fleece the laboring man. I have seen good men dis-charged upon one pretext or another in order that the new men sent out by the different

agents, and who were guaranteed work, could be given employment for a few days. After working in this camp for two weeks I left in company with a young man who was also from Omaha. We had come to the camp together and had earned after the 25 per cent discount had been deducted \$7. Two dollars of this sum was given to reach Mem phis, in which place we expected to find something to do. We were not successful, however, and our funds getting low, we came to the conclusion to strike out on foot across the country. This we did, and after two days walking without finding work of any kind, we reached a little town called Wynn. We had walked thirty miles that day, and were tired and hungry, but our money was but when he found we had no money he was so nearly exhausted that a sandwich was all as hardened and inflexible as the first. so nearly exhausted that a sandwich was all that we could allow curselves for supper. This we duplicated for breakfast and left the This we duplicated for breakfast and left the town that day in a drizzling rain and had had walked twelve miles when night came We found the mayor in his office, and after making our business known asked him if making our business known asked him if and as we could not put up at a hotel for that amount, had to ask the privilege of sleeping in the school house for the night, which was readily granted. We bought 20 cents' worth of cheese and crackers for our supper, built a fire in the stove, and made curaelyes as comfortable as circumstances would permit. The next morning we started toward Helena, fifty miles distant. On this morning we had no breakfast, and about 9 o'clock we parted with our last 15 cents for three cups of coffee. On that same day— Sunday-I gave my overcoat to a negro for two meals, the first we had to eat since our meal of cheese and crackers the night before achool house. When night overtook us we built a fire in the woods and lay down to get some rest. How long I slept I not know, for we were awakened by large drops of rain spattering through the branches overhead. There was not a house within half a mile, and the only shelter to be had were the trunks of the huge trees. Never before had I witnessed so grand a sight. Flash after flash of lightning followed so close upon one another that each crag and limb locked like an electric light. When the storm was over we restarted our fire, dried ourselves and slept until morning. That morning my companion gave away his over-coat for our breakfast. He also sold his mackintosh for \$1 to a section foreman. That afternoon it began raining again and about 4 o'clock we went up to a planter's house and asked to be taken in for the night. The cwner, a young man of 30, and single, said that we were welcome if we could put up

who have left the country for the town.

It has been said upon what is supposed to be excellent authority that one-half the people in the world do not know how the other half get along. It is within the bounds of truth to say that not one person in fifty has a wine or an all within the formular to every school boy. "The montrol of a shed" was sitting before his door truth to say that not one person in fifty has half get along. It is within the bounds of truth to say that not one person in fifty has a fair idea of the sufferings and hardships which the man endures who finds himself at the beginning of winter out of money and out of work. Yet there is not a city or town in the United States that does not add one or more names to the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be the state of the list of needy who must be state of the list of needy who must be stated on the state of th more names to the list of needy who must look to charity to tide them over until the return of spring, when work can be found. That the number of men and women who ask relief from the charitable organizations is on the increase is evident from the increased amount of supplies annually distributed among the unfortunate. Still there is a large number of the time and the other part of the time, now arose, walked over to his visitor, and said: "Strang r, take the fiddle and play it yoursiff." There, sitting astride his horse, according to my informant, was first played the other part of the time. the tune, known far and wide as the Arkan-sas Traveller. It is needless to say that there money nor work, but who, nevertheless, do was nothing too good for Sandy in the Jon's not seek alms from the relief committees, and cable that night. Mr. Lowry stated that yet it is a blustering day when they get left.

They are a class known as holoes, and it is with them this article has to deal.

his father was personally acquainted with Jones and that the facts are, substantially, as herein narrated. All over Arkansas can be found imitators of Mr. Jones and it is a very poor family indeed, where you will not find a violin hanging on one of the four walls of the cabin. I have stood before those cabins on an evening, watching the master of the house, his body swaying to and fro as though in mortal agony, the perspiration oozing from every pore, sawing away as if his life depended on the num-ber and variety of motions he could make. These would be Ole Bulls are not confined to any one locality, but are found in the rural districts in all parts of the state. When I was a boy I used to hear it said that when a fiddler died he went neither to hell nor to heaven, but to a place called Fiddl'r's Green, three miles below had a. If that can be true, it is evident to those who wish to investigate that Fiddler's Green is located within the borders of Arkansas.

STRIKING THE ROAD.

After fating our breakfast next morning e bid Mr. Lowry good by and started for Helena, eight miles distant. We scarched or employment the whole day after getting here, and, as usual, were unsuccessful. Our lost 50 cents, which remained from the sale of the mackintosh, was given for a bed. The next morning I asked a conductor to carry us to Clarindon, which he did. It may not be out of place to state here, by the way of parenthesis, that sevmay not be out of place to state eral years of my life were spent as a rail-road brakemen and switchman. I has had work d as a switchman in the Union Pa-cific yards at Omaha in the spring of '93, and before leaving Omaha I called upon Superintendent Sutherland and received a letter, duly stamped, certifying that my work while there was satisfactory and that I had left the service of my own accord. My government commission and removal served as a clearance in the great strike

After arriving in Clarindon our first though was for something to eat. It was already noon and we had not yet tasted food that I had a watch chain which cost me \$5.50 and which I tried to sell, but could not get an offer on it. We had to have something to eat, and to get it I gave the chain to a hotel keeper for our dinner. After eating a hearty meal we went to the Cotton Belt depot. There was a freight train standing on the track headed in the direction we wanted to go. lirection we wanted to go. I asked the conductor for a ride to Jonesbore, showing at the same time my letter and strike clear-ance. After looking them over he told me to go back to the caboose and get on. I then told him about my companion, and was told he could not ride unless he could show up" as I had done. I then asked the conductor if we could get into an empty box car, and he replied that if I rode with him I would have to ride in the caboose. That settled it, and we started up the track on foot toward Brinkley, which we reached at 7 o'clock. That night we asked the marshal to let us sleep in the fall and give us sitting, for the shortest space of time. I could not imagine the cause, and not wishing to show my ignorance by making inquiries. I resolved to smother my curiosity until the secret would be out. I had not long to wait, as the third day after my arrival I found myself shifting about in my seat before the evening fire. Somehow I had caught onto the custom of the camp, and was as uneasy as the rest of them. get into an empty box car, if there were Indeed, so restless had I become that sleep was out of the question. In order to be was to indeed, so ride in the caboose and trust to my was to ride in the caboose and trust to my letters to carry me through. If it happene

> was a railroad man in good standing, and was told that I could ride.
> We had gone about thirty miles when the train stopped at a siding to let another one pass. My companion, not finding an empty box car that he could get into, had got upor When the train came to a stand a flat car. When the train came to a stand the head brakeman started over the train from the engine toward the caboose. My partner, who was still on the flat car, saw the ight coming and endeavored to let himself down by reaching to the ladder on the side of the adjoining box car, but the night was so cold that his hands had become benumbed and in trying to catch the rounds he fel backward. In his fall he threw his arms behind him to protect himself, and striking the palm of his hand against the frozen ground, he broke his arm at the wrist.

NO CASH, NO CURE. When we arrived at Jonesboro we went straight to the railroad company's physician who wanted \$10 for reducing the fracture. We did not have 10 cents and made him aware of this fact. He was obdurate to our appeals and we left the office feeling We went to another physician, Somewhat discouraged with our ead plight we made up our minds to seek the mayor and he could give us an order to the city phy-sician. He said that the city did not employ a physician. Then we asked him if he could not send us to some doctor and have him present the bill to the council for payment, to which he answered that there was no ordinance for anything of that kind and furthermore that the city was not compelled to take care of every tramp that came along. As we turned to leave, he asked us with a leer that would have done credit to Mr. Hyde, if there was any fur-ther information that we would like to have, to which we simply answered "nothing," and walked out. It was now 11 o'clock and we had had nothing to eat since the day before at noon. Something had to be done to get out of the predicament we were in. With a determination born of our sad situation we came to the conclusion to go over to a drug store near by, ask for bandages as though we intended to buy them, and when they were wrapped up take them, walk out, stand the consequences, whatever they might be, and set the fracture as well as we To the drug store we went and were able. were informed that they did not keep anything of the kind, but that there was a doctor's office next door where we could got them. With some misgivings we entered the place and made our mission known. It was our last chance, as he was the only physician in town on whom we had not called. He proved to be a gentleman whose humanity was not measured by dollars or cents. After setting the limb he stipulated to the patient that if he ever found himself financially able he would forward \$10. This he promised

that we were welcome if we could put up with what he had to offer. This was not hard to do, considering that we had had only one meal a day for the two days previous.

This plantation was eight miles north of Helena, and like all other places of its kind, outside the sugar states, was on the retregrade. Indeed, there is nothing in the south which will impress the observer more than those old plantations which are rapidly drifting into decay. Thy no longer constitute the orbit of seelety, round which the satellites of fashion irridiate, but are, on the contrary deserted by their former owners, who have left the country for the town. our dinner. When our wants were estis-fled we had time to reflect upon the situa-tion in which we found ourselves. Whether

A POPULAR RESORT. We were going to Poplar Bluffs, Mo., with the expectation of obtaining work as switchmen, when the accident nurrated shove be-fell us. I now started slone toward that which was about seventy-five miles from Jonesboro. I reached Poplar Bluffs sometime during the night and was told by one of the brakemen that I could stay in the switch shanty for the night. To the shanty I went, and found it to be a building about fourteen feet square, and there were, by actual count, twenty-three hobbes, all in a worse fix than myself, sleeping there that night. Every train that pulled into the yards from either direction brought a number of these poor wretches, and, strange as it may appear, they were all familiar with the location of the awiten house.
I could not find anything to do in Peplar Birffs and departed for Little Rock, which was 185 miles south. I asked a conductor for a ride, but was refused. His refusal did not cut much figure, however, as I got into the les box of a refrigerator car, which was in his train, and rode to Little Rock without ing observed. Things seemed to be going from bad to worse. There was nothing to be had in the way of work at Little Rock and my appearance was commencing to look rather seedy. I had given away my surplus clothing, and every little article that I possessed, for something to eat. Now I had arrived at the end of the rope, so to speak, and must approach back doors and depend upon charity like every other so-called tramp. Another thing which I noticed Another thing which I noticed was the fact that a man with a ragged coat and no monty in his pecket had an enemy in every policeman he chanced to meet. If a hoboe happened to seck the shelter of an empty box car to protect himself from the cold of a winter night, he was, in all probability, arrested for trespassing or vag-rancy before morning. If he went to the out-kirts of the city or town to build a fire to keep the blood from becoming chilled in his half-clad body, it was more than likely that he would be discovered by the eagleyed Javerts and either get thirty days or be told to "move on." HUNGER'S LAST RESORT. From Little Rock I went to Fort Smith

had read an advertisement in the St. Louis Hobe-Dimocrat to the effect that teamsters vere wanted at Huntington, and as it was thirty miles distant, I though: I would stop in Fort Smith until morning, as the saloons of the place kept open all night. They were the only places in town where a man without money or friends could stop and not be molested. Being weak from fasting. I molested. Being weak from fasing, I walked into the country a mile or two to try and get my supper. It was the first time in my life that I had ever asked for bread at a private house without being able to pay for what I received. There was a large house close to the railroad track upon my left, and to it I went. A girl was carrying in wood and to her I addressed myself. I asked her if she would not allow me to do some kind of work for my supper or any-thing in the way of edibles. She said they did not have anything cooked, and that they were tired of feeding tramps who were too lazy to work. Try as I might, I could not keep back the tears after this rebuff, so sat down on the railroad and had a good ry. Over on the adjoining farm a man was lowing, and to him I went, telling him hat I had no money, but was willing to do work of any kind for my supper. He said that he did not have any work to do, but that I could go over to the house and tell his wife that he had sent me, cautioning me, at the same time, to look out for the dogs. was given a good supper and 5 cents by his wife, after which I returned to the salcon and slept on the floor for the night. The next day I left on foot for Huntington. About 4 o'clock in the evening it began raining. Over in the wood there was a og cabin, before which a man was chopping asked him if he could keep me over night, telling him where I was going, with the remark that I would not be able to reach it hecause of the storm. He made answer that his wife was not at home, but would be directly, and if I could wait until she arrived he could let me know. While he was talking, his wife came home. She had been out to one of the neighbors to try and borrow some flour. It transpired, as I in which cast an additional in which cast an additional gloom over the melancholy gloom over the melancholy gloom over the melancholy was in securing the flour, they would themselve have had to go supperless to bed. H was a miner, but had been out of work for some months and was in very hard circum-stances, yet, with all their poverty, I was welcomed as though their wealth was un-limited. Indeed, in my year of wandering brough seven states and two territories, I found it was the poor who were the most liberal givers. Seldom, if ever, have I been refused a crust of bread at a poor man's bome when I asked for it. I cannot say this f the class that is known as the well-to-do. THE DOUBLE CINCH. At Huntington I was given employment and

worked there nine days when, for a trifling cause, eighteen of us were discharged. I ound the same rule in effect here that they and upon the levee, with this difference, that f you left or were discharged before you had worked twenty-six days, you were discounted 10 per cent instead of twenty-five per cent. With such a rule in force it was impossible or anyone to remain at work any length of ime, when men were as plentiful as they were last winter. On leaving Huntington I had \$3.95. The 95 cents was given for rail-road fare, the first and last I paid for transportation until leaving Sloux City for Ne-caska, the fall following. When I got back Fort Smith I bought a pair of shoes for \$1 and after staying two days left the town with 5 cents in my pocket. I walked five miles to an Buren, crossing the Arkansas river the ice (something unusual) and left there that night in a box car for McAlister, in the Indian Territory, 150 miles distant. It was a very cold night, the ground being covered with snow and a strong wind blowing from the north. I staid in the box car until we had gone about twenty miles, when I came to the conclusion that I would have to get out or freeze. I chose the former course. getting out and going back to the caboose When the train had started and the conductor saw me he was somewhat surprised and wanted to know where in the d-I I had come from. I made him acquainted with the facts and told him I was a railroad man gone to seed and was going over to McAlister to rode with him to Wagner, changing cars there and again at Muskoges, arriving at McAlister twelve hours after leaving Van Buren. The next day I went out along the line and secured a job on the grade. I worked there ten days, when I accidentally split my thumb to the bone handling rocks. As I was disabled from working, and not wishing to stay around the camp and pay board, I called for my time. I found the same rule of discount in force on this road which marked the other camps in which I had worked. They also kept out of each man's pay 50 cents every menth as a hospital fee, yet there was no place provided for those who chanced to get sick, and if such a misfortune happened to befall anyone he had to pay his board or leave the camp at which he was working. The only benefit received, if benefit it could be called, was the riding over the line of a so-called doctor who would distribute two or three pills to each man once a week, but not, however, without asking for them. There was something like \$1,200 collected each month from this source, and the beauty of the scheme was, that the promoters did not have to give an equivalent in return. There was, in one of the camps, a young man of 18 who was taken down with the measles and who died of neglect and want of medical treatment. Yet, if he had only worked two days upon the construction of the road before he died, the 50 cents hospital fee would be kept out of his wages. Here is a receipt which I received from a subcontractor for whom I worked

Section 57, 4-4, '95. Received of R. Haurigan 50-100 dollars as doctor's fees for the month of April, '95. CULLIN BROS. The contractors who had the construction of this road were W. S. Good, a man from Phila-delphia, and Michael E. Kerr, clerk of the last house of representatives. This man Good had such a dread of the workingmen along the line that he always had a United States deputy marshal with him when he rode out.

THE BOX CAR ROUTE. At the time I left the road there was an advertisement in the Globe-Democrat to the effect that 500 men were wanted for the construction of a new railroad at Texarkana. As I could not work for some days on account of my hand, I came to the conclusion to go

money arrived from home. I stayed with him that night and next morning we bid each other goodby and parted.

A POPULAR RESORT.

A POPULAR RESORT.

Texas. The brakeman on the Iron Mountain put me into an empty car. It was a very dark night, so dark, in fact, that objects along the track were invisible through the to do. The 15th of June I went out into the dark night, so dark, in fact, that objects along the track were invisible through the partly open door of the car. When the train started. I lay down and went to sleep. I was awakened by the sound of music, which, as near as I can tell, seemed to be coming from the roof of the car. I raised myself on my hand and listened. There was no cessuijon of the music and a feeling similar to that felt by Jean Valjean when he first heard the cold cleds roll down upon his coffin lid passed through my body. I knew that there was no one in the car when I got in, as the brake-man had been there with his lamp. When I could stand the uncertainty no longer I I could stand the uncertainty no longer is cried out: "Hello, thore," and was answered in turn, "Hello, boss, has you's waked up." I was not alone, as it transpired that my companion, who was a negro six feet tall, had given the brakeman 25 cents at old Fort Gibson for a ride to Van Buren and had got in the car while I was asleep. He had a mouth harp and was playing upon it, and it was left. that which awoke me. At Little Rock I induced an emigrant who was bound for Texas o store me away in his car so that I would have no trouble in getting through the smallhave no trouble in getting through the Small pox quarantine at Malvern. When Texarkana was reached I had just 5 cents left, and with it I bought a loaf of bread and then started to walk out to where the work was going on. At noon I stopped at a tie camp which was close to the track, and got my dinner. Among the tie makers was a man who lived in Omaha and who was just on the point of starting for the place where I was going. When dinner was over we started off together and had gone three miles when we came to the Red river. Neither of us had a cent with which to pay the ferryman, and footmen were not allowed to cross the railroad bridge. The only way we could get across was constructing a raft. We got an ax from one of the negro cabins close by and went to work. We got the raft completed at sundown, and everything being ready, got on and pushed out into the stream. We succeeded in getting across, but were almost a mile below where we started in. We retraced our steps, got back on the railroad and started on our

> It was now dark, and we were discussing the feasibility of building a fire and camping for the night, when we came to a sawmill and a large dwelling house, to which we went and asked if we might sleep in the sawmill for the night. We were told that we might. for the night. We were told that we might, and had turned to go, when we were asked if we had had any supper. Upon our replying no, we were taken into the house and set down to the table. It was the first and only time while hobbeing it around the country that I was invited to a meal. After our supper we have the sawfill and buried our went down to the sawmill and buried our-selves in the shavings. When I awoke I looked for my companion, who had lain down beside me, but he had disappeared, nor have I seen him from that day to this.

journey.

A USELESS TRIP. After leaving the sawmill I went up the track toward the work, but had not gone far when I met a number of men returning from there who informed me that because of a resurvey the work had stopped and that I would be disappointed if I went. We all went back to the river, lay in the woods until midnight and then stole across the was asleep. bridge while the watchman When across the river I left them, going to the tie-camp, while they went on to Texarkana. I worked at the camp two days in my stay of a week, it having rained the balance of the time. At the end of a week the camp broke up, the men going to different places. Texarkana was only eight miles away, and to it I went. The town was quar antined against the smallpox, but I was not aware of it. At the south side of town was a large sawmill. The gawdust from this mill was conveyed through iron pipes a distance of about 100 yards from the mill and was continually burning, along with slabs and waste material. Around this fire were gathered every night the hoboes who chanced to be in town. On this night there were thirteen, be-sides myself, sitting around the fire. Never before had I seen such dejected or wretched Sleep on such a night, in such a place, was not to be thought of, so we sat down to wait

go in the morning. We went with them and for the first time I slept behind the We went with them The next morning we were taken before the mayor, who was a sort of Judge Jeffreys in his way and sought to magnify believes in his way and sound the his own importance by belittling ours. When he got through with us we were put in charge of a guard and "drilled" five miles out of town. When the guards left us we scattered. Myself and another went through the woods and got over in the Texas part of the town, where we got a loaf of bread from friendly baker, having received no break-

ast from the authorities by whom we were arrested. A LESSON IN CHARITY. After leaving Texarkana I went to Dennison and stayed there two days. The first evening I was in Dennison I went out to get my supper, calling at several houses and offering to work for what I received, but was refused at every place. Somewhat chagrined at my nonsuccess in abtaining something to eat I was about to give up trying and wait until morning, when I saw a man making flower beds in a garden which was attached to a large brick house. In fact, it was one of the largest and finest houses in Dennison. I went up to the man and asked him if I could not assist him and get my supper in return. He said, "My friend, I am sorry, and if I could afford it I would willingly comply with your request but," he continued, "you see how I am working." Across the street was St. working." Across the street was St. Xavier's college, and to it I went. When I got inside the yard I was confronted by about fifty girls, varying between the ages of 10 and 18. I would have retreated, but I was seen and a stillness seemed to pervade the place as soon as I was perceived. I walked by to the sister who was more the porch up to the sister who was upon the porch and told her the reason of my visit. With out asking me any questions I was taken into the kitchen and given all I could eat besides a lunch in my pocket when I was going. That night there was an open meetgoing. That night there was an open meeting in behalf of the A. P. A., and some cyclone or other, as they called him, was going to speak, and, having nothing else to do, I attended. Imagine my surprise, if you can, when upon entering the hall I heard the man who lived in the big brick house and who had refused me my supper denouncing those who had fed me as vicious and uncharitable.

From Dennison I went back to McAllister riding in the hay mow of a stock car. From McAllister I went across the country to Oklahoma City on foot, a distance of 120 miles. From Oklahoma City I rode the Santa Fe railroad into Kansas City. was at that time in Kansas City. There was at that time in Kansas City an institution called "The Helping Hand." It was kept up principally by donations from the charitable people of the city and was supposed to be run upon the same plan as characterized the management of Rescue Hall in Omaha in the winter of '93 and'94. But how different was the reality from the but now different was the resulty from the supposition? Every svening there was preaching there by one of the pastors of the city, in which the management would take the leading part in the singing and prayers. But when the exercises were over the fangs of the wolf would appear through the sheep's ciothing. Indeed the free would leave to clothing. Indeed, the men would leave the place and seek the shelter of salcons and sleep on their floor for the night before they would stay at the Helping Hand and take the abuse that would be hesped upon them.

A FAMILIAR FACE. There was no work to be had in Kansas It was there that I saw the first familiar face I had seen since leaving Omaha. It was that of the assistant cashler of the Stock that of the assistant cashier of the Stock Yards bank, who was riding on a street car. I tried to look unconcerned, and thought I would not be known in my hobos attire, but I know that I was recognized, and the fact, at the time, did not tend to quiet my peace of mind. From Springfield I went back to Arkansas and went to work at Siloam Springs. I worked there nine days and then left going across the country on THE ORIGINAL HOBO.

After suppir, Mr. Lowry, the gentleman who owned the plantation, gave us a short history of Sandy Rowland, the original Arthard and the return was the subject of an hour's anobe in his day, but he traveled on horseback instead of on foot and in box cars.

All the world has heard of him since the

country and went to work harvesting, worked here until the 5th of July, when got what money was owing me, which sent to Omaha, except four dollars, for the watch which I had pawned the fall before When it arrived, I started off for the harves When it arrived, I started off for the harvest field of the north, and reached Minneapolis by box car passage in three days. It was my intention to go to North Dakota, but there were so many men going that way that I came back to Albert Lea, going out to the westrn part of the state, I was too goon for the harvest, and, as my money had given out. I had to do as the rest wer doing, that is, forage on the potato patche of the neighborhood. A week later there wa plenty of work for every one, at good wages I worked there three months and then re-turned to N braska, somewhat wiser, but much better off financially than when

STATISTICS OF IDLENESS.

How many men are there on the read out of employment? That is a question hard to answer with any degree of accuracy. It will be remembered that during the Horr-Harvey debate in Chicago, one of the co testants gave it as his opinion that there were 4,000,000 tramps in the United States, who could not find work. The other controvered this statement with government statistics, saying that there were not more

than half that number.
Government statistics in regard to thi branch of information are incorrect, for th reason that consus enumerators do not g to box cars, lumb'r piles and barns for th purpose of counting noses. Every time the census is taken a large number are overcoked, and they are in nearly every cas those who have no fixed residence and are commonly known as tramps. So, in my judgment, if one of the disputants failed to bit the bull's eye, the other missed the tar

get altogether.

A great many kind-hearted men and womer are laboring under the false impresion that if the charitable people would r fuse to feed the hordes of idle men, their number would soon be diminished. This is a sad mistake, as the supply of men is in excess of the amount of work there is to do. is another phase of the question which few realize, and that is, that it is a harder task for a strong man to eat the bread of charity than it is to work at honest labor. To be sure, there are professionals, or "Johnnie Yagens," as they call themselves, who will, not work for money or bread. They have a cheek of adamant and will beg ciothes, money, They are fellows who carve their etc. They are fellows who carve their names, or, to be more carrect, the names they give themselves, upon box cars, section houses and water tanks. They have a language particularly their own, which is belinguist. Among themselves they are known by such high sounding titles as Ohio Red San Francisco Pete, Alabama Slim, and so on. They constitute a very small per cent on. They constitute a very small per cent of the men or the read, and between them and the hoboes there is a bittr enmity which occasionally finds vent in blows.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY EVILS. The worst obstacle at the present time which the laboring men finds along his way is the employment agent. You may notch if in your memory as absolutely true, that when an employment agent advertises for a large number of men, in nine cases out of ten the agent and contractor have a compact with each other that bodes no good to the men sent out to work. There may be men enough twice over at the places to which they are shipping, but that makes no difference with them, and as long as they can induce men to pay their fee they will be pro-fuse with the promises of steady work and good pay. So pernicious has the evil be-come that some contractors will not employ good pay. anyone who does not come through an employment office. An employment agent by the name of O'Mera, whose place of business is on Walnut street, and I think, be-tween Sixth and Seventh streets, St. Louis, had a standing advertisement in all the principal papers of the city to the effect that men were wanted to shovel coal. The wages for this work were \$1.50 per day, and were paid every Saturday night, and besides the work was in the city. As there were between 6,000 and 10,000 men idle in St. Louis at that time who had nothing to eat and no place to sleep I thought it strange why such an opportunity should be let pass. Here for daylight to appear. We were thus situated at 1 o'clock in the morning, when suddenly two policemen came up, conveying at the same time the information that we could consider ourselves under arrest. We were about to scatter in different directions when they told us that we need have no fear as we would be given our breakfast and let go in the morning. We went with them was plainly visible to my mental vision. Had I paid the fee it would only have been a day or two until I would have been discharged to make room for some other man who had been sucked out of \$1 by those

human leeches There should be a law enacted in every state of the union, making it a misdemeanor for any person to run an employment agency. As at present constituted they are a sort of a custom house, where the poor man has to pay a tax in order to be given work. It may sound strange, but it is nevertheless

a fact, that in this day and generation men who have committed no crime are arrested by the dozens and thrown into jail simply because they cannot find work and have no money. The mere fact that some police man has a suspicion that a poor footworn creature is not altogether right is deemed sufficient evidence not only to arrest him out to sentence him for thirty days at hard This vicious practice is doing more toward increasing the number of criminals than all other causes combined. RICHARD HAURIGAN.

Fremont, December, 1895.

An Old Soldier Cured of Chronic Diarrhoen. During the war John L. Hase of Mill reek Ill. contracted chronic diarrhoea, which inconvenienced him very much, and at times greatly impaired his strength. He says: "One dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has always relieved me, and two doses eased me so that I could at once go about my business. I always keep the Remedy at hand."

HIS PRIDE WAS WOUNDED.

Indian Fighter Who Found an Unappreclative Tonsorial Artist.

The man who was "next" as I took chair in the barber shop, says the Detroit Free Press, had hair down on his shoulders. the regulation cowboy hat, and at the end of his watch chain dangled the claw of a grizzly bear.

The barber who was chaving me looked the man over, but didn't say anything, but after a bit the other observed: "Quito a change from Indian territory to New York City." "You have been out west, ch?"

"Hunting rabbits?" No, sir; Indians." "Oh! Find any?

places!

"You bet! I have seven scalps in my runk. "Yes. What did they cost you apiece?"
"Cost me!" shouted the wild and woolly. Why. hang it, I was wounded in thre

"Gun go off accidentally?" "No, it didn't. What sort of a man are anyhow?" "Beg pardon, but can they raise artichokee out there?"

"Arti-Halifax! Why don't you ask how many Indians I killed at Wounded Knee?" "Anybody wounded in the knee out there?" asked the barber, as he reached for the bay rum. "Had place to be wounded in. I broke my knee cap once. Next!" "Not by a jugful!" exclaimed the waiting

man, as he reached for his overcoat. "I was intending to have a hair cut, shave and get my whickers dyed, but you're not the man to do it. I'll go to some shop where they know something and have gumption enough to draw a feller out."

Old People.

Old people who require medicine to regulate the bowels and kidneys will find the true remedy in Electric Bitters. This medicine does not stimulate and contains no whiskey nor other intoxicant, but acts as a tonic such alterative. It acts mildly on the stomaci and bowels, adding strength and giving tone

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF NEW YORK. RICHARD A. McCURDY, President,

Statement for the year ending December 31st, 1894

From all other sources.. 11,897,706 12 -\$ 48,020,869 94

DISBURSEMENTS. To policy holders for claims by death\$11,929,794 94 To policy holders for endowments, dividends, etc., ..., 9,159,462 14 For all other accounts 9,789,634 18

ASSETS

Reserve for policies and other liabilities, company's stand-

United States bonds and other securities \$ \$3,970,690 GT. First lien loans on bond and mortgage 71,339,415 pg Loans on stocks and bonds...... 11,366,100 00 Real estate 21,891,733 39 Cash in banks and trust companies 9,655,198 91 Accrued interest, deferred premiums, etc. 6.615,645 07 \$204,038,783 90

Insurance and annuities in force Dec. 31, 1894...... 855,207,778 42

Surplus \$ 22,529,327 89

CHARLES A, PRELLER, Auditor. to be correct. From the surplus a dividend will be apportioned as usual. The statement of The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York for the year ending December 31, 1894, exhibits as the result of one year's business the following:

I have carefully examined the foregoing statement and find the same

Increase of insurance and annuities in force.......... 51,923,039 90 Report of the Examining Committee. Office of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Increase in assets...... 17,031,103 82

Increase in surplus...... 4,576,718 91

February 7, 1895, At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of this Company, held on the 26th day of December last, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to examine the annual statement for the year ending December 31, 1894, and to verify the same

by comparison with the assets of the company. The Committee have carefully performed the the duty assigned to them, and hereby certify that the statement is in all particulars correct and that the assets

specified therein are in possession of the Company. In making this certificate the Committee bear testimony to the high character of the investments of the Company and express their approval of the system. order, and accuracy with which the accounts and vouchers have been kept, and

usiness in general transacted. H. C. VON POST, CHARLES E. MILLER, THEO. A. HAVEMEYER, J. HOBART HERRICK, CHARLES R. HENDERSON, ROBERT SEWELL.

FLEMING BROS., MANAGERS FOR IOWA AND NEBRASKA OMAHA, NEBRASKA.





TO A RIPE OLD ACE.

The sins of youthful ignoranes, the dissipation, the weakness that proves a barrier to marriage—these are the things that are daily plunging thousands of men into a condition of other ruin—The wasted parts, emissions, nervousness and physical debliny all resulting from abuses and excesses, continue to sapthe life away simply because the sufferer in his ignorance is too bashful, too far gone in a shrinking fear or discovery to make known by condition or to seek out a riend. It is this hick of courage, this blighling, backward fear that has prompted me to make known to every man, weak and warn out from dissipation or secret sins, that there is a classes for you, an opportunity whereby you may be lifted out of that state of fread and despair to a happy condition of self respect an i manily courage. It too, had sacretly suffered for years, but through the espeny of a remarkble remeds I am now a happy, vigorous man ealoging to the fullest now a happy vigorous man enjoying to the fullest measure the blessings and privileges that only complete manhood can bestow. I will send (easled) the recipe of this wonderful remedy FREE to any sufferer who will write to me. It cured me after everything else and falled and it will cure you. Address,

C. H. Muller, Box 1825 ,Kalamazoo, Mich.

Searles & Searles SPECIALISTS IN

Nervous, Chronic Private Diseases SEXUALLY. All Private Disease

SYPHILIS

Cured for life and the poison thoroughly cleaned from the system PHLES PISTULA and RECTAL ULCERS HYDROCELE AND VARICOCELE permanently and successfully cured. Method new and unfailing. STRICTURE AND GLEET at home

Dr. Searles & Searles, 119 8, 14th St., Omaha, Nep.



(My mama used Wool Soap) (I wish mine had

Wool Soap is delicate and refreshing for tath pur-oses. The best cleanser. Huga bar at your dealers, we also it tollet and laundry.

New York. 227 Chestnut St., St. Louis.

ENNYROYAL PILLS

Culch exter Chemical Co, Madion Spania.

WOOLENS will not shrink if





velopment and tone are imparted to every portion of the body. Sent with positive proofs (scaled) free to any man on application ERIE MEDICAL CO., BUFFALO.N.Y.