ENGLAND'S SOAP TRUST.

A Newspaper Campaign in Place of Government Regulation.

London, October 24.

One of the fallacies on the Free Trade slate has been sponged off with a combination brand of soap. This is the cherished delusion that trusts are created by and dependent upon tariffs, and consequently are impossible in Cobden's England. Trusts have been fought so strenuously in America by legislation and in the courts that some of the most important of them are seeking for a foreign base of organization; in Germany systematic use has been made of them for regulating production and prices and for enlarging the export trade by dumping operations; and in the United Kingdom there have been combinations in one industry after another, and goods have been sold for export below the market prices, and credulous Free Traders have deliberately closed their eyes and asserted that such things could be done only in Protection countries. The Soap Trust formed by a Liberal member of Parliament has been followed by a sunburst of publicity. Whether yellowish newspapers have been frightened by the menace of losing from $1,000,000 to $2,500,000 in advertising, or the average Briton has been convinced that his daily tub bath will be ineffective with soap of light weight, the truth at last is blurted out. Trusts are possible in Free Trade England! The same causes which lead to concentration of capital and combination of interests in America and in Germany have also operated in the United Kingdom without a Protective tariff. There is no legislation for fighting them as there is in America. There is only the halfpenny newspaper to take up the cause of the great unwashed and to warn sleepy John Bull that bread and meat trusts may come next.

The soapmakers themselves are astonished, or profess to be, that newspapers of any tinge should concern themselves in so simple a matter. They assert that they have merely formed a working agreement—a little amalgamation for controlling about 80 per cent of the product; and they have done this not for the purpose of putting up prices, but in order to cheapen them by effecting large reductions in the carriage and distribution of goods, in the expenses of commercial travellers and agents, and especially in competitive advertising. Mr. Lever, who carried one of the Cheshire divisions at the last general election as a consistent Free Trader and a strenuous opponent of Mr. Chamberlain's tariff proposals, cannot understand why there should be any foolish talk about a trust. He reiterates the timeworn formula that there cannot be anything but unrestricted competition in a country where there is no tariff; but he is promptly met with the open charge that he is establishing a one-man monopoly to corner raw material and crush the producing firms which he is unable to buy out. The minority, reinforced by the Grocers' Federation, has declared war upon the trust and is already accusing it of tampering with weights and selling fifteen ounces for a pound and eleven for twelve ounces. Meanwhile, the combination, with its $60,000,000 of capital, has mapped out the kingdom into districts, to be worked and controlled by leading members, and has arranged a basis for the development of the export trade. For thirty years there has been a powerful association of manufacturers which has regulated weights and prices. It now becomes a profit sharing amalgamation, or trust, by which economies can be effected, competition on ruinous terms prevented and the services of a large body of middlemen and agents dispensed with.

The formation of this trust is not by any means an exceptional event. It is not more remarkable than the steel tube combination, consisting of sixty firms in England, Scotland and Wales, which has been brought about after protracted negotiations. That is an arrangement for reducing discounts to a uniform basis, regulating prices for export and the home market, putting an end to rate cutting, and harmonizing interests generally. Free competition is to be allowed in boiler tubes, but that is because there is a large firm outside the combination, which is to be disciplined and forced to join it.

There are scores of similar pools for regulating production, prices and distribution in the cotton, woollen, iron and steel, oilcake and other industries. In some instances the owners of plants have bought out one another and formed a new limited company, with a fresh issue of stock; but oftener there is a hard and fast agreement by which production is systematized at fixed prices and the business controlled by a group of the largest manufacturers. Free imports have been as powerless as a tariff in a Protection country for preventing concentration of capital and combinations for common benefit. If these industrial movements have escaped publicity it has been because there has been no effect on newspaper advertising. It is when a tobacco or soap trust is organized, or a cocoa combination is under negotiation, that the halfpenny press is forcibly reminded that competition implies profitable advertising as well as fair prices. Columns are then devoted to a sensational campaign against trusts, and John Bull is exhorted in shrill tones to put his foot down and to smash all these nefarious attempts "to Americanize Free Trade England."

Mr. Lever, for example, is now styled the Napoleon of the soap trade, and among the victories to which he is described as ruthlessly marching, with the old guard of soap barons behind him, are the ruin of competing manufacturers, the spoliation of small shopkeepers and retail grocers and the impoverishment of the masses, to whom dear soap will be as fatal as a tax on food. The English Soap Trust, it is assumed, will control about 80 per cent of the glycerine produced in the kingdom, and this will raise the cost of drugs, medicines and toilet articles. With consumers condemned to pay higher prices for inferior articles, it will be equally burdensome for the poor housewife to keep her tenement kitchen clean and for the belle of Mayfair to be mistress of all her fascinations. The bulk of the glycerine, moreover, is used for dynamite and explosives, and consequently the Soap Trust is adding to the cost of mining and the science of war. The newspaper campaign takes a wide range, and unless the energies of reformers are diverted to other sensations, numerous other side interests affected by the waste products of the soap business will speedily be discovered. Moreover, they have already drawn the facile inference that the success of one powerful and unscrupulous trust will bring many more into the field. There will be a bread trust with a smaller loaf, a meat trust with lighter weight, a milk trust with more water in the can and a clothes trust with shorter measures and more shoddy, and the masses will be ground down by the tyranny of the robber barons!

This campaign against English trusts would be more effective if the newspapers had not waited until their advertising was menaced with serious losses by the economies of the soap combination before discovering that the interests of the great body of consumers were affected. For many years there have been industrial combinations in the kingdom, and there has been little public criticism of them. The oldtime Cobdenites were in the habit of saying that with free imports competition would always be an unfailing safeguard against concentration of capital in monopolies, and their followers, when confronted with the evidence that manufacturers were pooling their interests have been content with adding that the Free Trade system at least acted as a check upon this tendency, and that there were fewer combinations than would be inevitable under Protection. They would have made a closer approach to the truth if they had said that English capitalists and manufacturers are less speculative than their American rivals and also less imitative and flexible in business methods than their German competitors. Certainly, they have shown less talent for organizing great trusts based on the sheer weight of masses of capital than either the Americans or the Germans; and they have been more reticent over their exploits in modern finance and have succeeded in escaping observation. England has become none the less a land of trusts, and there is neither legislative weapon nor administrative resource for the defence of consumers.

I. N. F.

MEASURES OF TIME.

Some of Those in Current Use—The Invention of Clocks and Watches.

"I'll do it in two shakes of a sheep's tail," remarked the woman of the household. "You mean two shakes of a lamb's tail, my dear," said the head of the house. "Did you ever see a lamb getting sustenance at the maternal fount?" he continued, "for, if you ever did, you have noticed how the youthful sheep employs all his activities in the operation, including the incessant wagging of his tail. And for rapidity of motion it has deservedly come to be a synonyme. As for any quick movement of a sheep's tail, it is never apparent, for there is no need for moving it with any speed. And then, too, most raisers of sheep cut the tails short, for the reason that the wool is kept cleaner when the animal has no tail in the way. Save for the broad-tailed sheep of some parts of Asia, where the tail is regarded as an especially delicate article of diet, the tail of a sheep is more of a nuisance than anything else."

"Well, if sheep have to have their tails docked," rejoined the feminine half of the family, "that is no reason why horses should be deprived of their especially ornamental appendages. I saw a fine horse this morning in the park, with glossy sides, a curvetted neck, fine action, a flowing mane, but no tail to speak of. The lack of the last named appendage almost entirely destroyed his beauty. It is not only needless cruelty to animals to dock a horse's tail, but it takes away so much from the beauty of the noble steed."

"Well, do you recall," asked the practical minded man, "what the man said when his son wanted to know how they docked ships? 'I suppose,' said he, 'they cut off their rudders.'"

"That reminds me of the little boy," answered the mother, "who expressed to his parents his regret for horses which were unfortunate enough to be deprived of their tails. They had begun to think that he was a youthful supporter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, when he added, as an explanation: 'I think it is real cruel to take away a horse's tail, for then what does he have to steer himself with?'"

"Reverting to the quick lapse of time represented by two shakes of a lamb's tail, I think a shorter period is that expressed by a jiffy," continued the man. "I don't recall what the accepted definition of the word is, although it represents an exceedingly brief period, but I was taught when a boy to do things in a jiffy and to impress it on my mind I was told,

> Sixty jiffys make a second,
> Sixty seconds make a minute,
> Sixty minutes make an hour.

"That is not in the arithmetic tables, any more than 'Three barleycorns make an inch,' which used in olden times to lead the table of long measure, but it might well be impressed on the rising generation when the question of quickness is at the front."

"I was always taught to be on the minute," said the better half of the household, "when I was a girl, but we were not required to move as the second hand does. But I remember how long a minute used to be if I had to keep still that long before I could speak or do something I greatly desired to do."

"Well," replied the masculine speaker, "time never went so slowly to me as when a teacher, for punishment, instead of using whip or ferrule, required me to hold out a stick of wood at arm's length for five minutes, any bending of the arm being a signal for a crack from a ruler on the elbow, or made me stand with one finger on the head of a nail in the floor for three minutes, with blood rushing into my head and pounding at my temples until it would seem that they must burst. But then, all time passed slowly in school in boyhood, and that spent in play went all too quickly. You recall what Whittier wrote of

> Feet which loitered into school,
> Went storming out to playing.

"So it was in my time, and is still, and ever will be so long as boys are boys and girls are girls and the world wags on its way."

The earliest methods of measuring time were the movements of the sun across the heavens, and noonmarks were invented many ages ago, and the rising and the setting of the stars were observed by shepherds watching their flocks on the plains for centuries before any means was devised for keeping an artificial record. The savage man had little use for any devision of time beyond the coming and going of darkness, but as men emerged from barbarism they set their wits at work to get details of the lapse of time. First, the day was divided into portions of three or four hours each, and then the night, and this led to subdivision, until the twelve hours for daytime and twelve for night came into use. To mark these divisions the sun dial was devised, an extension of the noonmark, so that on a horizontal plate the movement of the shadow indicated the lapse of time. But this was of use only when the sky was clear and in the daytime. Then the hour glass was invented, by which the flowing of sand for a period marked by the dial was permitted. But this did not prove of service, save when one carefully attended to it, to turn the glass when the grains had run out. King Alfred is credited with having twelve candles so graduated that they would burn for two hours each to mark the lapse of a day, but this was not convenient.

The sun dial and the hour glass were followed by the clepsydra, or water clock. This had water fled in such a strangely assorted official family; but his unfailing kindness and good sense led him to overlook many things that another man might have regarded as deliberate insults, while his great tact and knowledge of human nature enabled him to bring out the best in people about him and at times to turn their very weaknesses into sources of strength. It made it possible for him to keep the regard of every one of them. Before he had been in office a month it had transformed Secretary Seward from his rival into his lasting friend. It made a warm friend out of the blunt, positive, hot tempered Edwin M. Stanton, who became Secretary of War in place of Mr. Cameron. He was a man of strong will and great endurance, and gave his department a record for hard and effective work that it would be difficult to equal. Many stories are told of the disrespect he showed the President and the cross purposes at which they labored. The truth is that they understood each other perfectly on all important matters and worked together through three busy, trying years with ever increasing affection and regard. The President's kindly humor forgave his Secretary many blunt speeches. "Stanton says I am a fool?" he is reported to have asked a busybody who came fleet footed to tell him of the Secretary's hasty comment on an order of little moment. "Stanton says I am a fool? Well"—with a whimsical glance at his informant—"then I suppose I must be. Stanton is nearly always right." Knowing that Stanton was "nearly always right," it made little difference to his chief what he might say in the heat of momentary annoyance.—St. Nicholas.

HOAR FUNERAL COMMITTEE.

Washington, Nov. 3.—The sergeant-at-arms of the Senate announced to-day the following as the committee which will represent the Senate at the funeral of Representative Rockwood Hoar, of Massachusetts: Senators Lodge, Crane, Burnham, Buckley, Dillingham, Rayner and Martin.

LENOX HOTEL TO RENT BALLOON.

Lenox, Mass., Nov. 3.—So popular is ballooning in the Berkshires becoming among people of wealth that a local hotel has contracted with a Paris firm for a large balloon to be delivered here in time for the opening of the next summer season. The contract calls for an airship capable of carrying easily five persons, and it is expected $1,000 will be the price paid for the bag and its equipment. The balloon will be let much on the same plan as an automobile. A licensed pilot will be engaged at the hotel to take up parties, and the bag will be filled at the Pittsfield Aeropark, where the Aero Club of America has made its headquarters for its ascensions.

RETURN OF DWIGHT ELMENDORF.

Dwight Elmendorf's lecture course for this season will begin at Carnegie Hall next Sunday evening, the subjects being Holland, the Rhine, Switzerland, Northern Italy and Southern Italy. These lectures will be delivered on five successive Sunday evenings.

Mr. Elmendorf is said to have obtained some remarkable views in Holland and Switzerland, and he also has a photograph of the recent eruption of Vesuvius which will be shown during the last lecture.

LOST IN THE WOODS TWO DAYS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Burlington, Me., Nov. 3.—Harry Siebold, postmaster at Long Branch, N. J., who has been camping in Hancock County, recently became lost in the woods without food, and for two days lived on acorns, frogs, some small minnows and a baked hedgehog. Two men finally found him.

GOLD FROM BLACK SAND

AND PLATINUM ALSO.

A Source of Boundless Wealth Newly Turned to Account.

If the wonderful progress thus far made is to be taken as an indication, the Twentieth bids fair to eclipse the Nineteenth century, esteemed the greatest in the history of man's acquirements and achievements; and not the least of these are the wrenching from Nature all important secrets she has hitherto successfully kept locked in her own bosom. Beneficent and wise, she has probably reserved them, though, for man's greater needs, and so, little by little, as he exhausts her more or less easily obtainable gifts, his rapidly broadening and deepening scientific quest is discovering in the by-products of human industry new sources of supply for the maintenance and progress of the race. The search does not always stop at the thing sought for, but frequently opens up to view others of even greater moment. Thus, when the Japanese-Russian War menaced our platinum supply from the chief mines of the world, which are situated in the Ural Mountains, on the borders of Siberia—they are controlled by a trust, which practically furnishes its product to us at its own prices—and so greatly alarmed our manufacturers that they petitioned Congress to instruct the Interior Department to look up platinum in the United States, little was dreamt of the wonderful effect this search would have upon the world's gold output.

But here a word as to platinum and its uses may not be out of place, since it will explain the readiness of the government to acquiesce in these demands, compliance with which has brought forth such great and unexpected results. Platinum is a steel gray metal, hard as iron and yet quite malleable. With the exception of iridosmium, it is the heaviest metal occurring in nature. Platinum does not amalgamate with quicksilver, is not dissolved by potassium cyanide when cold, and is not attacked by acids, except the mixture of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid known as aqua regia. It is more difficult to melt than gold. It is used in all electric machinery—its coefficient of expansion is the same as glass, and it is the only metal which can carry the electric current through the globes of incandescent lamps—the hairlike wires that convey the fluid to the filaments in the bulbs are of platinum; it is also used in laboratories, for crucibles and other utensils to which its infusibility and its ability to resist acids peculiarly adapt it, and in dentistry, especially for the pins which attach porcelain teeth. It is alloyed with other metals for many purposes, and it is almost always more valuable than its weight in gold.

The examination conducted by the Geological Survey, then, was for platinum mainly, although it was hoped to discover, in quantities that would give them a commercial value, other minerals in the so-called "black sands" of placer mines. These black sands are the heavier particles which are worn away, by abrasion of the elements, from the mineral-bearing rocks. Of course, all sand comes from rock—the better part, such as the white and light brown sands of our Atlantic shores, from quartz. These light colored sands are scattered also throughout the country; many of these are in the West, where, however, they have, mixed with them, the black sand—though, more often, the latter lies in great beds apart. The dark color of the seashore on the Pacific Coast, as seen from the ocean, is due to this black sand.

Space will not admit of following, step by step, the progress of the Geological Survey in its search and experiments. It will suffice to explain that in these, conducted under Dr. David T. Day, Chief of Division of Mining and Mineral Resources, it gathered a large number of samples from placer miners in some thirty-four states and territories and in Cuba, the interest shown being attested by the great quantity of samples and the wide extent of country from which they came. In an exhaustive series of laboratory tests a number of minerals useful in the arts, platinum in paying, and gold in extraordinary, quantities were found in certain of these samples. The department then prosecuted field work in some of the more promising placer regions thus indicated, and afterward it conducted a series of elaborate separation experiments with the black sand at the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland, Ore. The result of these amply demonstrated the tremendous value of these black sands to the country, those along several of the rivers of Colorado and of the Snake River, in Idaho and Oregon, being found to be especially rich in platinum and gold.

Up to now, in placer mining, gold has been saved in the sluices by mercury, but a great deal of it, being coated with copper, or other metals which resist the action of the mercury, was really thrown away as waste. Dr. Day is authority for the statement that there is a great deal of gold in black sand which has never been gotten out, and that, by running it over and by handling it with the proper concentrating machinery, 95 to 98 per cent of gold and platinum can be saved, and, at the same time, separate the other metals, so that they can be reduced.

Miners generally have long known that black sand contains platinum, but, ignorant of its value, have made no attempt to save it. They have still longer known that there was gold in it, for this fact was pointed out in Shellrocke's "Voyages to California," published in London in 1742; but the difficulty of getting at it has discouraged all attempts to save it; and so they have contented themselves until recently with saving the free gold in placer mines, letting the black sands go, with the gravel, to waste.

As with other great discoveries, those who have eventually demonstrated to the world the possibilities of the black sand are not the first to have fully recognized them. For the last twenty years they have been known to at least one genius, who has been steadily at work for that period, in the effort to perfect a process which should get all the gold and platinum out of the grains of black sand, and with the most economy. His process differs—to describe it generally, for a part of it is a trade secret—from that employed by Dr. Day's experts, in that it is chemical instead of electrical; it simply disintegrates, not dissolves, the metaloids contained in the black sand.

A company, capitalized at two million dollars, and controlling several thousand acres on the Snake River, in the bed and in the coves—former beds—of which vast quantities of this metal-bearing black sand are to be found, was formed a couple of years since to utilize this process; but the small coterie of gentlemen comprising it did not open its stock subscription until the said process was entirely past the experimental stage, and until it could speak with certainty as to cost of handling, returns, etc.; and that has only been recently. It is now, however, preparing for active operation, is assembling its dredges and equipment, and will probably be at work in a few weeks' time.

This company's—the Empire State Dredging Company, No. 299 Broadway—machinery, paraphernalia and methods for handling these black sands may be briefly described thus: A dredge especially constructed for it by the Allis-Chalmers Company is used, the dredge proper being accompanied by a second scow, or tender; the latter contains the "riffles," and the concentrating equipment—a series of Washburn tables. These latter are of iron, twelve inches wide by twelve feet long, and have a perfectly smooth surface; they are so arranged that they can be used as "concentrators," or, after the sand has been treated by the chemical process, as "separators." The Washburn table has a fore and aft movement, operated by centrifugal power, can be run at a speed of three thousand, and has a capacity of thirty feet to the minute. It should be stated that these tables—when used as separators—are inclined, and that the said inclination is governed by the weight of metal (to be saved) proportioned to the weight of water used; for example, a table used to save platinum, the heaviest of the metals, would have the greatest inclination. The dredge turns over the sands to the tender, after passing them through a 60-inch mesh; then they go to the tables which here act as concentrators; the concentrate is then treated chemically, which disintegrates the grains; and these are conveyed again to the tables, which now separate the metals.

It is claimed that about five times as much of the gold and platinum can be saved by this as by other methods, or, to be exact, $2,000 worth of these against $350 in a ton of concentrates of Snake River black sand. It is estimated that the dredge the company is having constructed will handle 2,500 yards—five thousand tons—of gravel in twenty-four hours, the quantity of black sand varying, of course, according to depth. The cost of operating this dredge, per diem, being $100, at the above estimate this would mean—allowing a yield of ten tons of the concentrate to five thousand tons of the gravel—nearly $20,000 a day profit. It staggers the imagination to attempt to estimate what this black sand discovery, and the application of this process, will mean to the world. They would seem to dwarf all the other by-product utilizations yet made. The Geological Survey estimates that black sand will enable us to at least nearly supply our needs for platinum. That it will open up vast gold bearing fields yet untouched, and will bring into use again many long since abandoned, because non-paying with the primitive methods employed in the past, goes without saying. It will do more, it will go far toward populating the waste places of the West.

GRAIN STANDARDIZATION

Department of Agriculture Establishes Testing Stations.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The grain trade press and the trade of the country are no doubt more or less interested in and entitled to a word or two in explanation of the functions to be performed by the office to which I have recently been appointed in the bureau of plant industry, United States Department of Agriculture, because of the generous support given to me during my service as chief grain inspector at Buffalo and in my several attempts to better conditions in the matter of the inspection and grading of grain in this country.

The history of the movement for United States standard grain grades, as well as for national or government grain inspection, which, by the way, are two widely different propositions, began several years ago, when complaints were made to our foreign consuls of the quality and condition of American grain arriving in foreign ports, upon which the foreign buyers lost heavily. These shipments were all covered by certificates of inspection marked "official," which at once conveyed to the mind of the receiver the conviction that these certificates were issued by the national government, or at least sanctioned by it; hence his complaints to our representatives abroad, particularly in view of the fact that our government was inspecting the meats entering into foreign commerce. These complaints became more and more frequent and persistent, until finally Congress ordered an investigation by the Department of Agriculture. It was given into the charge of the bureau of plant industry. This investigation brought forth a mass of evidence and information, pro and con, that has duly impressed the authorities of the department with the seriousness and importance of the question, and, realizing that their point of view was purely a scientific one, and in order to obtain and have the practical view presented and represented, and that the honest interests and requirements of the grain trade and agriculture might be conserved, the department has enlisted my service to assist in sifting the information and evidence and drawing a sane conclusion therefrom. It has been determined that it is best to go slow in the matter, and to consider the many points to the question step by step; and with this end in view there have been established in Baltimore and New Orleans two grain testing laboratories, for the purpose, principally, of testing and determining a few of the principal and simple factors that go to make up the commercial grades of corn, although the work is not by any means to be thus limited. The people in the grain trade at these two points, to their credit be it said, have extended to this department a cordial invitation to establish these laboratories in their markets, and have unhesitatingly promised their unqualified support and co-operation in the work.

A like laboratory is to be established in London, England, and placed in charge of a representative of this bureau, who from this point will examine, as far as possible, shipments from this country on arrival on the other side. In this way the department expects, during the coming season, to determine under given conditions what corn is safe for shipment and what is not. If this can be done, a long step in advance will have been taken toward an intelligent grading of corn for export. As the appropriation for this work is small this year, only two such laboratories could be established at our seaports, but it is hoped that next year, with the co-operation of the trade, the work can be extended to the larger interior grain centres.

The investigation of the question up to this time has resulted in the development of an apparatus for testing the moisture content of grain, which, in my judgment, is entirely practicable for use in the larger inspection departments. This apparatus is so fitted that one man will be able to handle and ascertain the moisture content of about seventy-four samples in seven and a half hours, and will be part of the equipment of the grain testing laboratories, together with such other apparatus as will be necessary, as I said before, to ascertain the simple and important factors of the existing grades, in order that when these are determined the requirements of the commercial grain grades can be correlated and stated in definite terms, so that, as far as possible, differences in judgment and disputes may be settled by a mechanical process. The moisture testing apparatus, I am sure, will alone be of great use to the shipper of corn, as well as to the miller of the same, and to me these laboratories have a great future, their possibilities being almost unlimited. One such laboratory will be equipped in my office, and I will be at all times glad to furnish analyses of samples sent me by the trade. Such samples should contain at least one quart of grain and should be packed and sent in airtight receptacles, preferably in glass fruit jars with rubber gaskets, and addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Grain Standardization, Washington.

JOHN D. SHANAHAN,
Expert in Charge.

Washington, Oct. 24, 1906.

BIG RUSH IN FACTORIES.

Thousands of Women Working Long Hours for Holiday Trade.

The approach of the Christmas holiday season has again brought to the fore the discussion of the evils of long hours for woman employes in factories where holiday goods are manufactured. In a recent number of "Charities and Commons" Miss May Van Kleeck, of the College Settlement, gives a comprehensive review of the subject and points out some facts that are little short of startling in connection with the excessive hours of work in this rush season. There are 130,000 women workers in this city to-day employed in 39,000 factories. Many of them work regularly twelve hours a day, and during the rush season they are often kept as busy as many as eighteen hours, with only a half hour out for meals.

This, of course, is contrary to law, but nevertheless the factories continue to practise open violations. It is said, indeed, that before very long the law will be declared unconstitutional. According to a statement by Commissioner Sherman, "the provision prohibiting night work is openly violated, especially in the employment of women more than twenty-one years old, and the department has feared to test this particular prohibition because it is so closely joined with the prohibition of night work by male and female minors that in case of an adverse decision both prohibitions might be held to fall together."

Not only the hours of labor but the conditions under which women work are held to demand more careful regulation by the state. "It is at least conceivable that shorter hours may mean more efficient work, less 'spoiled' work and an equal output," says Miss Van Kleeck. "Instances which support such conclusions may be multiplied, and facts are not lacking which point to the possibility that legislative action based primarily on the necessity for Health Department or police regulation may represent an industrial gain."

One of the most prolific sources of consumption and other diseases among working people is improper ventilation and insufficient light. These conditions are aggravated during night work. In spite of factory inspection laws and efforts of privately interested charitable workers, the menace to public health from these sources continues unabated. The remedy lies in more inspectors and more rigid enforcement of police and sanitary regulations.

Improved sanitary conditions in many cities have, on the other hand, been attended with good results. In this city, where the problem of ventilation is so important and where improper lighting is common, the ill effects upon workers are said by those who have observed conditions to be great, indeed. Dark, poorly ventilated rooms opening on air shafts are often lighted by gas, so that the vitiating of the air by breathing is many times exceeded by the large amount of oxygen which the open lamps consume. Proper lighting by electricity is no more expensive, and yields, according to foremen in factories where it has been tried, direct profit in more and better work. Such light, it is said, reacts, too, upon the moral character of the workers, and in the end is of decided benefit to them. Artificial ventilation by electric fans has done much to improve conditions of labor and stem the tide of the "Great White Plague."

Miss Van Kleeck has pointed out the way in which New York may lead toward the attainment of the ideal conditions of work for women.

"First," she says, "we need to discover the facts by investigation, with expert sanitary advice in doing away with dirt, the darkness and the bad air of factories—expert mechanical advice in the construction of safety guards for dangerous machines; expert medical advice as to the effect of various trades, processes and conditions of work upon women in factories. Knowing these facts, we need a broad and liberal policy in acting upon them.

"The first step in such a policy must be the decision as to the constitutionality of the law forbidding night work for women. An adverse decision will arrest the progress of factory legislation not only in New York State but in all other states as well. But a favorable decision will give us a foundation on which to build wise laws sufficient for factory needs. Long hours intensify every other evil of factory work—unsanitary conditions, unhealthful processes and dangerous machines. In regulating hours we are therefore establishing a foundation for better conditions."

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

Among the passengers who arrived yesterday from Europe were:

THE CAMPANIA, FROM LIVERPOOL.

Edward R. Bacon.
Miss K. M. Le Boutillier.
Bishop Dunne, of Bathurst, N. S. W.
Herman Landau.
Bishop O'Connor, of Armidale, Australia.
Mrs. John H. McFadden.
Ernest H. Schiff.

THE KAISERIN AUGUSTE VICTORIA, FROM HAMBURG.

Mr. and Mrs. C. K. G. Billings.
Mr. and Mrs. William Miller Collier.
Professor and Mrs. Jacob H. Hollander.
Mr. and Mrs. Francis H. Markoe.
Miss Martina Johnstone.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Hopkinson Smith.
Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Sprague.
Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt.

LA LORRAINE, FROM HAVRE.

Count and Countess de Chambrun.
Count de Hearsee.
H. H. Meru.
Mme. Emma Eames.

FLOODS IN CHINA.

They Have Done Much Damage This Year, and May Mean Famine.

Hankow, China, September 29.

The floods this year in China have been more severe than usual, and nearly all of the districts report high water and large damage as a result. There will consequently be a short rice crop, and this will mean more famine at the end of the year than there was last year. And a rice famine means trouble of all kinds. It is a shortage of food more than anything else which is to be feared in China.

What is further adding to the difficulty is the extremely high rate of exchange of silver, the gold dollar being now worth about $1 88 Mexican, against what was usually the rate in former times of $2 30 to $2 40. This means that where the Chinese ask the same or higher prices for their produce in silver than ruled two or three years ago, the exporter has to ask a much higher price in gold from the foreign purchaser, and export business has fallen off. That means that the people will not have the money with which to purchase foreign flour and other foodstuffs of which they would be glad, provided they had the money with which to purchase. Foreign merchants generally are complaining of the dulness of business, and state that there are no large sales being made of foreign goods to the Chinese.

The appointment of Tuan Fang to be Viceroy of Nanking, which is looked upon as the second highest post in the country, appears to be a popular one with both the Chinese and foreigners. Those who have lived in China for any length of time know the impossibility in such a country of introducing changes too rapidly, and also the danger of attempting to do so.

Tuan Fang is partial to anything American. When he was acting Viceroy at Wuchang, some years ago, he had a full Chinese band trained to play martial music. When he was transferred from Wuchang to be Governor of Changsha, the only air that the band had learned to that time was "Yankee Doodle," but the band was taken to Changsha, and it played "Yankee Doodle" on every occasion.

Tuan Fang's son studied in the United States, and was at one time attached to the Chinese Legation at Washington, studying English at the same time under private instructors. He is now living in China, and it is expected that he will go to Nanking to assist his father. He recently wrote a letter to one of the American officials, and one of Tuan Fang's Chinese friends knowing of it, asked the official what kind of an English letter he wrote. "If I had not personally known him as a Chinese," was the reply, "I would have judged him, from the appearance, diction and style of his letter, to be an American," and the Chinese gentleman was highly pleased at the learning of the son of his friend.

With the proposed reforms in every direction come possibilities of large contracts for purchases and for the installation of plants, and here is where the Chinese official and the foreign merchant come in for their golden opportunity. With changes and improvements being made, there is a great opportunity for graft. Wires are being pulled in every yamen, and the Chinese, being short of money as ever, would seem to be willing to turn over most of the opportunities to those who are most able and willing to lend money to the various viceroys. The future collection of these moneys will lead to complications later on, but the officials care nothing whatever for future complications. The present opportunity for gain is that which should be seized without fail, and in such conditions as these Japan is not much heard of, for the Japanese are too busy borrowing for themselves at home to be in a condition to loan much money to China. Still, a few loans are being made by them in directions where they think special benefits may be secured.

The French and Germans are probably making the greater part of the financial advances which are being made, and some of the large firms of those nationalities are securing some large contracts. The British have generally been content to secure business on an open basis, and, with the exception of the loan to the Viceroys of Hupeh and Kwantung, made by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the proceeds of which were used to repurchase the American railway concession, the British have probably made few loans to the Viceroys and Governors of late. The Russians are not in a position at present to do much business in the way of squandering money in the yamens, so that Germany and France have a pretty clear field.

There is much more friendly feeling and attitude shown on the part of the Chinese officials than a short time ago. The general statement at present is "America is China's best friend," and this idea will probably be cultivated for some time as a matter of diplomatic policy. When the time comes to have to repay to Germans or French the moneys owing in various directions, it will be well for China to have powerful friends, who are standing for the "integrity of China." It is another case of the Chinese being clever diplomats even if not powerful warriors.

There is no question that a large amount of foreign capital could be utilized in China and could be made, if properly expended, to return good interest so that the foreigner could be repaid and much good done to the country. But where it goes through the hands of Chinese officials, it is to be feared that so little of the original loan will really reach the desired purpose as to make it impossible to accomplish repayment from the results of the proposed improvement. It may eventually result in additional taxation and burdens on the people. The Chinese common people, while they are long suffering in many ways, do not take kindly to a large amount of direct taxes being levied.

The Chinese officials continue to use every method of trying to prevent the foreigner from actually getting into the country to generally engage in business. The foreigner will not stand for the Chinese system, and where the foreigner goes the system is done away with to a large extent. This is one reason why the Chinese are making such efforts to get the customs again in their hands, instead of having them controlled by foreigners, as at present, under the able management of Sir Robert Hart. It is now some three years since the recent treaty between China and the United States was signed. In this treaty China agreed to make proper and possible mining regulations within one year which would make it possible for foreigners to engage in the business of mining in China, and thus open up what would probably be the greatest source of wealth to the country. This, however, would interfere with what may prove to be a great source of income to the officials if they can only keep the foreigner out. No arrangement whatever has been made or proposed to date for any possibility of the foreigner doing mining business, as was agreed in the treaty. The officials declare mining a restricted and government business and seize everything in the way of minerals worth having. Then, if they can borrow enough money with which to work these privileges for themselves, they get everything possible out of them.

In the province of Hunan there is a large quantity of mineral, known as chin fang in Chinese and in English as green alum. After being mined it is burned in pits, and from the product obtained by burning a dyeing material is made, and the residue is a valuable fertilizer, used all over the country for putting on the fields. A foreigner, an American, recently had an opportunity to do some business in this material and made inquiries of the officials and the customs people as to whether it would be possible to do business in buying and selling it. The reply was in the affirmative, and, after consultation with his consul general, he went to the native merchants and producers and made contracts for the purchase of a large quantity of the product. After making the contracts for purchase he opened negotiations for the sale of it, and found that he would have no difficulty whatever in disposing of it when obtained. He went to the places where it is burned to receive delivery of his goods, and found that he was being prevented from getting them by an individual who claimed to be some kind of an official. Investigation showed that a powerful official in the province had ordered that all of the green alum manufactured should be sold to a certain company in which he was interested, and then all persons wishing to make purchases had to go to this company to obtain the goods. A sub-official makes the purchases and conducts the business. He makes his own purchasing prices and squeezes as he wishes with regard to buying weights. Two merchants who protested against this form of business were locked up in a yamen and got a beating, from the effects of which they died. The other dealers were warned that if they tried to make any trouble they would meet the same fate. With the entire customs service in their own hands, the officials know that they can do absolutely as they please, but with the work of the open ports in the hands of straightforward foreigners it interferes exceedingly with their Chinese jugglery.

Wherever any improvements, such as waterworks or electric plants, are being made, the officials would prefer to borrow the money from foreigners and make the improvements and changes themselves. The foreigner who makes a large profit on the goods sold, or receives a large rate of interest on his loan or a large commission for placing it, may feel that he has made a good deal, but when the day of settlement comes with the Viceroy or Goveronr of the province and the Peking government declines to recognize the claim as one against the government, the transaction may not appear as brilliant as it does at present, and it may be necessary for the foreigner's home government to assist in making collection. Then what will happen?

SLEEP OF THE GREAT.

On the basis of their own admissions and the sleep gauge at Westminster, the following is the nights average of peaceful oblivion enjoyed by members of the British Cabinet:

	Hours of Sleep.
Prime Minister	9—10
Lord Chancellor	9
Chancellor of the Exchequer	8
Foreign Secretary	8
Home Secretary	10
War Minister	9—10
Minister of Education	8—9
President of the Board of Trade	8—9
Minister of Agriculture	8
Secretary for India	7
President of the Local Government Board	6
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	8—9
First Commissioner of Works	8—9
Secretary of Scotland	8—9
Postmaster General	8—9
First Lord of the Admiralty	8—9

It should be mentioned that in the case of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the head of the Local Government Board sleep is an automatic function. This privilege is shared by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who, however, has the ability of commanding at will a still longer period of somnolence.—Montreal Star.

STRIKING.

Richly (seeing his son returning from school crying)—What's the matter, my boy?

Son—The teacher struck me, papa.

Richly (putting his hand in his pocket)—For how much?—Le Sourire.

SEAWEED BURNING IN NORWAY.

An Industry That Surpasses the Fisheries in Value.

Along the shores of Joderen, on the southwest coast of Norway, the seaweed grows in veritable forests; not the common grass variety, but actual trees from five to six feet in height, with stems like ropes and leaves as tough as leather. It begins to sprout in March and April, and gradually covers the ocean bed with a dense, impenetrable brush. In the fall the stems become tender, the roots release their suctionlike grip on the rocky bottom, and the autumn winds wash it ashore in such great quantities that it looks like a huge brown wall along the entire coast. The fall crop is of comparatively small value. The only use that can be made of it is for fertilizing purposes, because it is only in the spring that it can be successfully burned, and at this time there is such a demand for it that every stalk and leaf is gathered as if it were pure coin.

The weed burning season is the busiest of the year, and every member of the household is drafted to assist in gathering, drying and burning. At the close of each clear day the whole coast seems to be aflame from thousands of bonfires that are kept burning far into the night. This is one of the many natural resources that have unexpectedly developed in Norway, and no one ever dreamed twenty years ago that this seemingly worthless weed would in a few years, as a source of income, surpass the fisheries, which have been the mainstay of the people of that country for ages, or rival that of agriculture in one of the leading agricultural districts of Norway. Yet such is the case to-day; and those who are fortunate enough to own land abutting the seashore can reap the most profitable crop of the year. Owners of farms located where the weed seems to have a predilection to drift can burn as much as 3,000 pounds a year, which sells for from $2 25 to $3 75 a pound. The annual income to Norway from seaweed ashes amounts to about $150,000. Every fisherman knows the difference between alga and tang. Only the former can be used as raw material for the iodine and chloriodic industry; tang is entirely worthless. But of the different kinds of alga, it is immaterial, or nearly so, whether one makes use of the large strong stalks or the broad leaved kind; when the weed is carefully handled, one can secure an excellent product. If tang is burned with alga the value is decreased considerably, but notwithstanding this fact the mixture is not infrequent.

After the burning the ashes are carefully gathered, packed and shipped to all parts of the world. The subsequent treatment of the ashes is veiled in scientific mystery. They contain many valuable chemical properties, among which iodine is the most important.—Scientific American.

THE DIFFERENCE.

"After all, what is the difference between 'shopgirl' and 'saleslady'?"

"I don't know, but the differences between saleladies are sometimes fierce."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

THE BRONX BUILDING PLANS.

Tiebout ave., e. s., 176 ft. n. of 184th st.; for three two story frame dwelling houses, 25x32; Arthur J. Ridley, owner; Kafka & Lindemeyer, architects $15,000

Mount Hope Place, n. s., 125 ft. e. of Jerome ave.; six two story brick dwelling houses, 20x55; Aaron & Miller Realty Company; owner; Charles S. Clark, architect 43,000

Martha ave., w. s., 65 ft. n. of 238th st.; for two two story frame dwelling houses, 18x50; German Real Estate Company, owner; Louis Falk, architect 10,000

Martha ave., w. s., 25 ft. n. of 238th st.; for two two story frame dwelling houses, 18x50; German Real Estate Company, owner; Louis Falk, architect 10,000

MECHANICS' LIENS.

Brown Place, e. s., whole front, between 136th and 137th sts., 200x90; Ravitch Bros. agt. Jacob Maisel and Max L. Rohman, owners and contractors $2,975 46

2d ave., e. s., whole front between 99th and 100th sts., 200x100x irreg.; Jackson's Mantel and Grate Works agt. Hauben Realty Company and Binder & Baum, owners and contractors 1,900 00

Park ave., n. e. corner 33d st., 100.4x76.11; same agt. Harben Realty Company, owner and contractor 3,368 00

31st st., No. 5 East; J. J. Wallace & Co. agt. S. B. Duckers, owner; Fullam & Paris, contractors 248 00

Jackson ave., w. s., 32 ft. s. of 160th st., 75x100; Manhattan Window Shade Company agt. Olenick Realty Company, owner and contractor 70 00

58th st., No. 7 East; Keasbey & Mattison Co. agt. the New York Riding Club, owner; Franklin Lumber Company, contractor 1,180 00

Amsterdam ave., No. 1422 to 1432; Theodore C. Wood agt Jacob Goldberg and Max Smith, owners and contractors 2,463 64

126th st., Nos. 113 and 115 East; Louis Waxberg agt. Epstein & Cohen, owners and contractors 134 28

118th st., Nos. 238 and 240 East; Louis D. Waxberg agt. same 311 28

119th st., No. 441 to 449 East; same agt. same 582 56

120th st., No. 438 to 446 East; same agt. same 488 44

Amsterdam ave., w. s., 24.11 ft. n. of 130th st., 150x100; Leo Ludin agt. Goldberg & Smith, owners and contractors 5,127 63

Same property; Union Stove Works agt. same 753 00

SATISFIED MECHANIC'S LIEN.

William st., No. 100; Dalrymple Hastings Co. agt. John Doe et al; January 17, 1906 .... $1,200

LIS PENDENS.

Wadsworth ave., s. e. cor. 185th st., 79.11x50; Lizzie B. Howell agt. Max Rollnick et al. (foreclosure of mortgage); R. W. Crowle, attorney.

101st st., s. s., 200 ft. e. of 1st ave., 100.11x122.6; Emil Reibstein agt. Henry Wilchinsky (action to establish vendee's lien); Manheim & Manheim, attorneys.

Amsterdam ave., w. s., 24.11 ft. n. of 130th st., 150x100; Joseph Ravitch agt. Jacob Goldberg et al. (action to enforce vendee's lien); N. Alsinikoff, attorney.

1st ave., w. s., 52 ft s. of St. Mark's Place, 24.6x50; the German Savings Bank in the City of New York agt. Phillip Wagner et al. (foreclosure of mortgage); M. Auerbach, attorney.

Lexington ave., n. w. cor. 60th st., 100.5x22; J. Frederic Kernochan et al. agt. Meyer L. Sire et al. (foreclosure of mortgage); H. F. Miller, attorney.

Southern Boulevard, e. s., 100 ft. n. of Barretto st., 75x100; David L. Phillips et al. agt. Abraham Greenberg et al. (foreclosure of mortgage); H. Swain, attorney.

Henry st., No. 289; Rachel Geiger agt. Isidor Leipzig (foreclosure of mortgage); H. M. Flateau, attorney.

Monroe st., Nos. 326 and 328; Morris Stahl agt. Morris Fisher (action to declare lien); H. B. Davis, attorney.

BUILDING LOAN CONTRACTS.

Mount Hope Place, n. s., 450 ft. w. of Fleetwood ave., 150x125; William Jackson loans Aaron Miller Realty Co. $24,000

Kepler ave., e. s., 40 ft. n. of 237th st., 48x100; Central Mortgage Co. loans Sidney R. Lash 8,000

ELECTION RETURNS!

Next Tuesday Night The Tribune will display up-to-the-minute Election Returns at the following places:

1st Main Office, Park Row, With Moving Pictures.

2d Marlborough Hotel, Broadway and 36th Street.

3d West 125th Street, Near Lenox Avenue.

4th BROOKLYN, N. Y. 333 Washington Street, in conjunction with The Brooklyn Daily Times