

FIELD OF LABOR

Industrial Revolution.

In the early days of petroleum every barrel of the liquid had to be hauled from the wells to the railroads, sometimes a distance of ten or fifteen miles, says Labor Commissioner Wright, illustrating the displacement of labor by invention. All this work is now done by the National Transit Company, controlled by the Standard Oil Company. When a well is completed the pipe line's agent connects the well in a few minutes with its main line's tanks. The producer or the owner of the well pays nothing for having his oil transported through the pipe lines, but pays 50 cents per day storage for every thousand barrels he has in the tanks of the company, and the consumer or refiner pays 20 cents per barrel upon receipt of the oil for transportation, so far as Pittsburg and vicinity are concerned, while the receiver for New York and distant places pays something more. Some of the producing territory is quite remote, and ten barrels per day would be a very liberal average to allow for a team of horses to transport to the railroads. On this basis the pipe lines displace 5,700 teams of horses and double that number of men in handling the oil, the production of this country being placed at 57,000 barrels per day. The methods of land culture on the farm have largely given place to labor-saving machinery, and the demand for farm labor has accordingly diminished. The gang plow, the horse drill, planter, stone gatherer, manure spreader, potato digger, corn harvester, the corn husking machine, the self-binder, the mower, and almost innumerable other farm implements of late have increased and cheapened production at the expense of the demand for farm labor. Milking machines have been used with some success, and it is predicted by some that ere long the large dairies, which can afford to purchase machines, will be supplied with a contrivance which will extract the milk from a whole dairy in from five to ten minutes.

Iron-Clad Contracts.

"There is a great difference in the degrees of severity embodied in iron-clad contracts," says John McBride, President of the Miners' International Union. "The ideal ironclad contract can be found in coal fields and fixes the price of mining, the hours of labor, the price of mining supplies, the horse rents and prohibits employees from belonging to a union of their craftmen or attending public or private meetings of laboring men which are held for the purpose of discussing methods calculated to ameliorate their own or their fellowmen's condition in life. It was such a contract that made the great Hocking Valley strike of 1884-85 the largest and bitterest ever known in the coal fields in this country. "In Northern Illinois the ironclad contract, with the restricting features relating to organization and peaceful assemblage eliminated, has been in vogue for years and is yet. The same was true in Jackson County, Ohio, until lately, and it is true of many parts of Pennsylvania and other mining States. The ironclad contract system has always been a bone of contention between mine operators and mine workers, but it is passing away, and with the approach of better commercial and industrial conditions it will finally disappear. Work and organization strong enough to do the workers' will is the great panacea needed to eliminate this and many other evils which afflict our wage workers."

Eight-Hour Laws a Failure.

It has time and again been demonstrated that the contract system of public work is opposed to the interests of both the public and the wage earner, says the Twentieth Century. The organized labor of this country has, after infinite trouble, succeeded in effecting the passage of the eight-hour day law. Some work is now being done at the navy yard in Brooklyn by contractors who force their men to work long hours for very little pay. The labor unions called the attention of the Secretary of the Navy to the matter, but he said that contract labor does not come within the scope of the law. The matter should be taken to the courts, and until they have been pronounced upon the question of law is an open one. The one thing for the organized labor of the country to do is to abolish entirely the contract system of public improvements. The contract system is responsible for all the jobs and scandals.

Industrial Notes.

America has 3,000,000 working women. All the cotton factories in Canada propose a shut down for three months. The bricklayers intend establishing a national home for their aged and infirm. New Haven Chinese laundry owners have organized and fixed a scale of prices. Three cent shaves are beginning to make unorganized barbers in New York ask "where they're at." Western miners who were defeated in their long strike at Leadville propose trying co-operative mining. Painters and decorators have 123 unions, with 40,000 members, in the United States and Canada. Organized labor is gradually asserting its influence all over the world. In France lately the committee on labor conceded the right to fix a minimum

wage and maximum number of hours of labor.

Victoria, Australia, has adopted a law fixing the lowest wages that may be paid workmen in factories.

Erie (Pa.) paperhangers, painters and decorators want the nine-hour day and 25 cents per hour on April 1.

The Boston Central Labor Union will employ only Federation musicians. This is a turn-down for the K. of L.

Carpenters' Union No. 464, of New York, endorsed the movement for the Saturday half-holiday and \$4 a day.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia holds that it is legal to employ Chinaman in underground coal mining.

Los Angeles (Cal.) firemen gave one day's pay to the fund for the unemployed. School teachers and pupils contributed \$1,200.

Toledo has been selected as the national headquarters of the Bicycle Workers' Union, and Buffalo will have the next convention.

The Building Trades Council of Indianapolis is to be reorganized. There is a prospect that all building work in that city will be unionized.

The older countries of Europe, notably Germany and Scotland, have met the problem of the unemployed by establishing labor colonies.

It is rumored in New York that the brewery bosses are preparing to make war on their workmen with the purpose of destroying the union.

In 1894 the sum of \$1,500,000 was given by 418 English unions to members sick and disabled by accident. Superannuated members received \$700,000.

The 5-cent cut in the block coal miners' scale in the Brazil (Ind.) district has gone into effect. The miners claim it is impossible to make a living at the reduced rate.

First Regiment Band of Denver gave a concert at Cripple Creek to empty seats. Colorado workmen are boycotting everything that sounds of militarism. The musicians were all union men at that.

Miners compelled to deal in the company store at Powhatan, Va., are charged as follows: Flour, \$8 a barrel; potatoes, \$1.00 a bushel; sugar, 10 cents a pound; salt, meats, 12 1/2 cents a pound.

During 1894 and 1895, when the New York coat tailors were an organized body, workmen received from \$9 to \$15 weekly. A high average for longer hours of labor to-day is \$6 a week, while many workers receive less than \$5.

The Minneapolis stonemasons and quarrymen will assist each other in keeping the price of material and labor at a fair standard for the coming season. The stonemasons will work nine hours per day the coming season, and receive 30 cents per hour.

The Manufacturers' Record notes a revival of new industrial ventures in the South and enumerates for the previous week a long list of such, the aggregate investments amounting to several millions. A significant feature is that New England cotton spinners are investing heavily in new factories in the cotton belt.

The industrial revolution involved in the appearance of American steel in England has created a sensation out of all proportion greater than here, says the National Labor Tribune. How great the sensation is becomes apparent in the reports received from the English iron district. English newspapers see in it the ultimate supremacy of our steel trade the world over.

"The practical results of the free employment office may be summarized and recapitulated briefly. In spite of hindrances incident to the establishment of a new departure the percentage of situations secured is gradually getting higher, and the general efficiency of the office has been in every way advanced," writes W. C. Hall, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of Missouri.

An arbitration agreement has been perfected between the Illinois Fire Proofing Manufacturers and Contractors' Association and the Bricklayers and Stonemasons' Union of Chicago, by which amicable adjustment of all disagreements for the current year is assured. Working rules binding the two organizations were adopted for 1907. The rules embody the eight-hour day and make the minimum rate of wages 50 cents per hour, with time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sunday work, as well as for labor required to be done on public holidays.

Deceptive Appearances.

It was in a down-town store. A pretty miss of 18 or thereabouts was shopping. She wore those large sleeves, a jaunty jacket that no man could describe and one of those bell-shaped skirts which remind old-timers of the days of hoops. After making her purchases she concluded to ascertain her weight and stepped on the scale. The affable clerk made a mental guess at 130 pounds, and so adjusted the weights. No; that was too much. Then he tried 125, but that wouldn't do. Then 100, then 95, 94, 93, 92, 91, 90. "Ah! Just even ninety pounds, miss." With a "Thank you, sir," she tripped away, and as the front door closed after her the clerk heaved a sigh and remarked: "My, but won't some young fellow get badly fooled when he gets her?"—St. Louis Republic.



Aerial Travel.

Prof. S. P. Langley is reported as saying in a recent interview that, having proved both theoretically and practically that machines can be made to travel through the air, if he had the time and money to spend, he believed he could make one "on a scale such as would demonstrate to the world that a large passenger-carrying flying machine can be a commercial as well as a scientific success."

Danger from Wall Paper.

It was formerly supposed that the reason why wall papers containing arsenic were dangerous to health was because arsenic hydrogen was formed through the action of mold upon the paper, and then given off in the air of the room. Recent experiments in Germany, however, seem to show that the danger really arises from particles of dust proceeding from the paper. It is said that at present few wall-papers containing arsenic are manufactured.

Guarding a Coast by Electricity.

A correspondent of Nature suggests that a long coast-line may be rendered safe to ships in foggy weather by means of an electric cable lying ten miles offshore, and parallel with the coast, in about fifty fathoms of water. When ever an iron ship approached within 200 yards of the cable, he says, an electric detector on board the vessel would give the alarm. In support of the suggestion he asserts that messages sent along an electric cable lying on the sea-bottom has been read, with suitable apparatus, on a ship floating above the cable.

More Monsters of Olden Times.

The fossil remains of an apparently new species of the ancient reptile named by geologists the "mosasaur" have just been discovered in the chalk-beds of Northern France. These reptiles, which became extinct ages ago, were of enormous size, some being seventy or more feet in length. They had comparatively slender bodies, like a snake, paddles like a whale, and some of the characteristic features of a lizard. They were especially abundant in America, and their remains have been found in New Jersey and in the States bordering the Gulf of Mexico, as well as west of the Mississippi River.

A Vanished River's Track.

Explorations made last autumn brought to light many interesting facts about what is known to geologists as the "Nipissing-Kattawa River." This is believed to have been the ancient outlet for the Great Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior before their waters began to flow through Lake Erie. The old river bed was traced, in the Canadian province of Ontario, from Lake Nipissing, near the northern part of Georgian Bay, to the valley of the Ottawa River. At one place the site of an ancient cataract was discovered, and reason was found for believing that the size of the vanished river was very similar to that of the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, through which the Great Lakes now have their outlet.

Liquid Crystal.

Among the minor wonders of modern chemical discovery are Doctor Lehman's "liquid crystals." Recently Professor Miers, of the Royal Society, has been experimenting with some of these curious substances, and he finds that when "azoxyphenol" crystals are warmed on a microscopic slide they undergo a sudden transformation from the solid to the liquid condition on reaching a temperature of 134 degrees. Yet, having become liquid, the substance nevertheless retains the form of crystals, and these remarkable crystals possess the property of double refraction. If heated up to 165 degrees, the substance undergoes another change, and loses its double refractivity.

Is It an Ancient Alphabet?

Monsieur Piette has made some remarkable discoveries in a cave at Le Mas-d'Azil, in Southern France, near the Pyrenees. This cave, shaped like a tunnel, was evidently inhabited in very ancient days by the race of people called the "cave-dwellers" who lived in the Neolithic, or Later Stone, age. They left a great number of oblong and flattened pebbles on which they had painted curious figures and devices with peroxide of iron. Some of the pebbles contain only dots, or stripes, which, the discoverer thinks, may have been symbols for numbers. Others bear devices having some resemblance to alphabetic characters.

One pebble has pointed upon it the singular row of figures here represented, and Monsieur Piette does not hesitate to suggest that some of these designs are possibly phonetic symbols, which had a definite meaning to the inhabitants of the cave. A writer in Nature, reviewing Monsieur Piette's "astonishing discoveries," makes an additional suggestion. "Assuming these markings to be syllabic signs," he says, "can it be possible that these pebbles were employed in building up words and sentences, much as children use boxes of letters?"

Mirage in Alaska.

The most wonderful mirages ever beheld by mortal eyes are those that are seen in the twilight winter days in northern Alaska. These remarkably

ghastly pictures of things, both imaginary and real, are mirrored on the surface of the waste plains instead of upon the clouds or in the atmosphere, says a correspondent of the St. Louis Republic. Mimic lakes and water courses fringed with vegetation are to be seen pictured as real as life on the surface of the snow, while grassy mounds, stumps, trees, logs, etc., which have an actual existence some place on the earth's surface, are outlined against mountains of snow in all kinds of fantastic shapes. Some of these objects are distorted and magnified into the shapes of huge, ungainly animals and reptiles of enormous proportions.

The fogs and mists are driven across these waters by the winds, and, as the objects referred to loom up in the flying vapors, they appear like living creatures, and seem to be actually moving rapidly across the plain. At other times they appear high in the air, but this is a characteristic of the northern mirages that are seen near the seashore. When the vapors and mists are driven out to sea the images mirrored in them appear to be lunging through the waters at a terrific rate of speed, dashing the spray high in the air, while huge breakers roll over them and onward toward the mountainous islands beyond, and against which they all appear to be dashing.

Monstrous serpents, apparently several hundred feet long, sometimes with riders on their backs, men on horseback thirty to fifty feet in height, animals and birds of all kinds of horrible shapes and colors, seem to be scurrying past, racing and chasing each other, until they are lost in twilight fogs or dashed to pieces upon the rocky islands mentioned above, and which are twenty miles out at sea.

Laying Down the Law.

"Some years ago," said the Professor, "I bought a tract of land in Southern Missouri. I took the pains to have it investigated in advance and had satisfactory assurance that the low lands were fertile while the hills were full of iron, coal and some minerals even more valuable. I also learned that there were a lot of squatters on the premises, but my own regard for law was so high that I anticipated no trouble in laying them vacate."

"Armed with a deed, and nothing more formidable, I went down to take possession and put things in such shape as to insure a revenue. When I had explained my purpose to two or three of the squatters whom I happened to come upon fishing in one of my streams, they entered no protest, but looked at one another and said I had better see Spud Dearing, as he was the man they had chosen to do the business of the colony. I tried to impress them with the fact that there was really no business to be done. They were trespassers, the property was mine, and they would have to leave. They made no sign as to the merits of the question, but told me to see Spud. 'He warn't no eddicated law'er, but he knowed his business.'"

"'Howdy,' was Spud's salutation when I found him arguing with a mule that wanted to go toward home while Spud wanted to travel a mile out of the way in order to visit a still. 'I hearn you bought this place,' he announced with startling promptness. 'Wems kin in here an' opened up lan' an' raised track and 'rared our families an' 'stablished a buryin' groun' an' made all our 'mangments ter live an' die here. It's too late ter change our plans. But they hain't nuthin' mean 'bout us fellers. I 'tend ter business fur all of 'em an' it won't 'tahn you more'n three minutes. You k'n come in here an' raise crops an' dig in yer mines, but we mus' have th' cabins an' th' little patches we's got an' stay here. Nobody else kin bother you. That's th' law an' th' rest of it is that of you don't agree you'll be planted right here on yer own lan'.'"

The Buffalo Nearly Extirminated.

Gen. A. W. Greeley, of the War Department, in a paper read recently, deplored the wholesale slaughter of the buffaloes which has been going on for 50 years and which has well-nigh exterminated this useful animal. From the lips of an old army officer he ascertained that in the valley of the Arkansas saw in the '40s an enormous herd of buffalo terrifying even to look upon. The old army officer says he crossed at right angles a moving herd which was 75 miles in width and so dense as to render travel dangerous. The general himself saw 50 miles of territory literally covered with bison. In the winter of '75 and '76 he knew of 164,000 buffalo skins being brought into Griffin, Tex.

Value of the Swallow.

The food of the swallow is composed of insects alone, and the number these birds destroy in a single summer is incalculable. They are in summer on the wing for fully sixteen hours during the day, and the greater part of the time making havoc among the millions of insects which infest the air.

Cheap Books in England.

The cheapening of literature in England has resulted in the production of books creditably printed and sold for a penny. Dickens, Scott, Goldsmith, Lytton and other standard authors, bound in stiff covers, are now procurable in this series.

A Mutual Friend.

Bobby—Popper, what is a mutual friend? Mr. Ferry—He is generally one who makes it his business to see that you don't miss hearing the mean things your friends say about you.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Type are slightly less than 1 inch in length.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Secret of the Noted Bostonian's Popularity.

"The secret of the man who is universally interesting is that he is universally interested," says Mr. Howells in his recent delightful reminiscences of Dr. Holmes; and this he declares to have been above all the secret of the charm which the beloved autocrat exercised upon all who came near him. Dr. Holmes himself was joyously and frankly conscious both of his magic and its source. Henry James, father of the present novelist of that name, once said to him:

"Holmes, you are intellectually the most alive man I ever knew."

"I am, I am," cried the Doctor, with vivid satisfaction in the fact, "from the crown of my head to the sole of my foot, I'm alive, I'm alive!"

And alive he remained fully and finely up to the very time of his death, looking outward with keen and friendly eyes upon the great world and its doings; looking inward to note, cheerfully and tranquilly, the progress of time upon himself, and pleasing himself in employing his gifts both as a physician and as a man, to keep his old age green.

A gay and gallant old man, as well as a wise and kindly one, he was, making little of ills and weaknesses, making the most of all things lovely and bright, missing nothing new in science or literature that was worth his attention, and enjoying life to the last. It was not in him to complain, and he shed cheer and happiness about him to the very end.

"The querulous note," says Mr. Howells, "was not in his most cheerful register; he would not dwell upon a specialized grief; though sometimes I have known him touch very lightly and currently upon a slight annoyance, or disrelish for this or that. As he grew older, he must have had, of course, an old man's disposition to speak of his infirmities; but it was fine to see him catch himself up in this when he became conscious of it, and stop short with an abrupt turn to something else."

At 60, Dr. Holmes had doubted if it were wise for him to write "The Poet at the Breakfast-Table," fearing lest he were too old for such a task. But, says Mr. Howells:

"He lived twenty-five years after that self-question at 60, and after 80 he continued to prove that threescore was not the limit of a man's intellectual activity or literary charm. During all that time the work he did in mere quantity was the work that a man in the prime of life might well have been vain of doing, and it was of a quality not less surprising."

What a brave and busy and beneficent old age! What a happy one! Youth in the very flush of its careless vigor and gayety can look on such an age as that, and feel there need be nothing terrible or gloomy in growing old. With an alert mind and an ever-ripening soul it is possible to enjoy and to confer the best of this world's happiness, up to the very threshold of the next.—Youth's Companion.

Died with His Boots On.

A dispatch from Chattanooga, Tenn., says: "With the killing in this city of 'Billy' Carter, commonly spoken of in derision as the man of the 'long and flowing mustache,' one of the law's most dreaded foes, bit the dust. Carter was a common Georgia 'cracker,' illiterate, and until recent years a day laborer, belonging to the class known as poor whites. One night last fall, for reasons unknown, he shot Police Captain Thomas Russell in the arm. All search for him was unavailing, but he has led a charmed life since, and became a terror to officers of the law and peaceable citizens alike. He had no confederates, but as a lone highwayman plundered the country at will, and on several occasions held at bay officers who were searching for him. He not infrequently entered the city, and was seen at entertainments in the outskirts."

"A few days since Carter's wife rented a cottage in the city on a back street, and Friday the police authorities were notified of Carter's presence there. A posse of seven officers, under Sergt. Haskins, surrounded the house. The outlaw defied arrest, and walked into their midst with two big Colt's revolvers, which he discharged right and left, his first shot breaking the arm of Detective Charles Brock, but Carter's body was filled with lead in a trice. The only words he spoke before he died were: "Send my pistols and my body back to Georgia."

Indian Gamblers.

Le Page du Pratz tells of a class of obstinate Indian gamblers of the early colonial days of Louisiana, who were so infatuated with a gambling game of their own invention, which Du Pratz calls the game of "La Perche," that the player who may have lost all his personal belongings would go secretly and purloin the belongings of his wife and play them away also. Very often, when they had staked their bed clothing, and lost even that, the hard-headed gamblers of this description would go to the French planters and bargain for new bed covering, much to the dislike of the planters, who rarely received and pay for the articles.

Crushed Him.

"Your money or your life," he hissed. "The girl who was taking advantage of the gloaming to mount her bicycle frowned."

"Sir," she answered, with a trace of irritation in her manner, "if I felt that it would be necessary for me to be held up I should employ a regular instructor. Good evening."—Detroit Tribune.

When a member of a literary society writes an essay out of the cyclopaedia, she simply puts the essay back into bed English.

URUGUAY'S NAVY.

How President Borda's Zeal Got Him Into Trouble.

The republic of Uruguay has a navy composed of three antiquated wooden gunboats, about as large as an ordinary New York tugboat. On Dec. 8 last a revolution against the Borda government was in progress, and information had been received that one of the leaders of the movement was on route from Buenos Ayres on the river steamer San Martin, flying the Argentine flag. President Borda had none of his gunboats ready for action, and so a fast tugboat, the Enriqueta, owned by an English firm, was seized by the chief of the Uruguayan navy, Colonel Bailey. A Gatling gun was placed on her bow and a detachment of infantry was shipped, and she was then all ready to capture the conspirator.

Early in the morning President Borda took up a post of observation upon the roof of the custom house at Montevideo, and at break of day the San Martin was sighted in the offing. He immediately gave orders that the Enriqueta should steam to meet her, and capture the dreaded conspirator.

The San Martin, however, did not pursue her course to the regular anchorage, but hauled close to the Italian war ship Piemonte and lowered a boat, into which two sailors and a petty officer of the Italian war ship descended and pulled off to their vessel. They had remained behind in Buenos Ayres when the Piemonte left that port.

Then the infantry and Gatling gun on the Enriqueta opened fire upon the San Martin. Several bullets struck her upper works, while others found a mark in the smoke-stack of the Piemonte, and glancing off, passed across her deck, entering the stern cabin of the British war ship Barracouta. The Italian and British commanders soon had their crews to quarters, and vigorously informed the temporary Uruguayan gunboat that unless firing was stopped she would be sent to the bottom. Firing was stopped at once, and President Borda found himself in a very peculiar situation.

He had to tender an apology to the Argentine, Italian and British representatives, and a bill of expenses for damages will have to be met by his government owing to this affair. There was no revolutionary leader on board of the San Martin except in the imagination of the ruling powers.

The latest mail advices from Montevideo say that Borda's overthrow will soon occur and that it is proposed to have a triumvirate rule the republic until political matters can be adjusted.

Planted in Its Old Age.

Capt. Blake, the man who commands the steamboat that runs daily from Washington to Mount Vernon, and who was an old '39er, seeking a fortune after the California fashion, is a good deal of a wag. Hearing told the other day the story about the tree in the White House grounds that was said to have been planted by Adams, he recalled an incident occurring in the neighborhood of what was soon to be Idaho City that seemed to be pertinent to the suggestion that a tree blown down in the White House grounds had been planted by Adams. The story is repeated by the correspondent of the New York Times. "We have some old trees," said the captain, "at Mount Vernon, and I was guilty one day of diverting a lady visitor to Washington's tomb with a 'whooper' to keep up the tradition. On the way up the hill from the landing I pointed out an oak tree said to have been planted by Washington. I told the lady so, and asserted that Washington was accustomed to come out and sit under its shade to get a view of the Potomac as it swept along. I also added that his favorite tree was about 500 years old. The lady did not understand this, particularly as it was not supported by evidence." Capt. Blake explained that, although Washington planted the tree and lived to sit under its shadow, the story was true. "The fact is, madam," he said, "that the tree was about 400 years old when it was planted." The lady did not ask the captain another question during her visit.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Drinking Contests.

Certain keepers of Parisian drinking shops hit upon the ingenious scheme of "premiating" every customer who drank a certain amount of wine and spirits. For each petit verre which a consumer gulped down he was presented with a coupon, and the consumer who could first exhibit the stately number of 2,500 coupons received a prize, which in most cases was a bicycle! This novel competition crowded the drinking shops, and the contest for coupons developed into the most hideous drunken orgies. The Prefect of Police ordered a raid to be made upon the houses where these drinking matches were going on; and the landlords have been prosecuted, not for the encouragement of drunkenness, but for a violation of the law on lotteries of the year 1836. The offenders are condemned to imprisonment, and the payment of fines ranging from 10 to 2,000 francs.

Effective.

Maud—What do you do when a man persists in asking for a dance and you don't care to dance with him?

Marie—Tell him my card is full.

Maud—But supposing it isn't and he still persists?

Marie—Then I insist that it is and let him see that it isn't.—Pearson's Weekly.

Why He Was Indignant.

"Is it true that Goldy's son eloped with the old gentleman's typewriter?"

"Yes; they skipped out two weeks ago."

"I presume Goldy is just pawing the air."

"Naturally. He was engaged to the girl himself."—Detroit Free Press.