

COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD.

His Report on the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Various Amendments to the Laws Recommended in the Interest of Labor.

The seventh biennial report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, now on file at the office of the State Board of Examiners, is an interesting, though voluminous resume of the work done by the bureau during the past two years. As an introduction to his report, Commissioner E. L. Fitzgerald says: "It will be seen that for thirteen years since the passage of the Act creating the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the department has been maintained only for the purpose of collecting data relative to the condition of labor and the industries of the State without having been placed in the position of treating these conditions practically, but from a more theoretical standpoint; and without reflecting upon the efficient work of my predecessors, I am free to say that a department created solely for the collecting of statistics in this or any other State, restricted to a small appropriation with which to maintain headquarters, pay salaries and traveling expenses incident to investigations, is a useless and extravagant waste of public funds, by reason of the fact that to achieve any success in this work a staff of efficient agents, with sufficient funds to accomplish the work is absolutely essential. Otherwise, information is taken second-hand from different reports and bulletins of the United States Census Department. Under the circumstances I would have but two suggestions to make: Either abolish such a department or equip it with sufficient funds to accomplish the work."

AIMS OF THE BUREAU. These conditions, the report relates, confronted the Commissioner when he took charge of the office, and he determined to transform it into a department of practical usefulness by the inauguration of first, a free employment system; second, a bureau of labor in the sense that it would be maintained for the purpose of rendering assistance to labor in advising in case of grievance, taking up all conditions to which labor is subjected and aiding and advising in every way for the benefit of the working classes; and third, the prosecution of the work as required by law in the collection of statistics, and reporting the industrial and laboring conditions of the State.

FREE EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM. The adoption of the free employment system has resulted in the greatest success, the report relates, and under the appropriation of \$4,500 allowed for all purposes, 5,900 people have been furnished with work free of charge, with an estimated saving to them of \$15,000. The work was carried on under adverse circumstances, until a number of gentlemen showed their appreciation of the work by raising a subscription of \$1,000 to be used toward increasing the facilities of the bureau. The work has received assistance and encouragement from the press throughout the State, and the Commissioner states that without the aid of that powerful agent his efforts would have proved ineffectual.

BUREAU OF LABOR. In regard to the Bureau of Labor, it has been the aim of the Commissioner to open the doors of the department to the laboring people as a bureau of information and advice, and the result has been gratifying.

Advice has been given as to the collection of unpaid wages, violation of labor laws, etc., and a communication was sent to all the labor unions in the State in relation to the same. As a result, the commission enjoys a close business friendship with the unions throughout the State.

INSPECTIONS. The Commissioner has spent a great deal of time in inspecting different branches of labor throughout the State, and as a result reports that in the matter of the collection of wages, assistance has been rendered in 1,042 cases, to the extent of \$33,724 saving to the working people.

Other branches examined into and reported upon are the inspection of tenement, showing the difficulties under which labor is obliged to exist; convict labor, and its effects upon the free institutions of this and other States; the Japanese question and the investigations into the inroads made by them; the industries of the State as a whole and by counties, showing production and wealth of the State; the mining industry, showing the number employed, the output and general conditions, and a report upon the subject of incorporations.

A report upon trades unions, with a history of the organizations from their incipency to the present time, is a feature of the report, and one which will be read with interest by all classes of people, as well as a history of the strikes and lockouts that have occurred in the State for the past thirty years and the conditions which led up to them.

SWEAT SHOPS. The subject of sweat shops has also received considerable attention, and a thorough investigation of the system has shown that although there are many places in the State where operatives are required to work unreasonable hours at very inferior pay, the sweat shop, as known in the East, does not exist in San Francisco, although investigations have developed conditions in manufactories of cheap articles where the sweating process is approached very closely. No places, however, have been found where operatives both live and work.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, the commission has expended for all purposes \$10,949.80.

RECOMMENDATIONS. The Commissioner makes recommendations as follows: First—That while Section 3245 of the Political Code provides that eight hours shall be a day's work, the statute is not definite, and is capable of circumvention by contractors who pay by the hour, and is therefore, in many instances, inoperative and requires an amendment to render its enforcement effective.

Second—That a uniform law be enacted requiring cleanliness in bakeries and insure purity in the manufacture of bread.

Third—That a law be enacted prohibiting Boards of Supervisors, etc., from awarding contracts to persons who have previously defrauded laborers of their wages.

Fourth—To oblige all contractors on public works to give bonds for protection of laborers and insuring payment of wages to the same.

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Fifth—To re-establish the bureau as a Bureau of Labor, provide for free employment offices, and to introduce provisions facilitating the work where the present law is defective and inoperative.

Sixth—To place persons who traffic in labor under uniform regulations, to protect persons dealing with them and to make said agents amenable to law for the penalties they have so long practiced.

Seventh—Creating a minimum price which laborers must be paid, insuring a livelihood and protecting honest employers against unscrupulous competitors.

Eighth—To establish uniform hours for persons engaged in bakeries, and necessitate sanitary regulations.

Ninth—To abolish the system now in vogue throughout the State of depriving laborers of their pay for unreasonable periods; to prevent the desperate conditions to which laborers are forced through its operation—one of the greatest evils, requiring proper legislation and enforcement.

Tenth—Requiring the branding of all goods made in the penal institutions of the State, to distinguish the same from the product of free labor.

Eleventh—To allow the person who otherwise cannot collect money due for labor performed to sue for it in Justice's Courts without advancing costs of suit.

Twelfth—To prohibit employers from contracting with employment agents to furnish labor and dividing commissions paid by the latter.

Thirteenth—To prohibit the employment of other than citizens of the United States upon public works.

Fourteenth—To provide a reasonable time for the midday meal, obviating the evil of labor in retail establishments being forced to visit lunch counters and saloons for want of time.

Fifteenth—To provide for the proper conducting of boiler inspection as a safeguard to life and property.

Sixteenth—To avoid delay in payment of wages due when persons are discharged from service.

Seventeenth—To prevent an embargo upon labor when discharged for alleged causes, resulting in its inability to obtain other employment.

Eighteenth—Providing for the costs in actions for the price of labor or services in different courts.

AMUSEMENTS. At the Clunie Opera-house this evening for the last time the romantic play "The Burglar," in which little Mildred will appear for the last time as Editha, who wins the burglar to "burglar" silently. Sixteen orders for portraits are given away to-night.

"Little Lord Fauntleroy" is in rehearsal at the Clunie Opera-house. When presented in "Little Mildred" will be the precocious "boy" of the play. The piece will be put on next week.

Another child is to astonish us at the opera-house. Beginning to-morrow night little Gerie Cochran, called the Child Mental Wonder, is to appear. She is a wee bit of a girl who can neither read nor write, but appears to be possessed of marvelous powers, answering almost any question that can be asked regarding Biblical writings, American, English and European and historical and political questions. During her engagement of a week the stock company will appear in the "Crushed Tragedian." Gerie has made a great hit at the Orpheum, San Francisco. Her powers are all due to a marvelous memory. Whatever she is told, whether repeated in her hearing, whatever is read to her plainly and simply she can recall in an instant no matter how long after the communication nor how intricate in dates, names and figures. It is said that this little girl began to talk when she was but seven months old.

The ladies of the Auxiliary Museum Association are getting on finely with the two nights' art entertainment for Thursday and Friday evenings next at the Art Gallery, in aid of the School of Design. They are having the kindly and valuable assistance of the Saturday Club. There will be a wonderful art poster display, the collection already exceeding expectation. The ladies yesterday received a loan also that will greatly add to the variety and beauty of the exhibition, namely, a rich, indeed a gorgeous collection of the art illuminated calendars and holiday cards, plaques and panels. One of the committee was in San Francisco yesterday also, making arrangements for still further features of interest for the coming entertainment.

Last night word was received from San Francisco that Edward Bosqui of the Art Association has consented to the exhibition of his entire costly collection of artistic Parisian posters collected by him at great expense and valued especially because it is the work of the most famous European artists, designers and illustrators. He has never permitted the collection to go out of his possession save for an art association exhibition at the Bohemian Club.

Manager Todd of the Metropolitan Theater requests that members of the Saturday Club who have subscribed to the Fannie Bloomfield-Zeisler piano recital, to be given Wednesday night, call at the box office as early as possible to-morrow morning and select their seats for the occasion.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

The widow serves excellent meals at 510 J street. Board there.

New Model Bakery, 722 J. Cream bread, wedding and fancy cakes a specialty. Prescriptions reliably compounded at Green's new drug store, corner Seventh and K. Golden Eagle Hotel block.

Digenbrock & Co.'s new cigar store has removed to 818 K street, opposite Hale Bros.

EXPERTS' BRIDGE REPORT.

Mr. Stoddard Favors the Plans of Darby Laydon & Co.

On His Recommendation They Get the Contract for the Steel Bridge at McConnell's.

The Board of Supervisors met in adjourned session yesterday morning in relation to the construction of the steel bridge over the Cosumnes River near McConnell's station.

The bids which were opened last week and referred to the Contract Committee with power to engage the services of a bridge expert to pass on the plans and specifications, were taken up.

Expert Stoddard presented his report, which was received on motion of Jenkins and placed on file. It stated that after a careful examination of all the plans he thought of considering all the points in them, that offered by Darby Laydon & Co. was the best for the county and while not the lowest bid, he would advise that the contract be awarded to the firm.

Todd thought the board should act in accordance with the report, and on motion of Jenkins, seconded by Curtis and Todd, the contract was unanimously awarded to Laydon & Co.

In his report Mr. Stoddard said he found the plans submitted as a whole much more acceptable than those previously submitted for the bridge, and seemed to have been drawn with a great deal of care and evident desire to give the county a good structure. Some of the designs were superior in one respect and some in another, but he considered Laydon & Co.'s on the whole the best for the county, and will, if put in accordance with the specifications, form a good and lasting structure.

He suggested some slight changes in the specifications, in order to strengthen certain portions, the bridge being to sustain a twenty-five-ton roller. He also speaks of the necessity of extra care in the pier construction and recommends that no coarse rock be allowed in the concrete filling for piers.

Jenkins said that the guides for the channel where the piers were driven last year at ex-Senator Johnston's place were washed out during the high water last winter and the steamboat men had asked that they be put in again.

He was instructed to have them replaced when the pile driver came back down the river.

He also stated that there was a dangerous place at Shiner's where the river is encroaching on the road and was liable to wash it out during the coming winter. He was asked to investigate the matter further.

Jenkins said that the Gilmore bridge, this side of Elk Grove, had fallen down and he had been forced to have it repaired immediately by A. Leimbach, as there was no way for the travel to get around it. His action was ratified by the board.

Morrison said that the Grand Jury had called the members of the board together and presented figures to them that indicated the prisoners in the County Jail could be fed cheaper than at present. He did not think they could be fed as cheaply as the jury did under present circumstances.

He would move that hereafter the board allow the Sheriff 8 cents a meal for each prisoner, those working on the rock pile to have three meals a day and those not working to have two.

The motion was carried unanimously. This will make the cost of feeding each prisoner much less than in any other county of the State except San Francisco, the cost in this county having already been the lowest of any, with that exception.

The board then adjourned till 10 a. m. on the 18th, when it will meet to open bids on a variety of matters.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Under this heading the "Record-Union" will publish short letters from correspondents on topics of interest to the general public. The matter in these communications will be understood, reported in the views of the writers. All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not for publication unless so desired, but as a guarantee of good faith.—Eds.

The Newsboys. Eds. "Record-Union": What an astonishing activity is displayed at the Sacramento railroad depot when the trains from California's metropolis come steaming and snorting across the Sacramento and Yolo bridge—and all occasioned by the newsboys who ply their vocation of distributing and selling papers for the profit to be derived therefrom. The arrival of the Atlantic express, or as it is more familiarly termed, train No. 1, due here at 11:20 a. m., is the cause of most of this burst of confusion, presumably for the reason that this hour of the day is more suitable than any other for the transaction of their business. The boys are gathered in or about the depot, when a long whistle signals the approach of No. 1. "Here she comes!" they shout, as if in one breath, and the next moment the ponderous locomotive rushes into the depot, and finally, through the energies of the air brakes, comes to a dead stop.

Then is the scene of the wildest commotion. Each boy is eager to be the first purchaser in order to be the first in the market, as it were, and as the papers are distributed the race for supremacy has begun. And here is where the odds against some of the lads are observed. All are looking to one common end, and that is to reach J and K streets, the hotels and Postoffice first, and it is actually painful to witness mere tots valiantly struggling in the anxiety to compete with their larger, stronger and healthier brothers. One often feels, were he blessed with an abundance of "these worldly goods," he would buy out the youngster's stock in trade that the proceeds may be immediately placed where it is intended—possibly to lighten the heart of some fond and anxious mother, who is largely dependent upon the efforts and energies of her dutiful son. Each boy has his familiar route, and being a man of business, he uses discretion in the amount seldom falls to dispose of his entire stock.

We often hear of the tattered newsboy on the famous Bowers, and although his conditions are not exaggerated, it can hardly be said his features are more pitiable than those worn by some of our honest, gentlemanly, but unfortunate lads, who, through pressure of circumstances, are compelled to follow a calling consistent with their conditions. Such ambition deserves success, and none would

more worthy of a rise from poverty to affluence than the industrious Sacramento newsboy, whose cares are many but whose ambition is ceaseless. H. B. Nov. 14, 1896.

CHURCH SERVICES TO-DAY.

(At 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m., except otherwise stated.) Presbyterian, Westminster, Sixth and L streets. Presbyterian—Fourth, O and P; Sunday-school, 12:15. Methodist (South)—Seventh, J and K; Sunday-school, 12:30. Methodist (A. M. E.)—Seventh, G and H. (Revival). Methodist—Sixth, K and L streets. Methodist—Central, Eleventh, H and I; Sunday-school, 12:15. Scandinavian Methodist—Pythian Castle, Ninth and I. United Brethren—Fourth and K; Sunday-school, 9:45. Baptist, First—Ninth, L and M; Sunday-school, 12:15. Baptist, Calvary—L, Twelfth and Thirteenth; Sunday-school, 9:45. Baptist, Emmanuel—Twenty-fifth and N; Sunday-school, 12:15. Baptist, Mount Zion—Sixth and P; Sunday-school, 12:30. Baptist, Oak Park—Cypress and Thirty-third, 11 and 8. Christian, First—Ninth and I; Sunday-school, 10. German Evangelical—Tenth, O and P; Sunday-school, 10. Lutheran, English—Sixteenth, J and K; Sunday-school, 9:45 a. m. Lutheran, German—Twelfth and J. Episcopal, St. Paul's—Eleventh, I and J. S. P. school, 9:45. Congregational, Sixth, I and J. Catholic, St. Francis—Twenty-sixth and K, 6, 8, 10, 30; Sunday-school, 2:30. Catholic, Cathedral—Eleventh, J and K, 6, 8, 10, 30 and 7:30. Latter-Day Saints—Pythian Castle. Latter-Day Saints, Reorganized—Twenty-fourth and K. Adventist—1816 G, services 7 o'clock.

Articles of Incorporation.

The following articles of incorporation have been filed in the office of the Secretary of State: Condee-Merrill Commercial Company. Formed to do a general commercial and commission business. Principal place of business, Los Angeles. Directors—Samuel Merrill, C. H. Condee, J. H. Merrill, Los Angeles; A. J. Condee, R. A. Condee, Elvertside. Capital stock, \$30,000, all subscribed. California Petroleum Company. Formed to produce and sell oils. Principal place of business, Oakland. Directors—R. C. McPherson, F. P. Deering, Wm. G. Henshaw, Oakland; George D. Metcalf, Berkeley. Capital stock, \$100,000, of which \$10,000 is subscribed. Randolph Gold Grand Mining Company. Principal place of business, Grass Valley, Nevada County. Directors—John Glasson, John R. Thomas, George Griffin, Albert Horrell and Richard Eddy, all of Grass Valley. Capital stock, \$20,000, all subscribed. Livermore Natural Oil and Gas Company. Formed to conduct a real estate business, bore for oil, etc. Principal place of business, Livermore, Alameda County. Directors—Valentine Alviso, George Beck, N. D. Dutcher, W. R. Ellis and George W. Haugan, all of Livermore. Capital stock, \$20,000, of which \$2,000 have been subscribed. Pacific Congress Springs Company. Formed to maintain and conduct a hotel business. Principal place of business, Congress Springs, near Saratoga. Directors—J. F. Pfetich, Saratoga; A. L. Crane, George O. Watkins, W. H. Bull and E. E. Keesling, San Francisco. Capital stock, \$50,000; subscribed stock, \$20,200.

Wants a Change of Venue.

W. S. Odle has filed in the Superior Court his petition for a change of venue to Los Angeles County in the suit of M. E. Odle against him for divorce, on the ground that he was a resident of that county at the time the suit was begun, and therefore the suit should be tried there.

Filed His Answer. A. E. Alexander has filed in the Superior Court his answer to the cross complaint of Rosa R. Alexander. He denies that he ever deserted her; that he is earning any more than is required to support him, and claims that on June 29th all property matters were adjusted by them and he paid her \$2,500.

MARRIED. MATTSON-MEINTREY—In this city, November 5th, by Rev. Father Walsh, Henry E. Mattson of Bakerfield to Mary L. McIntrey of Sacramento.

THOMAS-MADE—In San Francisco, October 23d, in St. Mary's Cathedral, by the Rev. Father Wyman, Bissell Thomas to Miss Anna McCabe, both of Sacramento.

DIED. FLUMER—At Mayhew's Station, Sacramento County, Cal., November 12th, James E. husband of Josephine Flumer (father of Florence, Edgar, Joseph and Isabel Flumer, a native of Jackson, Amador County, Cal., aged 39 years and two months. K streets, the hotels and Postoffice first, and it is actually painful to witness mere tots valiantly struggling in the anxiety to compete with their larger, stronger and healthier brothers. One often feels, were he blessed with an abundance of "these worldly goods," he would buy out the youngster's stock in trade that the proceeds may be immediately placed where it is intended—possibly to lighten the heart of some fond and anxious mother, who is largely dependent upon the efforts and energies of her dutiful son. Each boy has his familiar route, and being a man of business, he uses discretion in the amount seldom falls to dispose of his entire stock.

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Just Arrived, Large Assortment of PARKER, L. C. Smith and Le Fevere SHOTGUNS. W. H. ECKHARDT, - - 609-611 K Street.

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WHOLESALE LIQUORS. EBNER BROS. COMPANY, 116-118 K Street, Front and Second, Sacramento. IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS in Wines and Liquors. Tel. 364. M. CRONAN, 280 K St. and 1108-1110 Third St., Sacramento, Cal. IMPORTER AND WHOLESALE DEALER in Fine Whiskies and Brandy. HUGH CASEY Importer and Wholesale Dealer in Foreign and Domestic Wines and Liquors. Proprietor of Eagle Soda Works, 218 K Street, Sacramento. Joe Pohem THE TAILOR. Has just imported the correct styles for the season of 1896-7. Up-to-date designs in Cheviots, Cassimeres, Scotch Tweeds, in pretty colorings, etc., which you can have made up first-class at a saving of 25 per cent. less than any other house. Perfect fit and the best of workmanship guaranteed. The Largest Tailoring Establishment in Sacramento. 603-605 K Street. NO BETTER DRINK For Cold Weather than Ruhstaller's Brown Stout Porter. Equal to the finest imported article. On draught everywhere. Made in Sacramento. Ladies Who Value A refined complexion must use Poiron's Powder. It produces a soft and beautiful skin.