

The Farmers Leader

CANTON, S. D.

POPE DEFIES FRANCE

ATTITUDE OF PONTIFF BRINGS ON ALARMING CRISIS.

Government Regards Pope's Decision as Little Less Than a Call to Catholics to Open Rebellion—Prayers Offered for Protection of God.

France now seems to face an alarming religious crisis. Sunday night's reports of the pope's eleventh hour rejection of the government's final offer under which Catholic worship could be continued under the common law turns out to be only too true, and the deadlock now is apparently complete. According to the pontiff's orders declarations under the law of 1881 are not only prohibited, but the parish priests must remain in their churches until driven out by violence. The official confirmation of this communication has created a sensation both in government and Catholic circles.

Cardinal Lecot, archbishop of Bordeaux; Archbishop Germain and others, who already had advised compliance with the law, have hastily instructed that their former advice is null and void, and Sunday in all the churches of Paris bishops and priests, after mass, read the letter from Cardinal Richard, archbishop of Paris, communicating the decision of the holy see to "continue services in the churches, but abstain from any declaration," and Cardinal Richard's own instructions, in view of the order issued by the prefect of the Seine Saturday, not to permit for the present the employment of ceremonial draperies at marriages or funerals.

The church wardens, whose legal existence expires Tuesday, were thanked Sunday from the pulpits of the various churches. Prayers were offered for the protection of God during the coming period of persecution. The government regards the action of the pontiff as little less than a summons of the French Catholics to open rebellion, as rendering the situation exceedingly grave and possibly entailing the most deplorable consequences.

Premier Clemenceau and M. Briand, minister of public worship, were in conference all day Sunday. There is no sign of the government faltering, but it recognizes that it may be forced to resort to extreme measures.

THINKS POLE CAN BE LOCATED.

Peary Delivers a Lecture on His Latest Expedition. Commander Robert E. Peary gave a public lecture in New York Saturday at the museum of national history upon his latest attempt to reach the north pole. He said in the course of it that he was satisfied there is a body of land somewhere about 100 miles northwest of Grantland. His party, he said, found driftwood 100 miles from Grantland in the open Polar sea, which he was convinced could only have come from rivers flowing through land not yet placed on any map.

Commander Peary said also that he believed that if the polar winter, during which he had made his attempt, had been a normal one he would have reached the pole. He thought it could be reached with no greater expense or loss of time than he had experienced in his expedition. With his added knowledge of Arctic conditions, he believed the pole could be reached with sledges, but the explorer should leave land further west than he did, at about Cape Richards and should not proceed straight toward the pole, but toward the northwest and thus take advantage of the natural drift of the ice and currents, which is southwest. He discovered, he said, an unique glacial fringe on the northern coast of Grantland, which he believed to be the origin of the paleocrytic or always frozen ice, which former explorers had thought came from ice massed about the pole.

Sixty Japanese Seamen Drowned. A number of sampans (small harbor boats) belonging to the Japanese cruiser Chitose were caught in a squall at Tokyo Sunday while returning from a trip. A number of the boats were overturned and sixty men were drowned.

Unknown Vessel Wrecked. A message has been received from Seattle stating that an unknown vessel was wrecked off Cape Flattery Sunday.

Sioux City Live Stock Market. Saturday's quotations on the Sioux City live stock market follow: Top steers, \$4.95. Top hogs, \$6.25.

To Restrict Bulgarian Emigration. Owing to the great increase of immigration from Bulgaria to the United States the government has introduced into the senate an amendment to the passport law with the object of restricting the exodus.

Held for Murder, Trice Suicide. William Cook, of Three Bend, Ind., alleged confessed murderer of John Perkins, made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide in his cell Thursday night.

Fireman Killed in Wreck. In a collision at Pittsburg, Kan., Sunday between a Missouri Pacific train northbound and a Frisco stock special at the crossing of the two roads, Thomas F. Freeman, of Nevada, fireman of the passenger train, was killed. Engineer Albert Page, of the passenger train, also of Nevada, and Mrs. Anna Steel, of Erie, Colo., were injured.

Chockey "Billy" Williams Dead. Chockey "Billy" Williams, the famous aged turfman, died at the St. Charles hotel in New Orleans Sunday night.

JOINS OIL CRUSADE.

Gotham Finds Bad Looking Contract with Gas Company.

A contract made by the Consolidated Gas company, of New York, with the Standard Oil company, calling for the delivery of 255,000 gallons of oil to the gas company at 4.8 cents a gallon, has been found by Assistant Corporation Counsel Burr, who has been investigating the cost of manufacturing in New York. The price named in the contract is said to be 1 cent per gallon more than is paid to the Standard Oil company by any other corporation. Mr. Burr said that the difference in the cost of oil of 1 cent per gallon means a difference of 5 cents on every 1,000 cubic feet of gas sold.

Therefore it can be readily understood why the price paid for oil is a very important factor in sustaining the legal rate of 80 cents for gas in New York.

The Consolidated Gas company has pleaded in the gas hearings that it was compelled to buy all its oil from the Standard Oil company, because that was the only oil producing corporation that could supply all the oil needed.

In summing up its cost for producing gas, the Consolidated Gas company included the cost of oil at the quoted rate. Mr. Burr also made public the statement by accountants who were engaged by him to examine the company's books. The statement purports to show that gas, according to the company's books, costs 52.59 cents per 1,000, instead of 74.81 cents, as the company claimed.

He also finds, he says, that William Rockefeller, James Stillman and other wealthy men are directors in both the Consolidated Gas company and the Standard Oil company.

John A. Garver, of counsel for the Consolidated Gas company, said: "The figures were not 1 cent a gallon over what was paid by other companies. On the contrary, the price was less than many companies were paying in the city of New York."

NEGRO STARTS BATTLE.

Two Persons Killed and Two Wounded in Mississippi. The church wardens, whose legal existence expires Tuesday, were thanked Sunday from the pulpits of the various churches. Prayers were offered for the protection of God during the coming period of persecution.

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RUEF IS DEFIANT.

"Boss" Refuses to Rise for Arraignment.

On five charges of extortion filed against each of them by the grand jury Mayor Eugene Schmitz and Abraham Ruef, of San Francisco, were Thursday arraigned in Superior Judge Dunne's court. At the urgent request of counsel for the defense the case was continued until next Monday for the purpose of giving the accused further time in which to plead.

A dramatic scene was presented in the court room as Mayor Schmitz and Mr. Ruef appeared before the bar.

"Number 203. Eugene E. Schmitz and Abraham Ruef for arraignment," Judge Dunne announced as he took his seat on the bench.

Breathless silence fell on the audience as the mayor arose and faced the clerk. He listened attentively as the formal indictment was read in monotonous monotone. Ruef declined to rise until the third indictment was read and then only after he had been commanded to do so by the judge.

Mayor Schmitz arose promptly when the reading of the first indictment began. Francis J. Heney, the assistant district attorney, called the attention of the court to the fact that only one of the defendants was standing, but Attorney Henry Cox, appearing for Ruef, and Attorney John Farret, appearing for Schmitz, protested that it was not necessary for the defendants to stand. Ruef made no attempt to rise and Judge Dunne did not compel him to leave his chair.

When the formality of reading the first indictment was over the mayor sat down and one of his attorneys, Frank Drew, asked for a continuance until Monday. Judge Dunne stated that it had been the understanding at the last calling of the case that the defendants would make answer Thursday. The motion for a continuance was denied and Judge Dunne directed that arraignment under the other indictments should proceed.

HAS GILLETTE CONFESSED?

Rumor that He Was Overheard to Admit His Guilt. A dispatch from Herkimer, N. Y., says: Chester E. Gillette was not sentenced Thursday. At the appointed hour he was taken into court, but his counsel had been unable to prepare in the brief time at his disposal for motion for a new trial, which they desire to enter before sentence is passed.

The court on this showing postponed proceedings until next Monday. District Attorney Ward made no objection. "But I want it understood," he added, "there will be another postponement."

There are and have been for some time all kinds of rumors that Gillette has been overheard to make some kind of a confession that he killed Grace Brown. Some of these stories are that jail officials heard him confess to his lawyers; others that he told a visitor who called on him that he had struck the girl and that the visitor told the district attorney. No body connected with the case in any manner will confirm any of these stories.

District Attorney Ward Thursday refused to confirm or deny the report that Gillette was overheard to make a confession to his attorney that he struck Grace Brown at Big Moose lake.

EXPLOSION IN SHOE FACTORY.

Bursting of Bolders Causes Half Million Loss. The boilers of the P. J. Harney Shoe company at Lynn, Mass., blew up Thursday morning, and at least twelve people were injured.

The explosion, besides shattering Harney's four-story factory, wrecked many buildings near by in the crowded manufacturing district. A heavy southeast gale was blowing, driving the flames with rapidity until within a brief space the flames were far beyond the control of the local fire department, and help was called from Boston. In an hour's time two acres in the West Lynn district had been burned over, ruining more than half a dozen large business firms, mostly shoe manufacturers, and destroying twelve dwellings on Charles street occupied mostly by colored people.

The financial loss is about \$500,000. That there was no loss of life is attributed to the fact that the explosion occurred just before the time for the factory operatives to begin work. It is believed all the injured will recover.

Priest Falls from Train; Badly Hurt. The Rev. J. B. Hater, Catholic priest at Greenville, S. C., was perhaps fatally injured getting off a train Thursday night and laid unconscious in a drenching rain all night.

Spill Revolt in Ecuador. A wide spread conspiracy against the government of Ecuador has been discovered at Guayaquil, and several arrests have been made.

Coldest of the winter. Friday was the coldest of the winter at St. Paul, Minn., the mercury registering 11 below zero. At Winnipeg the mercury dropped to 28 below.

Stoned to Death as Witch. A letter received at Phoenix, Ariz., Thursday reports the stoning to death of an Apache squaw by the tribesmen, one mile from Fort Apache on Nov. 28. The natives charged her with being a witch.

Citizens Seize Coal. The citizens of Latham and Attantia, Kan., who are facing a coal famine, stopped a through freight train on the St. Louis and San Francisco and took two cars of coal at each town.

Up to Justice Brewer. Gov. Folk of Missouri announced that he will not give Aggie Myers, convicted of murdering her husband in Kansas City, any further stay of execution unless Justice Brewer, of the United States supreme court, asks for further time in the case.

Dr. Laponi's Condition Worse. Dr. Laponi, of Rome, physician to the pope, who has been seriously ill for some time, is growing worse. Prof. Murri Thursday confirmed Dr. Laponi's diagnosis of cancer of the stomach.

WEEK'S HAPPENINGS

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN A CONDENSED FORM.

Authorities Stop Wedding—Had Heard Threat of Groom, Who is a Half-Blood Indian, to Desert the Bride—Other State News.

After a marriage license had been partially made out the county authorities of Minnehaha county stepped in and prevented the wedding. Joseph Vollin, a mixed blood Indian, and Miss Maggie Galbraith, of Dell Rapids.

Vollin was arrested a few days ago and lodged in the jail on a charge of abduction. He had been making reparations for ruining her and was ready to marry the girl, but it came to the attention of the county authorities that Vollin had stated that if forced to marry the girl he would desert her as soon as the marriage ceremony was performed, and the marriage accordingly was prevented.

Just what will be done in the matter has not yet been decided. The girl met Vollin last summer while he was temporarily in the county jail, and she fell in love with him because a dog belonging to Potter bit him when he went upon the Potter premises in search of a scap shovel. The case was originally instituted before a justice of the peace in Mitchell, but the defendant took a change of venue to the court of another justice and demanded a jury trial, which was held. This resulted in the jury returning a verdict awarding \$200 damages to the plaintiff. The plaintiff instituted the suit for the purpose of recovering the damages from Potter because a dog belonging to Potter bit him when he went upon the Potter premises in search of a scap shovel. The case was originally instituted before a justice of the peace in Mitchell, but the defendant took a change of venue to the court of another justice and demanded a jury trial, which was held. This resulted in the jury returning a verdict awarding \$200 damages to the plaintiff. The plaintiff instituted the suit for the purpose of recovering the damages from Potter because a dog belonging to Potter bit him when he went upon the Potter premises in search of a scap shovel. The case was originally instituted before a justice of the peace in Mitchell, but the defendant took a change of venue to the court of another justice and demanded a jury trial, which was held. This resulted in the jury returning a verdict awarding \$200 damages to the plaintiff. The plaintiff instituted the suit for the purpose of recovering the damages from Potter because a dog belonging to Potter bit him when he went upon the Potter premises in search of a scap shovel.

AT LAW OVER DOG'S BITE.

Extensive Litigation Over Small Case in Charles Mix County. A dog bite has caused a lawsuit in the courts of Charles Mix county, which before it finally is adjusted, doubtless will reach the state supreme court. The suit is entitled *Potter vs. Sutt*. The plaintiff instituted the suit for the purpose of recovering the damages from Potter because a dog belonging to Potter bit him when he went upon the Potter premises in search of a scap shovel. The case was originally instituted before a justice of the peace in Mitchell, but the defendant took a change of venue to the court of another justice and demanded a jury trial, which was held. This resulted in the jury returning a verdict awarding \$200 damages to the plaintiff. The plaintiff instituted the suit for the purpose of recovering the damages from Potter because a dog belonging to Potter bit him when he went upon the Potter premises in search of a scap shovel.

LIQUOR MEN WILL FIGHT.

Temperance People Will Try to Amend Dakota Law. The officers of the state Anti-Saloon league, representatives of the W. C. T. U. and of the prohibition party were in session in Mitchell concerning the amendment to the present state liquor law. It is on this proposition that these three temperance bodies are to operate in conjunction before the legislature this winter.

The bill is designed to give every voter in the county an opportunity to vote on the question whether licenses shall be issued in any town in the county. It is well known that the salient points of the present law are against license, and with the farming element voting on license the promoters of the option bill feel safe in saying the license will be defeated in the greater majority of the counties of the state. The liquor men are making ready to fight the bill when it is presented, and they are confident they can defeat the proposed sweeping reform.

WITH CORN GROWERS.

South Dakota Association Will Hold First Meeting This Month. At Mitchell on Dec. 18, 19 and 20, 1906, the South Dakota Corn Growers' association will hold its first meeting.

Every farmer who is interested in better seed and better crops should be present. Prof. Hume, dean of corn department of the University of Illinois, will have charge of the corn section and explain the business value of the seed. He is authority on corn and farmers should attend and gain information which will put money into their pockets.

Premiums will be offered and the meeting will be beneficial to all who attend. Lectures will be given by men who have made a study of the raising of good crops. It is expected that excursion rates will be given on Tuesday, in which a knife and a meat cleaver played a prominent part. The knife was in the hands of the negro and the cleaver was handled by the Egyptian. The two men were slugging each other vigorously when Mrs. Johnson, wife of the negro, interfered and was struck on the left arm with the cleaver, severing the arteries above the elbow joint and making a serious wound. The negro was badly hacked, but the negro received only a few small gashes. The three participants in the fracas are employed at the Dakota house.

USE A KNIFE AND CLEAVER.

Peacemaker Seriously Hurt in a Fight at Huron. William Johnson, an Egyptian, and Chas. Abraham, an Egyptian, got into an altercation at the Dakota house at Huron Tuesday, in which a knife and a meat cleaver played a prominent part. The knife was in the hands of the negro and the cleaver was handled by the Egyptian. The two men were slugging each other vigorously when Mrs. Johnson, wife of the negro, interfered and was struck on the left arm with the cleaver, severing the arteries above the elbow joint and making a serious wound. The negro was badly hacked, but the negro received only a few small gashes. The three participants in the fracas are employed at the Dakota house.

TO MEET AT MITCHELL.

Call Issued for Convention of Retail Merchants. A. F. Grimm, of Parkston, president, and L. S. Tyler, of Sioux Falls, secretary of the South Dakota Retail Merchants' association, met at Mitchell to arrange for the location of the next convention of the association, with Sioux Falls and Mitchell as candidates for the site.

The officers decided on Mitchell for the convention and the dates set are Jan. 15, 16 and 17. Mr. Tyler expressed the opinion that the attendance next month would be the largest in the history of the association. The work accomplished in the past year has aroused the interest of the business men to the highest degree.

INDIANS LIBERAL GIVERS.

Sioux Women Contribute Large Sums to Support of Church. The Indian women of South Dakota who are members of the Episcopal church, in particular, are shown in a decidedly favorable light by the financial report of the recent annual convention, which has just been made public.

The report shows that during the year the Sioux women of the state contributed to the Episcopal church the aggregate sum of \$5,163.62.

Towns Without Coal.

Ree Heights and Highmore are out of coal and are calling on Miller to help them tide over. This is liable to exhaust the supply there, which is not large, and if the cold weather continues there will probably be more or less suffering.

Prominent Ranchman Drops Dead. Sam Keator, one of the wealthiest and best known residents of the north-east part of the state, is dead from heart disease. Mr. Keator was sitting in his home unlacing his shoes at the time the stroke came.

Home Destroyed by Fire. A disastrous fire broke out Thursday morning at the ranch of C. H. Larson, located a few miles west of Rapid City. While the family were assembled in another room the kitchen took fire, probably from the stove pipe, and before anything could be done to save the contents of the house the entire building was in flames.

Fire Threatens Presho. A dangerous fire started in Sam Powell's tailor shop at Presho. Mrs. M. Patrick, employed in the shop, was badly burned by an explosion of gas, with which she was cleaning cloth.

Hold Court Dec. 18. Judge Boucher has signed an order for a term of state circuit court to be held at Eureka, commencing Dec. 18. It is thought this will be the last term of court to be held at Eureka.

BIG IRRIGATION DITCH.

The Work Near Belle Fourche is Being Pushed.

The newly elected board of directors of the Belle Fourche Water Users' association, which has charge of the water to be carried along the irrigation ditch to the various ranches has just met and organized. By next April water will be furnished to about 8,000 acres of land under the ditch, and in the spring of 1908 the greater part of the large acreage will be served. Work on the big dam at Owl creek has been suspended for the winter owing to the fact that there was so much water and dirt to be moved that it could not be done satisfactorily during the cold weather. The men employed here have merely been transferred to other parts of the enterprise. The big steam shovel has been moved to the large side cut and work on the main canals is being pushed. A great number of farmers who have been awaiting the date of the water delivery before making their plans for the next spring are being pushed. A great number of farmers who have been awaiting the date of the water delivery before making their plans for the next spring are being pushed.

The department of legislative reference has received forty applications for information in regard to bills proposed to be introduced by members at the coming session. The greatest number of inquiries are in regard to primary election laws; followed in order by good roads legislation, and railroads. While in the past road legislation has not received any great amount of attention, the bills introduced in the past two years making the roads in the eastern part of the state almost impassable, has brought out a large amount of discussion on that subject.

For many years South Dakota country roads in their natural state were looked upon as among the best in the country, and changed climatic conditions require a change in road making, and the question will be gone into pretty thoroughly this winter.

FAILED ON CONTRACT.

Mail Job in Black Hills is Abandoned by Man Who Has It. Daniel L. Hartsell, who has had the contract to carry the mail between Deadwood and Roubaux six times weekly, has defaulted on his contract and responsibility of carrying it now rests upon his bondsmen, George Glover, son of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, and Wm. A. Clark. Neither of these men is in the mail carrying business here, and it is not known to whom Hartsell has sublet the contract and the sub-contractor threw it up, leaving Hartsell without means or any other means of carrying the mail. If the bondsmen are not able to carry it, as contracted they will be required to pay the amount of the bond.

The real difficulty in the matter was that the expectation that the passenger and express business would be profitable. The camp of Roubaux, however, has gone down hill and there is not sufficient business to make the running of the hack any object.

SHOPLIFTERS BUSY.

Yankton Merchants Suffer in Rush of Christmas Buying. Yankton merchants and some other towns are having their share of shoplifters during the busy Christmas season. One firm reports the stealing of a bolt of silk, a number of bottles of perfume, etc. Other houses report similar losses. The result is extra precautions have been taken by Yankton merchants, who are now very wide awake to the situation.

Several merchants said there would be no mercy shown the offenders if caught this time, as was extended in the case of the woman and daughter caught back in the spring, whose tears and distress melted the hearts of the storekeepers. Other towns are made except for the purchase of additional land. Farmers to a surprisingly large extent pay cash for machinery and supplies, merchants discount their bills and bankers are at their wits' ends to find a market for their money.

GENERAL PROSPERITY CONTINUES.

The report of the bureau of vital statistics for the month of October shows that there were 215 marriages. The births numbered 765, of which 356 were males and 409 females. There were 338 deaths. Divorces were granted in 46 cases, of which 10 were to actual residents of the state, and the rest outsiders, who came to take advantage of the divorce laws of the state. Naturalization papers were granted to 70 applicants.

State Treasurer Collins has at last located the last of the outstanding state bonds and is in a position to negotiate for everything outstanding. This places him in a position where he can almost certainly carry out his plan of clearing up all of the class of indebtedness before the close of his term.

The Eastern Star officers selected at Pierre for the ensuing year are: W. M., Mrs. I. W. Goodner; W. P., T. M. Taylor; A. M., Mrs. H. E. Cutting; secretary, Mrs. J. W. Laughlin; conductor, Mrs. C. S. Fisher; A. conductor, Miss Kalder.

For the sixth consecutive year the state department of history, through its secretary, Doane Robinson, presents a review of South Dakota's progress and again congratulates the people upon a year of real prosperity, abundant crops and general happiness.

The state board of pardons will meet in Pierre on the 7th of December, to consider any cases which may be brought before them at that meeting.

The Dakotas are peculiarly well situated to secure an accurate determination of the amount of production which they actually supply to the general markets, as all they produce, except sufficient for home consumption, is sold in the markets outside of the state and is carried to those markets by the railroads. For several years the railroads operating in South Dakota have kindly furnished this department with detailed statements of the quantity of each of the principal products of the state which they have carried from stations in South Dakota.

It will be observed that the railroads make no report upon the large quantity of hay, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, wool, hides, butter, poultry, milk, cream, manufactured articles and minerals carried to markets outside of the state. Manifestly it is a moderate claim to place the aggregate of these products sent out at \$15,000,000, so that it is clear that the 485,000 people of South Dakota actually contribute to the markets of the world, after supplying their own consumption, at least \$37,918,856.85 worth of products, chiefly new wealth springing from the fertile soil of the state during the year.



CONDUCTORS AND MOTORMEN'S UNIONS GAINED 4,000 MEMBERS THE LAST TWENTY MONTHS.

As early as 1847 a law was passed in New Hampshire making ten hours a legal day's work.

Of the 43,000 men employed as switchmen the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen controls 23,000.

Stationary engineers in New York City are making a concerted effort to bring about an eight-hour workday.

Montreal (Canada) unionists are preparing to erect the finest labor temple in North America. It will cost \$700,000.

The shorter workday fight of the shoe workers in Chicago, Ill., will be made this winter, preliminary to the spring agreements.

The Toledo (Ohio) City Council will soon introduce an ordinance to compel employers to pay their men in cash instead of checks.

A determined effort is being made to induce fresh life into the National Union of Clerks of England, and propaganda work is in active progress.

The employing sheet metal workers of San Francisco, Cal., have voluntarily increased the pay of their employes from \$5 to \$5.50 a day of eight hours.

The United Textile Workers of America are on record as favoring the continuing of the agitation for shorter hours for workers in the textile trades.

In twenty years plasterers' wages in New York have increased from \$4 to \$5.50 a day, with a reduction in weekly hours from fifty-three to forty-four.

Twenty years ago plumbers in New York City received \$3.50 a day and worked fifty-three hours a week. Now they get \$4.75 and work forty-four hours a week.

Cigar makers' International Union has decided to start out against the Michigan prison authorities for employing convicts at the Marquette prison in the manufacture of cigars.

There are more than 50,000 men engaged in the carriage and wagon-building industries, of whom 5,000 are members of the Carriage and Wagon Builders' Union of North America.

France has been strangely backward in the formation of labor unions, and with a population five times as large as that of New York, has less than one-half as many trade unions.

As a result of being organized into a union, the millmen of Chicago in four years have increased the hours of labor in two, and have obtained a net increase in wages amounting to 25 per cent.

Boston (Mass.) Plumbers' Union, which asked for a 50-cent-a-day increase, accepted a compromise of a raise of 40 cents a day after May 1 next year. This will make the minimum union scale \$4.30 a day.

It has long been admitted that Massachusetts has the lead in the enactment of laws for the protection of labor from long hours, unsanitary conditions, and for the protection of the working man generally.

It is reported that the Postmaster General of Great Britain is inquiring into the conditions of labor employed in making postmen's clothing. He seems determined to put an end to sweating conditions in his department.

An all-around increase of 50 cents a day has been obtained by the Wood Carvers' Union in New York City, and is to remain in force until the middle of 1908. The members work eight hours a day and a half-day on Saturday.

At Las Vegas, N. M., the cow and sheep herders have organized a union, the scale of pay being, \$40 a month and "found" in the sage brush or elsewhere. The sheep herders are arranged in eight-hour shifts with Sundays off.

The thirty-four brotherhood unions and amalgams of labor employed in the Carpenters' District Council of Boston, Mass., and vicinity, will request the Saturday half-holiday all the year round and also 45 cents an hour after May 1 next.

The bureau of labor statistics has compiled some curious figures regarding organized labor in Massachusetts. From them it appears that there are now upward of 8,000,000 wage workers who are active members of unions. More than 2,000,000 live in the United States.

Central Labor Union, at Washington, D. C., has proposed to the various unions making up the American Federation of Labor that a general fund be raised to meet any demand that may arise in the future. The matter has been referred to the unions for consideration.

If the wishes of the railway surgeons of America, as expressed at their annual meeting, are heeded by the railway companies, engineers and firemen experienced in the service will no longer be discharged for defective eyesight, but will be allowed to wear glasses and hold their positions.

For some time a movement has been in progress for an increase in the wages of engineers on the northeast coast of England. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers and the United Machine Workers' Society are jointly making a claim of 2s a week advance on time and 5 per cent on piece-work.

Textile operatives employed on modern machinery to-day will turn off more production on an average eight-hour day than they did twenty-five years ago on a ten-hour day. Nevertheless the hours of labor have been reduced very little for the textile worker in comparison with the increase in speed of the machines they operate.



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