

DIAZ AGAIN
TO CORRUPT
ELECTIONSSecret Agents Prowl Through
Nation Intimidating All
Who Oppose Tyrant

SLAVERY CHARGE IS TRUE

Friends of Dictator Confirm
Stories of Horrors on
Mexican Plantations

In the midst of the horror created throughout the entire civilized world by the articles of John Kenneth Turner in the American Magazine on "Barbarous Mexico," the land of "Perdido" Diaz is again preparing for a presidential election. It will be a regular "Czar" Diaz election, with all the attendant terrors.

The article in the current number of the American Magazine tells how it is possible for Czar Diaz to control the results of an election by wholesale intimidation of the opposition candidates, by the imprisonment of freedom loving editors, by the exile and murder of those disposed to stand in his way.

Expose Rouses Mexico

"It will be difficult to give any idea of the sensation caused in Mexico by the publication of our previous articles," says the American Magazine. "The words 'Mexico' and 'barbarous' have been in a hundred newspapers, some admitting the truth, some denouncing us with incredible violence. The articles are discussed everywhere.

"An overwhelming mass of letters, newspapers and reports have come to us from all parts of Mexico. They furnish fresh corroboration of contract slavery and disclose a widespread state of political ferment."

Oppression Reigns

Says the magazine: "There is no peace for any editor or politician or citizen of prominence who is not in full accord with Diaz and his circle. And it is long since the secret service was so active as now, or oppressive measures so vigorous. Yet, so far as we can find out, there is no revolutionary movement in Mexico, no secret plotting to overthrow the government."

"We have made, as best we could, a selection of facts, letters and newspaper reports to give some idea of the extraordinary state of affairs in Mexico, and to further corroborate what has been said in previous issues."

Diaz Commits Treason

"The editor of the Actualidades, Dr. Luis Lara y Pardo, a former member of the Mexican congress and a supporter of the government, wrote the following editorial in answer to this question from a Spanish journal, 'What have you done for the natives of Mexico?':

"This is what we have done for them:

"We have not known how to give them liberty. The regime of slavery continues in full vigor under the cloak of the loan laws. Peons are sold by one hacienda to another under pretext that the money which has been advanced the laborer must be paid. In the capital of the republic itself, traffic in human flesh has been engaged in. It is known that at certain times petty thieves, vagrants and paupers are deported to tropical plantations, where a fixed price is paid for each man.

"On the plantations the peons live in a most miserable manner. They are crowded into lodgings dirtier than a stable and are maltreated. The planter does as he wishes with the peon, who is even denied the right of protest. They are paid the lowest wage and this in turn is left wholly at the store where provisions of a vile nature and liquors sold by the owner are given in exchange.

"We also admit with sorrow that long ago there were royal decrees which gave the natives the right to

(Continued on Page Two)

INVERTED PARSIMONY
IS SHOCK TO MAYOR

Insanity Is Charged to Official Who Demands Reduction in Salary

"Has Doc Evans got Dementia Argentina—whatever that is?" Fred A. Busse, Chicago's talented mayor, is reported to have said when he heard that Chicago's health commissioner had asked that \$800 be taken from his salary and given to the hard worked employees of the health department. Dr. W. A. Evans is a gentleman from Virginia and is willing that his salary be cut so that his subordinates may get recognition.

"Fred," said Harry Smith—Honest

SCURVY ASSAILS
I. W. W. VICTIMSCondition of Free Speechers
Held in Jail Is Dis-
grace to Country

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 24.—The fight of the I. W. W. for the right of free speech is being waged with more determination than ever. A number of Socialist women in Seattle are planning to come to this city in a group and make a concerted move to force the police to arrest them together and to arouse public sentiment to such a pitch that the aldermen will be forced to repeal the ordinance against free speech.

The police are ruthlessly violating even the simplest rights of all citizens who dare to oppose them. W. S. Foster, who has been reporting the "riot" proceedings for the Seattle Socialist, has been arrested and jailed because his reports of the railroad of prisoners for speaking on the streets did not suit them.

Since the police suppressed the Industrial Worker, the local organ of the I. W. W., it has been published in Seattle and mailed to subscribers in this city.

More Agitators Jailed

Several more agitators have been sentenced to terms in jail during the past week, and seven others have been released.

The men who were released from jail are so weak that they can hardly walk. They were fed on bread and water, unless they worked on the chain gang. Scurvy is prevalent among the prisoners, and it is said that the gums of many of the men are rotting in their mouths. The rations given these men consisted of small portions of sour bread.

More than 300 men, and one woman, Elizabeth Gurbey Flynn, are still confined in the jails here. Several of the prisoners have families which must be taken care of while the fathers are in jail.

Several attorneys have been hired to defend the cases of the men and women arrested. The cases are being fought in all the courts. Finally, it has been decided that the fight shall be carried to the United States Supreme court to determine whether the police officials of a little boom city can legally forbid citizens to peacefully assemble and voice their opinions and their criticism of existing institutions so long as they do not incite to violence.

WOMAN DIES OF
COLD ON STREET

Death by freezing while she slept was the Christmas present that Josephine Zimmerman, aged 45 years, has received and the only trouble she is now causing anyone will fall to the lot of the police force, the county morgue and the county burial lot.

The dead body of the homeless woman, whose husband had deserted her five months ago, was found at midnight by C. A. Martin, living at 3405 Division street, who reported the matter to the police at the thirty-second precinct station.

Tired out and with no money to pay for a place to spend the night she had found a secluded place under a wagon at Kinzie and Halsted streets, where she soon fell asleep.

2,000 FISHERMEN
DROWN IN GALE

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27.—More than two thousand persons were drowned in severe gales off Korea, and Japan, according to word brought by the steamer Empress of India.

Six hundred and twenty Korean fishing vessels were wrecked off Olupo, South Hwangye while in northeastern Korea, more than half the fleet of fishing craft was lost.

Harry, Mayor Busse's private secretary—"Fred, I am astonished at such an example of inverted parsimony. I can understand most anything but a man letting go of money."

"You are a Jew, Harry, the Jew of my heart," said the gracious mayor, who, since "John done it for Fred," has been under the uplifting influence of the poet laureate of the First ward, Sir John Coughlin, "Maison de Bath."

"False!" cried Grafters

When the news of Dr. Evans' unusual desire circulated throughout the municipal building there was a rapid succession of gasps. Municipal employees, who for years have been maneuvering for the elusive raise, refused to believe it.

But the budget verified the report. It showed that in Dr. Evans' own estimate of the contemplated expenditures for his department for the coming year he cut his own salary down to \$7,200. A few columns over was the controller's estimate. The figures read \$8,000.

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"Fred," said Harry Smith—Honest

EXPLAINS VISIT
OF GOMPERTS TO
BELGIAN UNIONSHuysmans, Secretary of In-
ternational Socialist Bu-
reau, Resents Attacks

WAS GUIDE TO AMERICAN

Showed President of A. F. of
L. About Brussels; De-
fends Belgian Unions

The following account of the visit of Samuel Gompers to Europe is by Camille Huysmans, secretary of the International Socialist Bureau, at Brussels, and was published officially in Le Peuple, the official organ of the Belgian Socialists and trades unions, under the caption "Intentional Mistakes."

BY CAMILLE HUYSMANS

When Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, came to Belgium he was received with courtesy and a guide was assigned to serve him in his rapid excursions. The secretary of the Belgian Trades unionists and myself took him to visit the institutions of the Maison Du Peuple. In order to show him that misery also existed in Brussels as it does in the slums of London and New York, we took him to the garrets where our workers live, where women grow pale and infants perish from insufficient nourishment.

Gompers admired the Maison Du Peuple very much. He even praised the excellence of our municipal water. But he listened with deaf ears to the explanations given him of the birth and development of our labor movement. He spoke in condemnation of the Socialist party of the United States and defended pure and simple trade unionism, without, however, explaining to us why he had advised the organized workers to vote for the candidate of the democratic party, Mr. Bryan.

Came to Find Flaws

We quickly perceived the real object of his visit. He did not come, as he had announced, in order to study. He came in order to search out arguments against us. He had preconceived ideas on all subjects. He was not interested in the good things we had accomplished. He was occupied in obtaining proofs with which to prepare anti-Socialist speeches. In two hours he had seen Belgium and was gone.

I met him again in Paris, at the meeting of the delegates of the central trade unions. Although he was not affiliated with this organization, he asked us to vote upon two resolutions, one of which had as its object the creation of an international union in opposition to the International Socialist movement, and another, which tended to nothing less than the closing of the United States to European immigration. He had even declared to those who had wished to listen that the affiliation of the American unions depended on the attitude that the European unions took upon these two questions.

Opposed to Labor Party

It did not take any particular keenness to see through these tactics. Mr. Gompers, a friend of the managers of the Civic Federation, wished to undermine the idea of the necessity of political action—to extend the marvelous system which has so brilliantly failed in the United States—to draw away the labor unions from the International Socialist Congress and, in spite of the fact that the immense majority of the European unions combine economic and political action, to create an organization based alone upon the ideas of two groups, that one might well be astonished to find agreeing on this matter, the Confederation Generale de France and the American Federation of Labor. This minority wished to impose on our unions the anti-politics position and to transform the International Socialist Congress into a purely political congress by taking away from it the vital force of the labor movement.

These tactics had a charming naïveté. The Belgians contented themselves with saying that they were in favor of the regular order of business and that only the delegates of affiliated organizations had a right to formulate resolutions to be submitted to a vote.

Belgians Were Polite

But as a proof of their politeness and of regard for a man who had come so far they decided that Mr. Gompers should be extended the title of guest, that is to say, that he could discuss questions without voting. Mr. Gompers spoke, that was all. His resolutions had the honor of a first class burial.

Mr. Gompers was then compelled to consider the question of affiliation without having been able to exercise the least pressure. Since then the convention at Toronto has decided that the A. F. of L. will affiliate with the International Trades Union secretary. We shall then meet Mr. Gompers again at some opportune time.

Gompers' Letters Astonished

I have been very curious to read the letters Gompers has written to American periodicals and in which he has summed up his impressions of his European voyage. I declare that I have been overcome with stupefaction.

Mr. Gompers has especially stated

(Continued on Page Two)

UNION TO FIGHT
SCAB CARNIVALBill Posters Will Oppose
Callahan's Athletic Tour-
nament at Coliseum

Another "labor friend" has been spotted in the person of Jimmy Callahan of the Logan Square Baseball Park, now promoting an athletic carnival to be held at the Coliseum on New Year's Day, which is to be advertised with the aid of scab billposters.

Callahan depends on union men to make his baseball park a success, but when it comes to giving union men a square deal in return he isn't around at all. Instead he went to the American Bill Posting company, against which the bill posters have been conducting a strike for some time past, incidentally being compelled to fight the entire police force at the same time.

Scab Supply Was Short

Callahan secured enough scabs from the bill posting company to do part of the work. He couldn't get them to put 10,000 window cards, advertising the "we need the money" athletic carnival, and so came begging to the bill posters' union for twenty men to do this work. He was promptly given the cold shoulder.

"If we can't have the entire job we will take none of it," said Frank Warren, secretary of the Bill Posters' union. "We absolutely refuse to have anything to do with any work from Jimmy Callahan under the conditions."

Fight on Callahan

"If he wants to run a half scab affair it must be a whole scab. We are going to fight him. The Chicago Federation of Labor is behind us in our fight, and we will have the musicians, waiters, and any other union labor Callahan seeks to employ called off the job."

UNITE IN WAR
ON SOCIALISTSGrowth of Party in Milwan-
kee Arouses Democrats
and Republicans

(SPECIAL TO THE DAILY SOCIALIST.)

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 27.—Capitalist politicians of this city, in conformity with the usual action being taken the world over to fight the progress of Socialism, are uniting their forces in order to be the better able to make a combined attack on the Socialist candidates in the coming spring election.

Republicans and Democrats in the twenty-first and twenty-second wards are planning the formation of a club which shall put up compromise candidates in all wards where the Socialists are strong in order to have but one ticket in the field in opposition to the Social-Democrats.

There are a number of other wards where this plan may also be tried, so that there is some prospect of a city-wide organization being effected. The Socialists of Milwaukee are not working in the least. They admit that they are not fighting the Republicans or the Democrats but the forces for which both of these parties stand.

In every country where Socialism has already great strength, especially in Germany, the capitalist parties have taken action similar to that now being taken in Milwaukee. It only serves to draw the line of battle closer and in making the issues in the struggle more clear.

MRS. ROBINS TO
HELP STRIKERS

Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the Women's Trade Union league, and Miss Agnes Nestor, of the Glove Workers' union, have left for Philadelphia to aid the waiters in conducting the strike declared against the manufacturers of that city.

"I believe absolutely that this strike will last but a few days, as we have already settled with three manufacturers and many others are ready to settle," said A. Rosenberg, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, who is in charge of the strike.

CLIQUE BUYS UP
LEHIGH VALLEY

New York, Dec. 27.—The Moore-Reid clique, which virtually owns the vast Rock Island Railroad system, it was learned on the highest authority, has acquired control of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company.

This means, according to Wall Street calculations, an alliance between the Lehigh Valley and the Washburn, control of which is known to be in hands friendly to the Moores, and the formation of a new trunk line from New York to Chicago.

STATE WILL PROBE
DEPARTMENT STORE
ABUSES OF CLERKSCO-OPERATION IN
GERMANY FOILS
TRUSTS' GROWTHStores Controlled by People
Now Do Business Amount-
ing to Millions

GROWTH DUE TO SOCIALISM

Seventy-Six Establishments
Have Sprung Up in Last
Quarter Century

The labor movement of Germany manifests itself in three separate branches, the field and tactics of which are widely different. But all three have in common the one aim, to increase the share of the working class in the product of its labor. These are the political parties, the trade unions and the co-operative societies. Although the last of the three cannot be classed in importance with the others their rapid growth and development of recent years make them a considerable factor in the modern life of the working class. Their activities are not confined to the workers nor does the class struggle find within them its special expression. But still the vast majority of their members belong to the proletariat and the toiling masses are influenced by their success economically as well as morally. Therefore, it is natural, that the Socialists everywhere are the instigators and bearers of this movement.

Model Institutions

The Consumverein Plagwitz-Leipzig (The Co-operative Stores of Plagwitz-Leipzig) is the main representative of the Co-operative Societies of Germany and a model institution in every respect. During the week of the party convention a great many of the delegates availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the vast stores and warehouses of this grand institution which on March 30 had celebrated its twenty-five year jubilee. It entered life in 1884 with a membership of 121, which has grown to 40,665, according to the report of July 1, 1909. Its business in 1884 amounted to 21,189 marks, while this year's business reached seventeen million marks. In membership it is surpassed in Germany only by the co-operative stores of Breslau with 57,319 members. But its business activity is much greater, showing a figure of 416 marks per capita, against 215 marks of the Breslau institution. Also in production of goods, which during the last business year amounted to five and one-half million marks, it holds the foremost rank in this country.

Result of Much Labor

As may be expected these magnificent results are but the fruit of long and incessant labors of bitter struggles full of disappointments. What opposition of the masses the leaders of this movement had to overcome is shown by a little incident at the first public meeting called for the establishment of the Consumverein. One of the speakers remarked that a co-operative store might in the end reach a yearly business of millions of marks. Thereupon the whole audience burst out laughing and ridiculed him as a hair-brained dreamer.

But his dreams have been more than realized.

The members in the first year numbered 121 and in 1908-9 40,665; while in the first year the volume of business was 21,189 marks, in 1908-9 it was 16,603,556 marks; the profits for the first year amounted to 1,481 marks and for the year of 1908-9 they were 170,150,130 marks; the dividend in the first year was 8 per cent and in 1908-9 it was 10 per cent; the stock issued in the first year was 4,417 shares; in 1908-9 it was 1,909,999; the shares held by members amounted in the first year to 1,810 and in 1908-9 to 1,915,990; beginning with one store, there are seventy-six in the year 1908-9.

Millions Employed

The wages paid in 1908-9 amounted to 1,304,134 marks. The number of employees was 1,150.

Interesting is the development of the self production of the Consumverein. In 1884 a bakery was started. In 1885 the administration rented a flour mill and so kept on increasing their own production by adding a carpenter shop, a cheese factory, a soda water plant, a savings bank, an ice factory, a packing house, and a sausage factory, so that of the seventeen million marks

(Continued on Page Three)

COMING OF DEBS
IS NOW ASSUREDDemonstration on Eve of
Warren Trial Will Be
Held in January

Negotiations for the demonstration to be held in Chicago immediately before the hearing of the case of Fred D. Warren, managing editor of the Appeal-to-Reason, in the federal courts at St. Louis, with Eugene V. Debs as the speaker, have almost been completed. The only matter now obstructing the planning for the affair is in securing an auditorium in which to hold the big affair.

It was suggested in the committee in charge that the demonstration be held on the evening of January 14. It was found that all the big auditoriums in Chicago had been taken for that evening. The last communication with the Appeal to Reason asked that the demonstration be held on either January 12, 13 or 19, at Orchestra hall, seating nearly 3,000 persons, could be secured for any one of these dates. It is probable that any one of these dates will be chosen.

Committee to Arrange

The matter of arranging for the affair has been placed in the hands of a special "Debs Committee" consisting of Jacob Levenberg, William Schutte, A. W. Menace, James P. Larson, William Cherney, Ben Olin and J. L. Engdahl, all members of the Cook County Socialist party entertainment committee. The committee is working to make the demonstration one of the biggest affairs ever held. It will be requested that every Socialist branch join in exploiting the demonstration.

Masked Ball Progressing

Preparations for the mammoth masquerade ball to be held at the Seventh Regiment armory on the evening of Lincoln's birthday, February 12, two days before Valentine's day, were also taken up by the entertainment committee last night, with W. J. Stanley and Ben Olin being appointed additional members on the prize committee, already consisting of James P. Larson, Jacob Levenberg and William Cherney, the whole to be known as the prize and program committee.

SAVE \$2,000,000
A YEAR ON BREAD

There will be no increase in the price of bread, irrespective of the result of the legal controversy now raging over the city ordinance, according to Paul Schulze, president of the Schulze Bakery company. He announced yesterday that loaves still will sell at 5 cents, even if the measure of City Sealer Kjelander wins before the United States Supreme court, in which direction it is now rising.

The city sealer believes that if the bakers can be required to sell a full pound loaf for 5 cents the bread eaters of Chicago will be saved \$2,000,000 annually. He expects to begin operations as soon as the Illinois Supreme court's mandate is certified to Judge Windes, but he may be balked, as an agreement is said to have been entered into by the city authorities to suspend action until a final court decision is reached.

PAPERS SILENT
ON 10-HOUR LAW

Aurora, Ill., Dec. 27.—The manufacturers here are doing their best to stifle all news of agitation against the foes of the women's ten hour law. When Raymond Robins of Chicago spoke here the newspapers did not use any story on the meeting, because they are bound to the Illinois Manufacturers' association, the Fox River Manufacturers' association and former United States Senator Hopkins, traction magnate, and an owner of a large block of stock in the Aurora Cotton Mills. Captain Smith, head of the Western Wheel Scraper, is another local captain of industry. Robins talked before the Trades and Labor Assembly and scathingly denounced the Illinois Manufacturers' association.

OMAHA RAISES WAGES OF
ITS STREET RAILWAY MEN

Omaha, Dec. 27.—The Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway, which three months ago successfully resisted the demands of its employees for an increase in wages, spending many thousands of dollars to break the strike, today announced an increase of 1 cent per hour in wages for all its motormen and conductors, beginning Jan. 1. The maximum pay will then be 27 cents per hour and the minimum 15 cents.

Occupational Diseases Com-
mission Will Act on Daily
Socialist Evidence

HENDERSON IS AROUSED

Sociologist Declares Health
of Employees Is in
Grave Danger

Prof. Charles R. Henderson, the famous sociologist of the University of Chicago, has been so stirred by the revelations made by the Daily Socialist, concerning conditions in the State street department stores, that he has promised to bring the whole matter before the Illinois Commission on Occupational Diseases, of which he is secretary. The exhausting labor in the department stores so weakens the men and women who toll there that they are easy prey for disease. That phase of the matter has aroused Henderson who will make a searching investigation and a stirring report of the conditions which he finds. On the commission, of which he is secretary, are some of the best known surgeons and physicians in the country and the commission has the authority to investigate the ventilation of stores, factories and workshops, and the hours of labor of all employees in the state.

Will Investigate Stores

"We have been appointed," said Prof. Henderson, "to investigate any conditions that are detrimental to the health of employees, and we desire to take up the conditions in the stores as revealed by the Chicago Daily Socialist."

"I want two copies of the paper which I shall place before the commission. Conditions in the stores have been serious, but I believe the Chicago Daily Socialist is the first to have made a direct examination on winter drafts. With so many doors opening into the streets, the stores certainly need special precautionary measures. A cold is very dangerous. It makes the victim liable to a variety of fatal diseases. A cold in the throat is the initial step to pneumonia. The draft in the department store the Chicago Daily Socialist complains of so should be stopped."

The fainting of men and women from exhaustion will be investigated by Henderson. The Chicago Daily Socialist selected two stores as typical of the conditions. In the "Fair" the draft was found to be the worst. At the counters around the doors, girls had swollen faces, and chapped lips. They talk to their customers hoarsely. Recognizing the seriousness of the conditions, the officials of the store furnished their employees sweaters vests free of cost. Superintendent Cyrus Jones admitted the prevalence of the cold air currents, but seemed to feel helpless in the matter. In the store of Marshall Field, the basement under the Washburn avenue store, was chosen as an example of conditions.

Postoffice Is Probed

The Occupational Diseases Commission has made an investigation into the conditions of the Chicago postoffice, and recommends a new building for the department. It condemns the present structure as unsuitable and dangerous to the health of the men employed. The ventilation system is attacked with special emphasis.

"The ventilation system is the worst piece of engineering in the city," declared Professor Henderson commenting on the report. "It does not seem to draw any air at all. Dr. Evans was with us and he declared that the men working in the postoffice are threatened with serious diseases. There seems to be no remedy for it. The department will have to have a new building." The clerks have worked 12 hours a day in the city division of the postoffice during the holiday rush and will not get a rest till after New Year's day.

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SANTA CLAUSES WILL GO HUNGRY

Men Who Collected Charity
Funds for "Volunteers"

Now Face Want

YULETIDE SEASON ENDS

No More Chance to Shiver
in Cold, Begging at
\$1.35 a Day

While some of Chicago's sufferers see the vision of the charity "handout" in the form of a "basket," the little band of mercenary Santa Clauses is wondering what it will do for a living next week. The jobs come to an end tonight, when the last bags of nickels are counted.

There are twenty-eight Santa Clauses distributed throughout the loop district. Most of them are men who have been elbowed out in the fierce tussle of industrialism. Some of them are men who have been discredited in the race of workmen with machinery—discarded when broken down by the strain. They have been working for the Volunteers of America to earn a living, at least temporarily. The \$1.35 per day they are getting might carry them over to a period when they will be able to re-enter the field of permanent employment.

Beside them stand the "ladies" who receive nothing but promises of a star on their coat collars, when they have become full fledged members of the "Army."

"A Starry Crown, a Starry Crown"

"We get, for this work, a star in our crowns," said one of the ladies in front of the Chamber of Commerce building. "And perhaps a star on our shoulder bands," added her more sophisticated companion.

"I asked my Captain if I would get a star in my crown for doing this work," she continued laughing, "and he said, 'You might get a star on your shoulder band if you do the work right.'"

The Volunteer "specials" have been on duty evenings, too, for the last week or two. They worked overtime because of the greater rush, and were paid for the extra time 20 cents per hour.

"When a fellow is down and out, he must take any work that comes his way," said the Santa Claus in front of Carson, Pirie, Scott and company's store. He was a miner in the west, and had been employed in copper mines during the greater part of his industrial life. Weakened by the continual inhalation of gases, he was forced to go to Chicago for medical treatment.

After leaving his cot at the hospital five weeks ago, he applied to the Municipal Lodging house of Chicago for help. The house secured a Santa Claus job for him. "I am still weak," he confessed, "but I had to do something for a living."

All for \$1.35 a Day

"It is pretty mean to stand out in the cold for a \$1.35 a day. We are out eight hours. For evening work we get 20 cents an hour extra. It takes some knack to solicit contributions. The girl next to me has only about 30 cents—we have been out a couple of hours—and I have about two or three dollars."

At the corner of State and Adams stands a finely proportioned "messenger of Yuletide." He is a German professor, who has come to America to perfect an invention. He has no other funds, he could not finish his task, and was forced to take anything that presented itself as a source of revenue. The four weeks' work in the fantastic garb has relieved his distress very much, but what he will do next week is a perplexing problem for him.

"The Salvation Army, I see, classes us as bums," he remarked. "I suppose we are bums," he said. "We 'bum' around to get a job. We sleep in cheap lodging houses, and do not eat some days. But I wish some of the officers of the Salvation Army were in my boots for at least a couple of weeks, and I in their comfortable chairs in place of on this corner. I think I should be charitable enough to use them less snobbishly. I'll bet they don't work for \$1.35 a day."

CO-OPERATION FOILS TRUSTS

(Continued From Page One)

worth of goods sold in 1908-9 over five and one-half millions were produced in their own plants, which are run on the most approved plan.

Especially large have been the quantities of goods produced in the bakery and sausage factory. This last year, there were baked nearly five million loaves of bread and twenty-one million rolls. Of various kinds of sausage, approximately 1,100,000 pounds were made. The latest machinery is employed in these plants. Their cleanliness and sanitary conditions are unsurpassed and should be studied by the American inspectors of packing houses.

The dividend paid last year was 10 per cent. This report says that the main aim, however, was not so much to make a high dividend as to give to the laboring population of Chicago the most wholesome food and the highest possible quality of goods. This has been accomplished and is generally acknowledged, as shown by the tremendous growth of the institution.

The "Consumers' League" has also been a great benefit to the working people in that respect, that it has helped keep down and regulate the profits of the retail business, and to counteract the efforts of the trusts to raise the prices. A great deal of the success of this vast enterprise, however, is owed to the Socialist spirit which permeates the working classes of Saxony.

BELGIAN GRILLS SAM GOMPERS

(Continued From Page One)

that Belgian unionism is very backward in point of numbers. This is true. But we have not prepared our reports to suit Mr. Gompers.

It is sufficient to read our statistical reports published each year.

Mr. Gompers remarked in passing that the Maison du Peuple of Brussels is a very admirable institution. This is also true, but he forgets to say that the Maison du Peuple is Socialist, that it is a co-operative created by the Socialist workers. Why has he made this omission? Simply because the addition of the word Socialist would have refuted his first statement. He wished to explain the relative weakness of the Belgian unions by the affiliation of these unions to the Socialist party, and if he had praised the Socialist co-operatives he would have destroyed his own arguments.

Brand Statement as "Nonsense"

Mr. Gompers goes much further. He affirms that the Belgian unions exist only upon paper. Where did Mr. Gompers find this nonsense? I do not know. If there were any need of refuting it it would be sufficient for me to refer the president of the American Federation of Labor to the municipal administrations who have created the funds for the unemployed. The official documents of these prove that our unions live and work. I admit that I am not very enthusiastic over the form of our Belgian organizations. I have frequently criticized them severely and I may do it again.

But it is supremely unjust to deny the results accomplished and the heroism shown by the Belgian workers in the great political and economic movements that have distinguished our country, and when Mr. Gompers attempts to establish a connection between the misery of our home workers and the weakness of our trade unions he forgets that the misery of labor under such conditions is not a peculiarly Belgian phenomenon. If he had taken the trouble to read the English, German and American official reports, he would have discovered that exploitation of this sort of workers is at least not unknown in those countries.

Accuse Gompers of Slander

Mr. Gompers adds a few personal comments. Speaking in the Congress at Toronto, he said: "Professor Camille Huysmans of Brussels, the International secretary of the Socialist party, was at Paris as one of the two delegates from Belgium, where the union movement is the most backward of all Europe."

In making this slanderous statement, Mr. Gompers sought to give the American workers the idea that the union movement is weak wherever Socialism has entered into the organization, and where the intellectuals have a place in the movement. Mr. Gompers was well aware of the fact that I did not go to Paris, either as secretary of the International nor as a professor. I was sent there as a member of the Central union, which included the union of trade union employees to which I have the honor to belong. Would Mr. Gompers exclude from our organization the employees who make up a part of the American organization? If Mr. Gompers is an old cigar maker, and if he has rolled the leaves of tobacco, I have, it is true, also been a professor and have tried to mold the minds of my students. I do not see in what the ex-cigar-maker is my superior.

Quit College for Unionism

The very day that I abandoned teaching to become an official of a labor organization, I joined the only union to which it was possible for me to belong in Belgium. I am therefore a union man and I even claim that I am a good union man. I pay my dues regularly and if I do not go out on strike it is only because the International Socialist party pays the union scale. I therefore have the right to represent our union in Paris and I cannot believe that it is an unpardonable sin that I possess a university diploma.

Belgium Unions Not Backward

Mr. Gompers makes another mistake when he claims that the Belgian union movement is the most backward in Europe. Upon what does he base this statement? Upon the number affiliated with the central commission? But he ignores the fact that this organization has been created very recently and that a number of Socialist unions are not yet affiliated with our central national body. There are various reasons for this, each one worse than the other. Does he refer to the percentage of organized workers in Belgium? But does not Mr. Gompers know that there are at least ten European countries where the percentage is lower than in Belgium. I might especially mention Holland, Norway, Hungary, Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, and even France. I do not refer to Russia, because of the peculiar conditions of that country.

What He Might Have Learned

Mr. Gompers might better have made a study of the reasons why unions develop so slowly in our country. He would have discovered that in the course of the centuries terrible blood letting has been suffered by our poor country and that the most virile portion of our nation has been forced at times to take up the road to exile. Belgium has been the battlefield of Europe and the heavy hand of reaction has pressed upon us during long years, and finally the worst enemy of the workers has been the workers themselves, crushed by capitalism, and brutalized by a superstitious clericalism.

Freer Than America

But in spite of all this, the Belgian workers have conquered the primordial rights of civilized society, rights which the American workers do not yet enjoy. In spite of the Republican form of government and the 2,000,000 of unionists it includes. And it is still necessary in 1909 to prove that in the United States the workers are less free than in Belgium, the president of the A. F. of L., who is at the same time vice president of the famous Civic Federation, intended to enslave the class workers in the interests of the capitalists, ought to show himself more modest, or at least be careful of his words and not introduce so many errors into his defense of the indefensible thesis of the harmony of classes.

ONLY \$220,000,000 STANDS BETWEEN MRS. HARRIMAN AND DEATH BY STARVATION

New York, Dec. 27.—A complete appraisal of estate left by E. H. Harriman to the care and disposition of his widow shows that by all odds she is the richest woman in the world.

Instead of the tremendous responsibility entailed upon her by her husband's ninety-two million dollar estate, she has \$149,000,000, as semi-authoritatively announced a few weeks ago, the complete inventory shows that it exceeds \$220,000,000. No other woman in modern times has had a financial trust of such giant proportions imposed upon her.

Mrs. Harriman has fitted up a suite of offices in modest, businesslike style at 475 Fifth avenue.

TOILERS CARRY WORLD'S BURDEN

Rev. T. J. Thompson Says
True Greatness Is Found
Among Workers

Carthage, Ill., Dec. 27.—In a forceful sermon Rev. Thomas Jefferson Thompson compared the life of the toilers of today with the life and suffering of Christ. He said:

"And she brought forth her first-born son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"The inn was crowded with other guests. Joseph and Mary, a prince and a princess of the royal line of David, had no gold with which to gain admission to the already well filled hostelry. Hence, we find man's greatest Son and the Only Begotten of the Father coming into the world in a stable and finding His cradle in a manger. No court physician was in attendance nor trained nurse to perform the necessary offices of the occasion. Mary herself did these, wrapping her first-born son in swaddling clothes and laying him in a manger. Truly, 'He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not.'"

Thus for Centuries

"It had been so for many weary, heart-breaking centuries. Since He came, it is still so. For how long it shall continue so, I know not. But in every age there has been little room for earth's greatest sons. With firm resolution, cold hearts, suave speech, and finally with scorn and derision, imprisonment and death, the world has rejected its benefactors and saviors. The world has always been preoccupied with its own affairs—with itself."

"Not only has the world had no room for its greatest sons, but it has always been looking in the wrong place for its deliverers. It has sought them in palaces and among the rich. It has mistaken the gaudy trappings of vanity for the insignia of royalty. It has vainly thought that men of blood could deliver them from blood guiltiness. It is forever looking for God among the oppressors of man instead of among the oppressed. It looks for God outside of man instead of in man. But we read: 'God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.' And the King shall answer and say unto them: 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.'"

Shackled Minds; Dwarfed Souls

"The world has continually supposed that its own ignorance was intelligence. It has supposed that its schools would at least conserve and perpetuate knowledge, if not increase wisdom; whereas they have perpetually shackled the mind and dwarfed the soul. Nevertheless, outside of these institutions have arisen all the great men and movements that have conducted to the advancement and elevation of man. Let the sons of poverty take courage and thank God that their minds have never been within the machine-like vise of a sectarian school. Jesus climbed up the back stairs of learning, and in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

"Another folly of the world has been and still is to suppose that its really great men are those who have others to serve them, and its greatest men those whose servants outnumber those of any other. Thus, to be considered great, men have striven for place, power and dominion over their fellow men, that the world might call them 'benefactors.'"

'Crucified as a Malefactor'

"But this Man Who was born in a stable and cradled in a manger; Who never learned letters; Who had not where to lay His head; Who was considered a malefactor and was crucified; Who was despised and from Whom the people hid their faces; This Man of Sorrows; this Son of God, proclaimed the Kingdom of Love and the Dominion of Service. And he said unto them: 'His disciples.' The kings of the Gentiles have lordship over them; and they that have authority over them are called Benefactors. But ye shall not be so; but he that is the greater among you, let him become as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. But I am in the midst of you as he that serveth."

"No wonder there was not only no room for Him in the inn, nor among His own people, nor yet in His own world! He contradicted in His birth, life and death all the world's preconceptions."

Would Churches Receive Him?

"Nay, rather: He endured such contradiction of sinners against himself. And is it not so still? After so many long centuries would the people now receive Him any more readily or certainly than then? Is there any room for Him now more than then? Would the churches themselves recognize Him if He were here? Not while the churches uphold the very things that made Him an outcast and crucified Him when He was here before. Not while millions of the sons of God are being sacrificed continually upon the altars of Mammon. Not till he is born again in men will they ever receive Him! 'Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, If He's not born in thee, thy soul is still forlorn.'"

DIAZ PLOTS TO BE RE-ELECTED

(Continued From Page One)

elect their mayors and assemblymen. At present in the whole republic there is not a single town, either powerful metropolis or unhappy hamlet, which can elect its own authorities."

Plunder as a Fine Art

"A lifelong friend and supporter of Diaz to whom we sent proofs of Mr. Turner's first three articles writes us: 'What Mr. Turner says about the conditions of the native race is rigorously exact; what he says about the traffic of slaves in the Valle Nacional is known to everybody as well if not better than to himself, and what he says of the Yaquis, whom they have despoiled of their property, whom they have killed or deported and sell as they used to sell the negroes, cannot be denied.'"

"The Impartial, a Mexican newspaper, last year said in an article: 'In the last three months the campaign has been pushed to such a degree that in this short period more than 1,300 prisoners have been captured, and they will arrive in the city of Mexico within a few days.' Recently about 500 Yaquis were sent south in one lot and the fact barely noted in the newspapers."

"Where were these prisoners sent to? Everybody in Mexico knows that they were shipped to the states of Yucatan and Tabasco. Read the following announcement published by El Progreso, a newspaper in San Juan Bautista, capital of the state of Tabasco:

"Mr. Jose Mantilla advised Mr. Rafael Sevilla by wire of the arrival of a large batch of Yaquis. Being asked if they were vaccinated and what the cost would amount to, Mr. Mantilla answered:

"'Goods and Chattels'"

"'All vaccinated, Victor has details; a discount of \$5 being made for boys under seven years of age.'"

"The price is not mentioned; but it is stated that half of the stipulated sum is to be deposited at the branch of the National bank. The first answers sent to Mr. Mantilla were as follows:

"'Romano.—Same conditions as in first shipment, would take fifty families.'"

"'Menendez.—Expect twenty-five families besides and awaiting decision of planter of Teapa to take over ten more families.'"

"'Bulnes.—Awaiting five families, for which he has made arrangements.'"

"'Valenzuela.—Wants to know conditions to see if convenient.'"

"We advise the public that Mr. Victor Manuel Mantilla will give information regarding the acquisition of Yaquis."

"If this is not slavery, then I don't know what goes by that name."

"Mr. Turner says nothing new to the Mexicans. What he declares is notorious and is public knowledge, if not in its details at least in its essentials. Not only does Mr. Turner tell the truth, but he does not tell all of the truth as he does not know the whole truth."

"The Los Angeles Times is one of

the most vigorous partisans of Diaz. It is a strong, aggressive paper—often it seems to us against the truth, but it is apparently sincerely irrational. The Times denounced this magazine and Mr. Turner. Yet within two years it printed an article about Mexico intended to present it as an alluring field for investors, and in this article triumphantly quoted a Mr. Campbell as saying:

"It is well understood, although not a law, that a man who interferes with another man in his work in Mexico is in serious danger of being placed up against a wall at sunrise and shot. President Diaz has been firm in his stand to protect foreign capital that is developing the country. This, of course, adds much to the safety of investments in Mexico."

"You Can Kill 'Em"

"The editors of the Mexican Herald, who have so harshly criticized our articles, seem to forget their own series by Herman Whitaker and others published some years ago. These editors are condemned out of their own mouths. Listen to this little extract from their paper:

"Plantation men do not take enganchado (contract) labor, because they like it, nor do they prefer it to any other, even the lowest. But there is a certain advantage in it. As one planter said to the writer, with a queer thrill in his voice: 'When you've got 'em, they're yours and have to do what you want them to do. If they don't, you can kill 'em.'"

Fined \$55 for Slapping Preacher

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 27.—Police Magistrate W. P. Elche, who slapped Rev. R. Russell while the latter was preaching in the Christian church at Arrowsmith, was fined \$55.

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IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS and RELATIVES



A GRANDMOTHER may not be as spry as she used to be, but she is in close touch with her world for all that.

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Formal gatherings have their place, but it is the many little intimate visits over the telephone that keep people young and interested.

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 opinions expressed therein. Inclose postage for return of unused manuscripts.

Socialists and a Labor Party

We are of the opinion that the discussion about the possible rise of an independent labor party, that has been so violently forced upon us, springs from fear of the workers on the part of its originators. They hope to see a Socialist movement composed of reformers, philanthropists, farmers, students, doctors, etc., consulting together about the welfare of the workers. As if the lack of success on the part of the Socialist movement in this country was not due to the fact that it has not been able hitherto to reach the ear of the great mass of wage workers, and especially of the organized workers. Those who have originated this discussion seem to be blind to the fact that the Socialist movement consists in the union of Socialist teachings with the labor movement—otherwise it is nothing.

The principal purpose of our movement on the political field in this country is the separation of the workers from their previous political ties and their education to political independence. We should welcome every step in this direction of independence which the working class takes by its own volition. However foolish it would be on our part to seek the establishment of an independent labor party it would be just as foolish from our standpoint to take up an attitude of antagonism to such a party without any consideration.

The Socialist movement of America justifies its existence and has a hope of a future only as it wins the workers. Every step that brings this goal nearer is to be welcomed.

These words form the conclusion of an editorial in the New York Volkzeitung, the oldest Socialist daily in the United States. The position which they set forth is one which the Socialists of every country on earth have adopted. They are the fundamental principles of the international Socialist movement.

The probability of a labor party in this country has been greatly exaggerated. As has already been stated in these columns, it will appear only in case the Socialist party fails of its mission and the Civic Federation desires its creation. Its ghost has been invoked at this time by those who fear the influence of labor in the Socialist movement. Under the deceptive cry of ultra-proletarianism they would make a proletarian party impossible. Under pretended antagonism to a labor party they would create the conditions which cannot but produce such a party.

If the Socialist party becomes the political expression of the working class, if it reflects politically the same struggle which organized labor is making industrially, there will be no labor party, nor will there be any "intellectuals" running the Socialist party. If, on the other hand, the Socialist party separates itself from the daily battle of labor, if it stands apart from the struggle of organized labor, then organized labor will stand by itself politically. Then we shall see a labor party upon the one side, with confused aims, perhaps corrupt leadership, and even secret capitalist control through the Civic Federation, and on the other side an innocuous political sect controlled by and largely composed of "reformers, philanthropists, farmers, students, doctors, etc."

Same Here

In commenting on the Diaz rule in Mexico, J. Kenneth Turner says in the American Magazine: "It is almost as if the heads of the Standard Oil company, the sugar trust and the great railroads were themselves members of the cabinet, and, together with the president, controlled by direct word the action of legislatures and appointed senators and members of congress."

A brief survey of the present government of the United States will show that this is almost the case at present. Only a few days ago the secretary of war appeared before the Illinois Supreme court as the attorney of the Illinois Central railroad. The affiliations of other members of the cabinet with the great corporations are almost equally close, and President Taft's brother is heavily interested in Mexican industrial projects.

It is just because these affiliations are so close that this government shows such a marvelous friendship for Diaz. It is just because Zelaya has not made similar connections that the American government and the American press are so much more willing to expose his crimes and destroy his power.

Few things have been more striking as evidence of the power of capital in this country than the almost complete lack of any definite result from the exposures of conditions in Mexico. The Socialist papers and the American Magazine have told millions of people of the horrors existing just over the Rio Grande. These horrors have been many times worse than those that prevailed in the southern states during the days of chattel slavery. Yet there has been no outburst of indignation. The powerful dailies have remained almost silent. No section of the government has been stirred to action, unless it be to secret activity in defense of Diaz.

The only section of the population that has shown any interest has been the working class. Its members are the only ones whose interests do not bind them to capitalist forces either at home or abroad.

A BOYCOTT ON FOOD

BY ROBERT HUNTRE

The official organ of the Association of Manufacturers occasionally reviews business conditions.

Recently it published an exciting symposium on that subject. It appears that vehicles are being bought hand over fist. Automobiles are selling like hot cakes. Iron and steel is enjoying unprecedented prosperity. Machinery is selling at such a rate that this industry has increased its business one hundred per cent, and so on down the list.

All things are lovely until we come to the industries engaged in producing food supplies.

Here a note of pessimism is sounded. For some reason food is not selling. The food trusts are having a hard time of it, and only twenty-two per cent of these industries are increasing their business.

Now, that is a very serious matter. I wonder if these miserable Trade Unionists are boycotting food?

Suppose, for instance, they should actually refuse to eat food?

Most people would agree that such a state of affairs would constitute a conspiracy of the most dangerous character.

Consider for a moment what it would mean to legitimate business interests to have the two million organized workmen decline absolutely to eat.

This is a matter worthy of serious consideration. It ought to be brought to the attention of Speaker Cannon and Senator Aldrich. The anti-trust law surely provides against any malicious attacks of that character.

There are, no doubt, judges to be found who would issue an injunction against such a criminal conspiracy.

No one, of course, objects to workmen refusing to buy automobiles, hansom cabs, broughams or victorias. In fact, it is a question whether it is good form to have men of the working class loitering about on the cushions of their carriages and idly driving in the parks.

A boycott of that character might be justified, but when working men undertake to boycott food products that is an altogether different matter.

The patronage of the working men is an inherent property right of the Manufacturers' Association. The courts are perfectly clear on that matter. And any attempt to deprive the manufacturers of the patronage of the hungry would mean the ruin of honest industry.

Surely Post, with his grape nuts, and other sterling men of affairs will not brook any action of this character.

Of course, it may be held that working men must eat, but that is clearly erroneous. The spirit of Un- men is so mean, their hatred of the manufacturers is so great, their criminal conspiracies are so gigantic, and their criminal intention to destroy legitimate business so obvious that they might come to the point of refusing longer to eat.

Perhaps the only practical plan for manufacturers to pursue is to get an injunction and throw Union men into jail. They can then follow the policy of the English government in dealing with the suffragettes and force food down the throats of such wicked conspirators!

PRESIDENT TAFT AT THE BOWERY

BY MILA TUPPER MAYNARD

It was a mistake, Mr. President. Your friends should protect you from such a situation.

You have nothing to say to the people of the Bowery, and it were better not to try. As it was, if your remarks the other day did not make the blood of your hearers boil, it is because they have no real blood in their veins.

You mean well, of course. You feel kindly toward the wretched mortals you address.

Yet, to speak to them, telling them, in their poverty and squalor, that this was a land of equal opportunity and they must keep good natured and believe the rich folk are kind hearted, was a part of the day's work.

In the same dutiful spirit you went with your wife that same day to select Christmas presents. The jeweler put a private room at your disposal.

While a battalion of clerks exhibited the costly wares.

We do not blame you for that. Had you given the hundreds of dollars so spent to the Bowery audience instead, it would have been but a drop in the bucket of their need. And they are but an infinitesimal part of the wretched to be found in the New York slums.

You are helpless to relieve the need you faced.

No wonder you felt abashed. You felt the gulf which yawned between your world and the world of the slums. Perhaps this moment's consciousness of misery spoiled a little the pleasure of selecting the rich gifts an hour later.

Yet such conscience pricks are reasonable and useful. Here is where we blame you and the tens of thousands your represent. You refuse to face the facts. You comfort yourself with a cheap optimism. You fool yourself and try to deceive others with lies—lies which are palpably absurd to any one who can see facts.

"Equal opportunity," indeed!

What equality is there between the opportunities you have had and those of the man reared in the New York streets, scrambling for bread from babyhood? You, with some one to pay the bills for every attention—from the nursery through college.

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The Way to Fight the House of Lords

The truth is, notwithstanding all the publication of the liberal press, that in the present encounter the first round has ended entirely in favor of the peers. They have suspended the budget, they have defeated the government and compelled a dissolution and an appeal to the country. The government has foolishly and supinely bowed to the lords' dictation, and have thus constituted them the supreme authority in the kingdom. The duty of the government, if they really wished to fight the peers, was perfectly clear when the latter refused to pass the budget. That duty, as we pointed out, was to have ignored the peers, and to continue to carry on the functions of the executive government, quite irrespective of the action of the house of lords. By declining to take that perfectly clear and logical course the government has played into the hands of the peers and made them masters of the situation. Their right to dictate an appeal to the country having once been conceded, they can dictate such an appeal on every conceivable opportunity, and even a satisfactory response to the government's present appeal, by the election of a majority against the house of lords, would not get rid of the claim of the peers to once more dictate an appeal to the country against any proposal for limiting their powers which might be formulated—London Justice.

That's Its Purpose

No matter how good an umbrella may be.

It is sure—and the reason is plain—To be truly "used up" (that's the joke, don't you see?)

The first time it's out in a rain.

STUDY COURSE IN SOCIALISM

Authorized by the National Executive Committee
 LESSON VIII.—THE ECONOMICS OF CAPITALISM: 7

Qualifications.—The laws of value, price, and wages which we have stated in the preceding lessons would apply strictly only to an ideal capitalist society—i. e., a society in which the conduct of all was governed by economic motives exclusively and in which competition worked instantaneously and with perfect freedom. Neither of these things is or ever has been absolutely true of any society, though they are approximately true of capitalism. Therefore, in being applied to actual society, these laws require some qualification.

1. Men's economic activities are not governed exclusively by economic motives. Habit and custom and sentiment are factors of honor, generosity, friendship, public spirit, etc., play some part. Capitalists sometimes sell goods for less than the highest price they could get, lend money for less than the highest obtainable interest, or pay wages a little above what they are compelled to pay. Workingmen sometimes continue in the service of an old employer when they could get somewhat better wages elsewhere. Purchasers sometimes buy at a certain place out of habit or friendship, though they could buy a little cheaper from another dealer. Workingmen are often restrained by a sense of honor from taking other men's jobs. Custom somewhat impedes the fluctuation of retail prices of some commodities—e. g., bread, cigars, newspapers, etc. Law regulates the wages of public employees, not in strict accordance with supply and demand.

2. The second qualification is more important. In no field is competition perfectly free and instantaneous. To some extent, as stated, it is checked by habit and custom and sentiment. It is restricted by law—protective tariffs, patents and copyrights, requirements of license for certain occupations, etc., to some extent it is restricted by voluntary agreements. And there are other restraining influences.

Capital cannot be transferred instantly from an industry in which profits are falling to one in which they are rising. It takes some time to equip factories, procure materials, etc.

Labor cannot be transferred instantly from a country or an industry where wages are falling to one where they are rising. Habit tends to keep men where they are. Also, it takes time and money to migrate or to learn a new trade.

Finally, the competitive flow of capital and of labor is retarded by the incomplete information of all concerned. Workingmen do not always know when they could get better wages by changing residence or occupation. Buyers do not always know when or where they can buy cheapest. Sellers are usually better informed, but even their information is incomplete. This element counts for least among large capitalists and for most in retail trade and in the labor market.

Economic Laws Are Statements of Tendencies.—If we should insist on our economic laws as absolutely correct statements of fact, we should be confronted with many specific facts which contradict them or seem to do so. We admit these real or apparent exceptions, noting that taken altogether they are small in comparison with the bulk of economic phenomena to which our laws apply strictly.

Our economic laws do not pretend to be mathematically exact, like laws of physics or chemistry. They are true as general statements of fact and as statements of actual tendencies, which are only partly counteracted or retarded by forces noted in the preceding paragraphs.

Inequality of Wages.—It is especially the law of wages that is contested, and we must consider its application in greater detail.

1. Wages differ considerably in different countries. This is due partly to differences in the price of the necessities of life, partly to differences in the intensity of labor, partly to differences in the customs and standards of living.

The difference between American and European wages is really so great as it appears, for food and clothing are cheaper and house rents lower in Europe than here.

Labor is much more intense in America than in Europe. The American workingman works harder and faster and expends more energy in ten hours than the European workingman in twelve. Consequently more nourishing food, etc., is necessary to keep the American in working condition.

But after making both these allowances, there still remains a difference of wages in favor of America.

A high standard of living was established in America during the generations when most of the people were independent farmers or artisans; in Europe, centuries of slavery and serfdom established a low standard for the masses. Habit partly preserves these standards under changed conditions. But under the influence of international trade and immigration the difference is being reduced; the European workingman's standard of living is gradually rising and that of American workingmen gradually falling toward a common level.

2. Wages differ considerably in different trades. On examination, however, it will be found that these differences are less than they at first appear and that they confirm rather than contradict our law.

In trades which require great muscular exertion, wages are relatively high. This is due to the need for more good food to recruit the workers' strength. For example, building trades, mechanics and even laborers get more than do factory operatives who tend delicate machines.

In trades which require special training and knowledge, wages are relatively high. e. g., printers, railway engineers. This is because a high standard of living is necessary to provide and maintain the mental qualifications required.

Trades in which work is often interrupted by need for recuperation (e. g., caisson workers) or by weather or other conditions beyond the employers' control (e. g., bricklayers) often show relatively high wage rates. This is because the wages earned in fewer working days must cover the cost of living for the whole year.

After making allowance for different cost of living, intermittent employment, etc., there still remain inequalities of wages, though not so great as is commonly supposed. Such as they are, competition tends to eliminate them.

New and rapidly growing trades for a time pay relatively high wages—e. g., at different periods, stenography, electrical work, automobile work. In new and rapidly developing countries all trades for a time pay relatively high wages—e. g., Rocky Mountain States now as compared with New England. After a few years the supply of workers catches up with the demand and wages fall toward the general level.

Young men just beginning as wage workers go in larger proportions into those trades where wages are highest. This tends to reduce wages in those trades by increasing the supply of labor power and to raise wages in other trades by diminishing the supply.

Above all, improved machinery reduces the need for physical strength or special knowledge, so that ill fed and untaught men, or women and children, can do the work which formerly only well fed and trained men could perform. Thus the development of capitalism tends always to reduce the proportion of workers who get relatively high wages.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. In what sense is it correct to say that there is overproduction of goods when large numbers of persons are insufficiently fed, clothed, and housed?

2. What effect does the opening of new foreign markets have with reference to the prolongation of a period of prosperity or a period of depression? How?

3. What is the ultimate effect of an industrial depression upon the condition of the working class? What are its principal functions in the development of the capitalist system?

Wind Power for Cutting Peat

Consul Maxwell Blake of Dunfermline describes a highly successful windmill installation in Scotland for power purposes.

As mineral and the various other natural fuel reservoirs diminish or increase in value, the utilization of wind as a generating power is bound to receive more consideration with reference to a wider practical and industrial application. In fact, one may already observe such a condition adumbrated in this consular district at the present moment where a windmill is now being operated for the cutting of peat.

In certain localities in the north of this district a considerable industry has recently grown out of the manufacture of moss litter. The yield which may be said to be abundant, if not inexhaustible, is cut and gathered in trucks rolling over portable rails extending from different parts of the field to a common terminus—the drying racks. Here, to hasten evaporation, the peat is further broken up by machinery, the generating power for which in the instance under review is supplied by a windmill 14 feet in diameter erected to a height of about 25 feet. There is also an auxiliary pump attachment for a forced drainage of the bog, subject to adjustment and regulation.

This mill which has been in successful operation for some time is said to accomplish in less than one hour an amount of work it formerly required four men a day of ten hours each, and owing to the exposed position of its location and the almost continuous wind power prevailing in this country it is rarely, if ever, out of commission.

Although there have been no scientific inquiries so far as is generally known, into the question of the average wind velocity of Scotland, outside of valleys and sheltered spots it is safe to say that at a 25-foot altitude a 10 to 15 mile per hour breeze could reasonably be counted upon almost anywhere in Scotland, providing exposures had been properly selected. Pumping for water supply, root cutting, sawing and intermittent farm work can therefore constantly be depended on, and windmills with electrical transmission might be developed to almost any extent under conditions so invitingly favorable.