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James L. Hill, president of the Great Northern and other railroads, is authority for the assertion that a train gang on his American railroads handle more than seven times as many tons of freight per mile as do the train gangs of English, French or German railroads. For this seven times as much result American trainmen receive less than twice as much wages.

Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture, in an address the other day, said that one American farm hand produces more rice than 400 Chinamen. Chinese wages are only 10 to 12 cents a day; but if the rice workers of this country got the same rate for results produced, their pay would be \$44 to \$48 a day, instead of \$1.50.

"Cheap labor" never could produce the marvelous crops and manufacturers of this country. Yet, measured by what it does, it is the cheapest labor on the surface of the earth.

And it is utterly false that prices are higher because wages are high.

Compared with the price the consumer pays, wages are lower than in Europe or China.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

THE MACHINISTS.

A Few Notes That Will Interest Members of the Craft.

A dispatch from Marshalltown, Ia., says that the Iowa Central employees have won their battle for the standard wage scale and all danger of another strike is over. It is understood that the men won practically every contention.

The Grand Trunk railroad seems to be having considerable trouble with the men taken to Battle Creek from Port Huron two months ago. Almost every day one or more of the men return here, saying that they have been put on piecework since the shops were removed, and that they cannot make their expenses under the new schedule. Robert Hammond, in the employ of the company for the past eight years as foreman, is the latest. He says he has returned to Port Huron for permanent residence.—Union Advocate.

The big Pennsylvania shops at Port Wayne, Ind., began to work 75 hours a week to get ready for the rush of traffic that is expected to make a car shortage before another month. In addition, over 100 men were added to the pay-roll. The force had been working only 55 hours a week. Orders were also issued increasing the hours in the Wabash shops to 65 a week.

HONOR FOR "SADIE."

It is rumored hereabouts that Frank A. Kennedy, editor of the Western

Laborer, and known as "Sadie Maguire," is to be made a colonel and attached to the staff of Governor Sheldon of Nebraska. It would be a splendid appointment, because of Kennedy's experience—in St. Patrick's Day parades in the good old town of Burlington, Iowa.—Washington Trades Unionist.

THE WOMAN WORKER.

How She Depresses the Labor Market When She Enters It.

"Women," said a big trade union official last year, "is the white Chinaman of the industrial world. She wears a coiled up que, and wherever she goes she cheapens the worth of human labor."

An illustration follows:

Miss Mary McDowell, of the University of Chicago Settlement, was observing a girl who was operating an unusually heavy and intricate machine in a large hardware factory in an Ohio city.

"Strong, clever girl," remarked Miss McDowell or words to that effect.

"She's doubled the output of that machine," said the superintendent.

"How did she get such a good job?" asked Miss McDowell.

"Her father," said the superintendent, "had the machine before she got it. We just thought we'd try her."

"How much," said Miss McDowell, being Scotch and suspicious and not completely satisfied with this proof of the advance of woman, "how much do you pay her compared with that you paid her father?"

"Half," said the superintendent.

This girl, therefore, since she was producing twice as much and earning half as much, as her father had produced and earned, was selling her labor at one-quarter of the masculine market price. It doesn't seem exactly fair, from the standpoint of society.

It doesn't seem exactly self-respecting, from the standpoint of the girl.—"The Woman's Invasion," by William Hard, in the December Everybody's.

A PLUMBER WINS OUT.

According to the Kansas City Labor Herald, William F. Coakley, secretary of the plumbers' local there, has been elected to the legislature, despite the most bitter antagonism from the Employers' Association and they went to extreme measures to encompass his defeat, sending circulars to their members and friends which were devoid of a signature calling upon them to vote against him, but as results proved, without avail.

TALK AFFILIATION.

Affiliation of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen with the British Associated Society of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, or steps leading to that end, is being discussed by the bodies concerned.

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