

Effect of Low Wages.

Low wages break down the self respect of the laborer, says The Granite Cutters' Journal. They extinguish the fires of his hope and ambition, causing him to be indifferent to his mental, social and moral development, and reduce him to the low level of making a struggle to keep himself alive. Poverty is an insurmountable obstruction to progress. In this country, where the governing power is in the hands of the laboring classes, such compensation for labor as will cause the man with the ballot in his hands to realize the importance and responsibility of his position and enable him to qualify himself to meet its requirements is an absolute necessity. A blow struck at the wages of the laborer is a menace against the nation's life. Despots, with the aid of great standing armies, may maintain and keep solid their oppressive government where poverty has extinguished the manhood of the oppressed. But here in our country the common man is the highest authority. He should be a manly, intelligent ruler. He must have a chance to earn and receive the wages that will bring to him the necessary culture.

Labor in Japan.

Labor in Japan is organized, and a Japanese appears to pin his faith to the utility of unions and guilds. These are organized, according to United States Consul Connelly, not alone to secure higher wages, but also to protect inferior work. These organizations dictate terms in the payment of labor and also for whom a laborer shall or shall not work. Skilled labor in Japan is so scarce that by means of these unions laborers are able to effect rapid increase in wages more successfully than in any other country. Although the amount paid for labor in Japan is much lower than for the same class of labor in the United States the rates have risen enormously—in many cases as high as 100 per cent—during the past three years and are advancing now as steadily as at any previous time. No control is exercised in the matter of the employment of child labor in Japan, a question upon which American statutes put a strict interpretation. Those in authority, however, are coming to the idea that this point should be regulated by statute and that child labor of all kinds should be abolished.

Chinese Labor Decreasing.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Green of California has completed his investigation regarding the Chinese labor of the state and finds that the number of coolies employed in factories has greatly decreased.

This has been especially noticeable in the overall factories, which employed Chinese almost exclusively a few years ago. At the present time less than 1,050 are working. In shoe factories also white labor is gradually forcing the Chinese out, and where factories employed from 100 to 300 Chinese two or three years ago less than one-fifth of that number are now engaged.

TRADES UNIONS.

Extract From the Address of President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' Union.

Trades unions mark the orderly rise and development of the wealth producing classes through the evolutionary, educational process. Their methods and results stand out in bold relief when contrasted with the revolutionary, erratic methods applied by the reactionary enthusiast. Revolutions may and undoubtedly have checked the degeneracy of nations, but invariably leave the great mass of the people in the same relative economic condition. The great revolution in France may have checked the degeneracy of the reigning government; otherwise it in no way improved the economic condition of the masses. On the other hand, the organization of the producers in trades unions in England not only had the effect of checking the degenerate tendency of the government, but it ameliorated the economic condition of the toilers as well. In the first instance oceans of blood were shed and myriads of precious human lives were sacrificed on the altar of patriotism with no resultant improvement in the economic condition of the masses, while in the second instance not a drop of blood nor a life was sacrificed, and nevertheless great benefits accrued to the workers in increased wages and improved factory and general working conditions.

The foregoing instance illustrate the orderly development of the working class movement along the lines of the least resistance, the least cost, the smallest sacrifice and the greatest resultant benefits.

Trades unions are the natural and logical refuge of the producing classes. They lead straight to the fulfillment of labor's hopes and anticipations. It has been truthfully said that the permanent prosperity and high development of any nation depend upon the economic well being of the great mass of its citizens. History and our own experience clearly indicate that this can best be accomplished through the trades union movement. The producing capacity of any country is developed just in proportion to the ability of the masses to consume. I know of no means better calculated to make consumers of a nation's hosts than for its people to unite in trades unions and through their agency unitedly secure more and more, until they obtain all that which they create. This result will inevitably follow the complete union of labor and harmonious working in unison, with one common purpose in view. This indisputable economic fact was recognized by the founders of the trades union movement and furnishes a part of the foundation upon which are grounded the hopes and expectations of its present adherents. Little authentic knowledge is obtainable of the early struggles, the privations, the ceaseless, unrewarded toil of the masses, who until a comparatively short time ago were looked upon as mere beasts of burden and treated as such, but to the analytical mind, or even to the casual observer who reflects upon the accumulation of

great wealth in the hands of a few who are dissipating at the expense of the life's blood of innocent children, defenseless women and poverty stricken men, who toil for a pittance while the favored few may reap the harvest and revel in licentious luxury, it requires no great stretch of the imagination to depict the condition of the toiler of the early ages. As long as these conditions prevail it is the duty of intelligent men, of thoughtful, honest men, to encourage the development of trades unions, the great levelers of social and economic inequalities, the historical, practical and logical means by which labor is enabled to achieve more and more and finally all of the just fruits of its honest toil, and, if necessary, fight for their maintenance.—G. W. Perkins, International President.

The Great French Strike.

A telegram from Albi, France, dated Oct. 25, says:

Great festivities attended the opening today of the co-operative glass factory which has been put up by the former strikers of the Carmaux glass works.

The strike, which grew out of the discharge of a member of the Glass Workers' trade union last year, was transformed into a lockout when the men offered to return to work. Efforts were made to induce the French ministry to intervene in the dispute and secure justice for the workingmen. The Paris municipal council voted large sums of money to support the strikers, and many other municipalities all over the country followed suit.

M. Landrin of the Paris municipal council at today's ceremony saluted the workers in the name of Paris. M. Henri Rochefort delivered a speech, and with M. Jaures, the Radical Socialist deputy for Carmaux, who was prominently identified with the championship of the cause of the strikers, lit the furnaces.

At an open air meeting M. Jaures declared that the present movement had founded a social revolution and marked the downfall of capitalism.

Give the Idle Employment.

If we could have our way, there should not be an able-bodied idle man in this country.

A million men could be easily employed today at fair wages on needed public improvements, and there is plenty of money to pay them, only it is not rightly divided.

Let no man be permitted to hold over \$1,000,000 and see what power the extra millions would give to furnish work to all who need it.—George T. Angell.

Italian Immigration.

Herman Stump, United States commissioner of emigration, who has gone to Rome under instructions from Secretary Carlisle, will "consult with the secretary of the interior of the kingdom of Italy in relation to the emigration of Italians to the United States." He is also directed to appear in person before the Italian parliament and to hurry back here before congress meets so as to report the result of his mission in Italy.