VISION OF THE DARK DAYS OF 1893—1896

Extracts from The Omaha Bee Recalling that Period of Business Stagnation, Industrial Paralysis and Financial Distress,

DO YOU WANT TO BRING BACK THOSE CONDITIONS?

Facts Presented Relate Largely to the Gloom which Pervaded this Section. To Cover a Wider Scope would Require Volumes .- Genuine Calamity.

files of any newspaper for the years last Tuesday to gather coal and wood in baskets. Descrying workingmen who had atways provided for their families in forcled, day by day, the innerior the hard suffering humanity during the hard freezing.

Mr. Edward Resewater followed with a Mr. Edward Resewater followed with a less cled, day by day, the indelible record of mer years were out of employment and their of the United States are enjoying unprecedented prosperity, and when they are called upon to express at the polls their satisfaction or dissatisfaction be taken care of at once. A condition and with present conditions, it may be well not a theory confronted the people of to give publicity again to the news of 1893-6. On this page is reproduced news matter from the columns of the Omaha Bee for the months of Decem-He furthermore believed that the city com-log 1803 and January 1894. It suf-cil should follow suit. The greatest law ber, 1893, and January, 1894. It suffices to recall to mind the general business depression of the four years immediately preceding the inauguration Hundreds of Homeless and Hungry Men, of President McKinley, and it is unnecessary to reprint items from the files of subsequent months. The news of the winter of 1893-4, as reproduced here, brings before the people a clear vision of the soup house and the destitute home of the workingman at that time. tutions, public officials and labor or- granted and the men seemed to feel grateafford relief to the hungry and home- stoves. less, with weak women and little children on the verge of starvation and which affords these starving, sleepless unfreezing, with able-bodied men appeal- employed their only resting place. Unless fred to charity and begging piteously of these men will be cries for bread, and for work and with idle factories and workshops throughout the land, the picture is not a pleasing one to look the picture is not a pleasing one to look. The cue half, it was a pitiable picture of possible to the picture of upon. But the veil is drawn for a mo-of Rev. A. W. Clark had lifted 200 penniless ment-"lest we forget."

Citizens Meeting to Provide Relief for Thousands of Unemployed and Destitute In Omaha.

put it so strongly. I was out in the storm | This was only one of the many living plo yesterday and saw the peril with my own tures of despair that greeted the visitors, eyes. You may save lives now in danger while this cold lasts. There is no time for Blankets and bedding were an unknown debate for the matter. It is the moment quantity. Newspapers spread upon the flow

Mayor Bemis and Dr. Duryea vesterday

All the visitors in the homes of unemployed men and women report that a large number of persons are destitute of the necessaries of life and that during the next of privation and suffering. Had it not been past two days there would have been exposure of death from hunger and cold. There is immediate and imperative neces sity that all of our citizens who are able devising and conducting measures which shall commend themselves to the common judgment as systematical, economical and and the community as a whole. Every citizen who has due regard for the honor of city, a heart of compassion for the day. Soup and bread are given to all twice multitude of men, women and children who a day, but this is barely sufficient to stay are keenly suffering, and a disposition to do the pangs of hunger. his equitable part as a member of society, ing in the city council chamber this evening at 8 o'clock. Yours respectfully, George P. Bemis, J. D. Duryea.

In response to these appeals a large numchamber last evening. Mayor Bemis called one for action and not for idle words. The object of the meeting, he said, was to provide for the poor people of Omaha, many of unemployed come mostly from Cihcago and whom were without food and fuel-a condition of bitter poverty which confronted every metropolitan center of the United States. Omaha was better off than most cities, but nevertheless there was a vast amount of destitution in the community which needed prompt relief. He advocated prompt charity, followed by the adoption of some plan for the relief of the unem ployed during the winter months to keep the wolves of famine from the doors of the deserving poor. If the people did not come to the rescue when the lives of impover ished citizens were imperiled he was willing to place his autograph on any city council measure passed for relief, even if it was necessary to strain a point or two. He hoped, however, that the people of Omaha who were blessed with homes and mean would come to the front and adopt a sys tematic plan to sustain the destitute during the winter months. If necessary he would favor throwing open the churches, city had and county building for the shelterless a

Dr. Duryea then recited experiences en cases of poverty which exist in this city. He drew several pathetic pictures from life little children shivering, without food or ments for relief the superintendent fuel, with the thermometer 21 degrees bemany theoretical philanthropists in Omahe shivering children left their hovels of pov-

talk. He said an emergency confronted the people and there was no time for red tape or frivolous formality of any kind. Some people were without fuel and they should Omalia, and in view of the crisis he be-lieved that the county commissioners should order 1,000 tons of coal at once and have It distributed among poor people who were freezing and needed immediate assistance.

HARD BEDS FOR UNEMPLOYED.

was the law of self-preservation.

Unable to Find Work, Seek Shelter and Food.

(Omaha Bee, Dec. 19, 1893.) Stretched without bedding on the battlefields of life, seeking to benumb the miseries ldie men passed last night at Rescue hall in this city.

Hungry, homeless, without work, money With thousands of willing men out of cept appetites, these unfortunates appealed or friends, in fact without anything exemployment, with the charitable insti- for shelter in the hall. The request was His gray halve rested on a pillow for the ganizations straining every nerve to good or in chairs in proximity to two large

The wolf of poverty with a double row of employed their only resting place. Unless

In the rear of the hall, behind a thin partion, 128 men were reclining on the floor cramped posicions in chairs. All were endeavoring to sleep, regardless of personal discomfort. One young man stretched upor plain pine table without bedding was suf-(Omaha Bee, Jan. 25, 1894.)
Omaha, Jan. 24.—To the Editor of the fortunate lay on the floor near the stove, Bee: Please do all in your power to let cit- groaning with an attack of la grippe. An izeas know that there is an immediate and old, white-haired man occupied a chair and Imperative duty before them to save some vainly wood the god of sleep. His chin from perishing. I know what I say when I sank on his breast. Tears were in his eyes. Not a pillow was visible in the room

for action and nothing else. Joseph T. Dur- were substitutes for mattresses. All nativ including an Afro-American, were Issued the following call for a mass meeting at the council chamber last night:

few of the men enjoyed the luxury of an overcoat. They possibly had pawned them for bread. Those who were left with over coats utilized them for pillows, while others rested their bones upon these improvised "springs." The windows in the room were thirty days the number will steadily in all tightly closed in order to keep out the crease, and with it the amount and degree spray of the cold wave. This gave the disagreeable odor full possession and the aroma was burdened with "steerage frawhen the men discharged their boots for the evening. Many were sockless In the main portion of the hall, around other stove, another large bunch of to aid in providing temporary relief unite in sleepers reclined in various positions on the stage a number of bunks had been fixed up. They were double-decked cots with scanty beneficial alike to the persons to be relieved bedding. These beds are sold for 12 cents per night to men who are fortunate enough to earn a pittance at odd jobs during the

A register is kept at Rescue hall and it should respond to the call for a public meet-ing in the city council chamber this evening address and religion of all applicants for relief. A perusal of this record disclor the fact that 438 men had applied for food and shelter within the past few weeks. The ber of citizens assembled in the city council bulk of the applicants are deserving men who are out of employment. It includes the meeting to order and stated that it was machinists, railroad men, carpenters, laborers, cooks, clerks, and in fact all branches of mechanic life. Tramps are scarce. The

> laborers from the west. Colorado miners and wage earners are largely represented. Among the penniless men bowed with old age whose names join the record of hardship is William Stout of Topeka, Kan., age 60 years; Patrick Flaherty of Omaha, who has seen 65 ... inters, and a hard one this year, is on the list. H. E. Wilke of Des Moines, Ia., a painter by trade, has passed his 61st birthday. The youngest on the list is W. K. Fellows of Clinton, Ia., who gives his age as 17 years. One of the sad-dest cases was that of John Moore of Wilsonville, Neb.; he is a deaf mute. Some of the stories of suffering and want told by the men are piteo.s. They would fill a book.

PITEOUS PLEAS FOR WORK.

Hungry Men at Rescue Hall Go on Thei Knees to Plead for Beggarly Job. (Omafia Bee, Dec. 20, 1893.)

Idle men continue to appeal for shelter at Rescue hall every night. Yesterday the coal countered in a personal investigation of and had it not been for the rustling abilities of Superintendent Clark his pauper guests would have shivered with cold on a hard floor last night. Pending definite arrangerented the hall on his own responsibility for low zero. He said that there were too fifteen days. He has held a conference with the city and county officials, but finds that who were ever eager to sit upon a beach no funds are available for the consumma-of judgment during this freezing weather tion of his plan to erect temporary sheds no funds are available for the consummaand challenge the worthiness of nufortu-nate wage earners who were out of work. test would soon demonstrate that the men Women overcome with the cries of their who are now on the verge of starvation,

"Lest we forget." Turn back to the erty and breasted the blasts of the storm | for weeks, are willing to work at anything | them, and they are without work and with

The appeals for shelter are not confined to the miscultine gender. Women in rags, with little children crying pitcously for food, often ask for a lowi of sonp and a bed. In most cases they are deserving cases of destitute widows and deserted wives, who sell the scanty furniture of their hovels, piece by piece, to buy bread, until the last chair or bed is parted with, and the unfortunate woman is thrust into the street to battle with the cold world. If definite arrangements for relief are perfected cots for homeless women and children will be erected at the hall.

An illustration of the willingness of the en to work was demonstrated yesterday. Mr. Clark announced in the presence of the men at the hall that he had a job for some one to shovel coal. It meant 75 cents to the one who secured it. No sooner had the words left his lips ere he was surrounded by 50 or 60 impoverished men with outstretched hands. They pitcously pleaded for the work. One old man was knocked down in the vilid scramble for employment. Another got in his knees and grasped Mr. Clark frantically around the legs. He shouted in despair for the job. It meant enough money for a bed and a meal of sufficlent magnitude to smooth the wrinkles of honger on his stomach. "For God's sake give it to me, sir," feebly gasped the old man from Sloux City, who had struggled to his feet and held his pinched hands high In the air with an imploring clutch. He got the job and slept that night on a mattress, first time in 15 nights.

Most of the men walked the entire dis-tance to Cut Off lake yesterday in hopes of getting work on the ice, but returned in despair. With weary feet they scrambled into the hall and received their second daily installment of soup, with an unexpected surprise party for their stomachs in the shape of hotel scraps.

DRAWS PICTURE OF DESPAIR.

Deplorable Condition of the Unemployed Workingmen the Subject of an Eloquent Sermon.

(Omaha Bee, Dec. 10, 1893.) Rector Mackay of All Saints' church

The daily papers on Thanksgiving day

which described the general festival, als contained in obscure corners of inside page dispatches telling of the further cessation of industries in different parts of the coun try. Three small paragraphs told us that 4,000 more workingmen are to be added to the ranks of the unemployed and will have to face a struggle for existence this winte that will be almost beyond human endur for the bounty you have enjoyed, did yo stop to think, that is, to deliberately con sider, what this day of Thanksgiving ha been to the millions of workingmen in this · · · Leave your own personality behind and imagine yourself in the position that the workingman in yonder cottage In. See him sitting in his scantily furnished home, his head buried in his hands, the very picture of abject despair! His little children, their faces pluched with cold and scanty fare, lie huddled at his feet, their misery intensified by recollections of the the brave, patient wife and mother stands silently by, almost heartbroken. His ardent search for work in this broad city from dawn to dusk for three long, wenry months has brought no success with it, and there he sits, utterly crushed with the thought that through no fault of his own he is de prived not only of the means to provide the ittle extra comforts that would make his little family joyous in their praises to God on this bright Thanksgiving morning, but even of the power to supply his dear ones with the smallest necessaries of existence We pride ourselves on our progressive city of Omaha, and yet this city has no work for that unfortunate man, notwithstanding the fact that he is a sober, respectable and diligent citzen, beseeching for the opports nity of earning his living by the sweat of his brow. My friends, there are thousands of men in his position today. Think of it! Nineteen centuries of Christianity, and yet millions of men in this country have nothing more to be thankful for than the bare fact that they are alive. Our Almighty Father has blessed this nation with bount ful crops far beyond the needs of the popul lation it contains, with entire immunity from plague and warfare, and with a wealth of natural resources inexhaustible, the development of which increase each year, and yet one-half of us are denied the right to the necessities of existence. I tell you, my friends, the present aspect of the business affairs of this coutary is a most distressing

DEPICT DIRE DEPRESSION. Congress Being Flooded by Petitions from Workingmen Against Passage of

Wilson Bill. (Washington Correspondence in Omaha Bea

There is no doubt that a most profound impression is being made upon even the rabid free trade Democrats in congress by the flood of petitions coming in from the farmers and wage earners in the country against the passage of the Wilson tariff bill. It is true that a man in congress has immense reverence for the politician, the merchant or banker or other person with capital and labor at command, but when it come right down to the fine point of influence there is no person in this wide world who can in an humble way wield as much influ

ence as the farmer or the laboring man Some of the petitions which are arriving in simplicity of statement and sentiment. They are written in the most simple ian guage, by kands unfamiliar with the perupon postal card or little slips of paper from the flyleaves of books. tell of how the writers supported the Democratic ticket last year under the impres sion that better times would come, and how, instead, their employment has left

gress to hasten action, if action is to be against it on its final passage and to save the industries of the country. Other protests against the Wilson bill come in the form of long petitions, signed in the plain handwriting of the hard working Many of the signatures have been attested by the cross which signifies that the man bearing the name, although unable to write, is intelligent enough to know why he is out of employment, why his family is suffering for bread, and that he desires the defeat of a bill which proposes to transfer his employment to British hands.

Some of the introductory remarks upon petitions are enough to melt the heart of patriotism about him. They depict the de-plorable commercial conditions, tell of the at the door of the policy which has been adopted by the party in power.

WORKINGMEN IN DISTRESS.

Speakers Think the Emergency Justifies Course of Action Out of the I sual Order.

(Canaha Bee, Jan. 8, 1894.)

Half a hundred workingmen, or those who would be workingmen if they had the opportunity, met at Knights of Labor hall yesterday afternoon to hear the problem of providing labor for the unemployed dis-cussed. Mr. B. Cohen called the meeting to order and Introduced Rev. John Will lams, who spoke briefly. He referred to the iction of the county commissioners in refusing to expend the \$150,000 road fund this winter on the ground that the work could be done only by contract, and expressed the opinion that if ever there was an emergency that just hed a course of action that was out of the usual order it existed at

Mayor Bemis said that he was ready to assist in any feasible plan that could be devised to provide work for those who were in need of it. ... mentioned the fact that In Cincinnati \$30,000 had been appropriated to beautify the parks and thus furnish work for a large number of the unemployed. spoke yesterday for the workingmen in re-ply to: "What have you to be thankful where the loard of park commissioners had a considerable amount of money on hand. He also endorsed the opinion of the previous speaker that the present emergency was enough to justify the county commilaw far enough to begin the work on th county roads at once, if it could possibly be

The speaker also took occasion to call at tention to the indifference which many peo ple were displaying in this time of wide sprend distress. Such a meeting as the one in progress should have been held in the and city and county officials, as well as the nillionaires who met la secret conclave at the Paxton hotel to devise means to sto Improvements, should all have been rep sented. A church composed of wealthy members should be able to assist to a large were not willing to give anything, mig" raise a few thousand dollars and loan it out to deserving people, to be repaid when better times come

Famine, Plain and Simple. (Omnha Bee, Jan. 28, 1894.) It is evident from the results of investi gations that the prime cause of many cases of destitution in this city is the same that has afflicted every metropolitan center of the United States, namely, the aftermath of the timesty of capital caused by the na tional depression last summer. The hard lar as "financial depression. prostration" and "monetary decrepitude, but the poor of Omaha this winter are ab breviating it and calling it "famine," plain and simple, without any embellishment. Three-fourths of the present destitute were found to be men whose names have adorned the payrolls of honest labor. The size of their families, with a dash of sickness in many instances, precluded many of them saving money for the emergency which now stares them in the face. Some however, managed to put aside a few do lars, but continued idleness and drain for rent, coal and bread soon absorbed the surplus. And next was a struggle between pri vation and pride. In many cases the latter conquered and their condition was discovered by a house to house canvass. An in vestigation disclosed the fact that the suf fering was not confined to hovels. There are many poor women crying with poverty behind lace curtains and actually stinting themselves in food in order to meet their rent. It was found that notwithstanding the fact that wages had been reduced in many industrial plants, the price of fuel and commodities, except flour, has not decreased to meet the cut. The cost of living is prac-tically the same as usual for a wage earner on a retreached lucome

Bricklayers and Masons Feel Depression. (Omaha Bee, Jan. 7, 1894.)

John Heartz of Denver, president of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International union, who was in the city to attend the annual convention of that organization, said yesterday:

"The building trades in Denver are in prety bad condition, owing to the depressed ondition of all business, but they are hold ing their unions together all right and wait ing patiently for the coming of better times. when, no doubt, they will be in as good condition as beretofore, and retain for Den ver the name of being one of the best or ganized cities in the country.

'As to the Bricklayers' and Masons' In ternational union I may say that the depression has been felt to a great extent, still very few of our subordinate unions have had to succumb, and I may say that we have lost less unions by abandonment than we auticipated from the trade depression through ut the country. Usually we have from 150 to 200 delegates in the con-

peal a great many of the laws that have long as they continue to allow tealously of their ballots to favor of their own class of people in long must they remain op-

Seven Thousand People Destitute. Omnular Rec. Jan. 27, 1894.)

When Dr. Duryea, after a personal toyes tigation of many cases recently, bound an appeal to the citizens of thunlar to rescue men, women and children who were willout food and feel and in danger of starvation and freezing, his utterances were somewhat In the nature of a surprise and were re-garded by many with a cycleal smile. In order to set all doubt at root, a Her resorter has been making a house of house canvass, accompanied by lev. C. W. Savidge, Rev. A. J. Tur. kle and Alfred Trenerry of the Associated upon empty coal scuttles and pointing his bony index finger at crumbless cupboards in many cheerless cottages. An investigation proved that out of a population of 150,000 people fully 7,000 were in actual want, according to statistics obtained at the va rions charitable institutions and the county

(Pollowing this introduction is a two column story describing the poverty-stricken condition of a number of working men's homes visited by the reporter. As the story related the names of the unfortunate sufferers it is not deemed proper to reproduce it at this time.)

County Aid to Idle Men. (Omaha Bee, Jan. 19, 1891.)

After revolving the matter in their minds about concluded to make a new departur and furnish employment to some of th needy men who have been drawing supplies from the county warehouse. A canyass of the situation has been made by the me bers of the committee on charity, and tho present time there are 100 able-bodied mer who are being assisted to fuel and food by the county. In talking with these men the members of the county committee are of the opinion that they would rather earn their living than o be objects of charity. large army out of employment and of the In view of this fact the complexioners have suffering which abounds. All of this is taid about concluded to set aside a sum of money from the county road and bridge fund and expend it in paying wages to the men who are willing to work. The idea is to go outside of the city limits and put force of men at work grading roads at entting down endandments along the pu He highways, paying the men by the hou and at the rate of a cents per hour for the time they are actually employed.

For Relief of Homeless and Hungry.

A Omalia Ree, Dec. 20, 1893.) less men at Resene hall and the thiratened abandonnest of that institution on account of limited funds, as published in the Bee yesterday, aroused public sympathy It is probable that prompt action for the relief of the homeless and hungry will now he taken. At a meeting of the executive terday the subject as published in the Bewas thoroughty discussed. The club is not a charitable organization, but from a bust ness standpoint concluded not to let lift workingmen starve to death in a city of the lesple addressed the meeting in behalf of relief for the distressed, as a safeguard against an increase in crime—as the des-peration of langer might drive the memployed to commit unlawful acts. Investigation proved that most of the applicants for ers out of employment. After discussion was decided to call a citizens' meeting the club rooms this evening at 8 o'clock to the purpose of considering plans for relief

(Omaha Bee, Dec. 22, 1893.)

Knights of Labor assembly No. 374, com-posed of upholsterers and mattress makers veloped at the meeting that about one half anything to do and unable to find work in their line in Omn a. One of the members in speaking of the situation, said that their employers would only be to glad to give them work if they could get orders to fill but on account of being unable to make number of employes. It had been the practice of tradesmen in this line of work to go to Chicago when work was slack in Omaha, but their fellow workers in Chicago Inform nothing for them to do but do the best they

Labor Men Talk About Charity. (Omaha Rec. Dec. 9, 1892)

At the meeting of the Knights of Labo last night the unemployed were talked of more than anything else. One of the men asked to appropriate a few thousand do lars to provide work for the unemployed but said he could not suggest what kind of work could be done. Mr. A. A. Perry, the past master workman, advocated the idea of trying to attract the attention of th public more generally to charitable organi zations and opined that the charity organ izations were not being supported year like they had been in the past. One of the reasons, he thought, was the inability of the former generous givers to give at this

To Aid Suffering Poor.

(Omaha Bee, Dec. 19, 1833.) Mayor Lawrence of Council Bluffs has Issued the following call: "Upon the request of the worthy pastors of our churches and many of our prominent citizens I would earnestly recommend that our people should assemble in mass convention at Doheny' Opera house, Thursday evening, the 21st inst., at 7:30 p. m., for the purpose of per-fecting an organization and to devise ways and means to sid the suffering poor of our community. Winter approaches with un-usual vigor, business is dull and labor is obtained with difficulty. Organized, united and vigorous effort is required to avert o even targely alleviate the suffering of the poor in our midst.

Forty-five State Banks Suspended. (Lincoln Correspondence in Omaha Bee

Jan. 17, 1894.) The past year has been a particularly try ing one upon the state and private banks of Nebraska. The causes which affected so many of them were not, however, local. The same causes operated in every state in the Union, and Nebraska was no worse off and perhaps a great deal better, than many of her sister states. During the year the bank suspensions numbered 45. number but 15 were placed in the hands of receivers, the rest either being sold or con solidated with other banks or they went into voluntary liquidation.

Eight to Twelve Dollars a Month.

(Omaha Bee, Dec. 22, 1893.) One of the conductors of the Omahi Street Railway company said today employes of our company have to contend with. There are enough extra men on the ilst to man the entire running force, and the hardship: these extra men have are mough to drive a man crazy. I know of several of the extra men who hang around bridge every morning to read the arst edi-

out, to catch a run whomever they can. They will average from about \$5 to \$12 per mouth on the evera list "

Relief Forces Inadequate,

(Omaha free, Inc. 22, 1881)

Just now some of the best people of
Omaha, as well as our public officials, are
puzzling their brahas as to how the 2,000 tille and destitute people in our milest can be taken care of during the next three months. Private charity and the various charitable societies will do a great deal toward meeting the immediate wants of a large number of descrying poor. But this source of relief is entirely implequate when we come to provide food and raiment during a long and severe winter for several

Apply to County for Aid.

Chamber Bers, Jan. 25, 1891) The server weather of the past few days has delice and number of new applicants to the country and for clother and provisions, and so fat all of those who could pass the application have been assisted. Tuesday 33. new names were added to the rolls. All of Charities. The result disclosed a pitiful the new parties who applied Tuesday were condition of affairs. Disease had in some men who were residents of the city, heads condition of affairs. Disease had in some instances three arms with destitution, and the hideous skeletan of Despair was perched then for work on the roads continue to be filed with the county agent and at this date there are 100 men who have signed to go out and labor.

Thousands of Idle Workmen.

(Cumba Bee, Jan. 27, 1894.) Henry Cohen of the Kulghts of Labor Ia chairman of a committee which has completed a canvass of the unemployed workmen of the city. He reports 3,800 unemplayed wage carners at Omaha at present, representing all trades. Many of them are married men and the saloen element is a searcity among them. Of this number Mr. Cohen reports the following in need of immediate relief. (Then follow the names and addresses of several bundred workingmen, many of whom are today among the best ellizers of Omaha.)

Would Even Pound Rock. (Omaha Bee, Dec. 26, 1821.)

A young nan who has been keeping a set of books for the past two years, but was let out in October, said. I have tried to get work of any kind, but have not carned over \$5 since the middle of October. I had about \$50 saved up when I lost my position, but it is now nearly all gone, and my board to only paid up to January. Just let them offer me a lot at pounding rock or anything else and see how quick I will take it. I have got to live someway and I won't beg

(Comba Bee, Dec. 15, 1803.)

A movement is an fast to organize an assecletten of charitable people of Council Binds for the purpose of supplying the worth poor of the city with such help as they may need. There are scores of familles in the city that are in need of the

HARD ON THE LABOR UNIONS.

A Few Items From the Bee Files for December, 1893, and January, 1894.

The Omaha Central Labor union held a meeting last night. • • • One of the South Omnha delegates anounced that men In that town who had beretofore been recelving \$1.75 a day were now only receiving \$1,35 per day. He also reported that a large number of persons who had come to South Cunaha expecting to get work were bile, and many of them without money or credit. At a meeting Monday night of the Bricklayers' and Plasterers' Tenders it was found that a large proportion of their membership is at present idle, with very poor prospects

Members of the Tin Sheet Iron and Cornice Workers complain that there is very

little work going on in their trade.

Work at the building trades in Omaha is Indeed very scarce considering the num of men looking for work. A member of the Building Trades' council sized up the situation thus. Little or no new work is being done and all we can get to do is repair work, and the scarcity of money prevents many from making repairs that need to be easily find something to do in our line, but now it seems that nothing of importance will be commenced this winter. I do no know what many of us will do until

spring." Carpenters' union No. 685 meets tonight In Wolf's ball, corner of Twenty-second and Cuming streets. Many of the members of this union are unable to find employment and the principal business of the meeting tonight will be the discussion of methods to provide work of some kind to enable the members to keep from asking charity.

will hold a regular meeting tonight in Arlington hall, 1511 Dodge street. One of the members said today that unless something happened to put new life into business he did not know what some of their members would do to get through the winter, as so many of them are now idle. Heretofore when work in their trade was dull in Omaha those without work could always go to other cities and secure employment, but this winter the unions in other cities report work fully as dull as in Omaha

The members of the Carriage and Wagon Workers' union complain that work is getting very scarce in their trade. One of the members said today that after the first of January he thought several more would be let out of work, as the principal orders for new work would all be completed by that

ployed today at Knights of Labor hall. The object of the meeting is to try to arrange some method whereby worthy persons can be given employment and not be forced to beg, steal or starve.

STAGNATION OF INDUSTRIES.

Items From Omaha Bee Files for Winter of 1893-4 Show Thousands Out of Work.

There are 3,000 idle workingmen in Ak The poor of Cleveland, O., are being fed on beans and bean soup.

The weavers at Lawrence, Mass., bave ac-

cepted a cut in wages.

A large knitting mill at Troy, N. Y., closed down indefinitely last week. The unemployed at Minneapolis are being fed soup at the police station. The boys working in the Homestead Glass

Works struck before they would accept 43 The woolen workers at North Oxford, Mass., have accepted a temporary cut of 10

Positions that formerly paid \$16 per week in the Pittsburg bolt and nut factory are now paying only from \$5 to \$8 per week. Wages have been reduced from 7 to 30 per cent at the Ford City, Pa., plate glass

works. The directors of the Central Street Railway company of Peorla, Ill., have just announced that after Friday the employe will be expected to work 15 hours a day in stead of 12 hours, as at present, without an increase of pay. The company claims to be besieged with applications for employment. The Central Labor union of Boston has called a mass meeting for the purpose of discussing the situation of the unemployed.

The proprietors of the large plate glass factory at Challervi, Pa., have closed down indefinitely, and assign as a reason their fear of tariff legislation and lack of orders.

out of employment. It is said that thousands of the unem ployed of New York gather at the Brooklyn

Their action throws several hundred men