LABOR REFORMERS.

A Meeting of the Representatives of Labor at Tammany Hall.

The City and National Government Called Upon to Find Employment.

A meeting was held last night, in Tammany Hall, by the various organizations of the Workingmen's Union, at which about 500 persons were present. The platform was occupied by about 20 of the different officers of the union. The chair was taken by Mr. George Blair, of the packing box makers of New York, and Mr. Osborne Ward was selected as one of the secretaries. The speeches were very extreme in their character, and were largely flamed with the doctrines of the Internationalists and Communism. These sentiments received the most enthusiastic applause. The practical part of the meeting was the asking of the city authorities to provide public employment.

THE SPEECHES.

Mr. George Blair, of the packing box makers, said that the meeting had been called together for the purpose of laying before it some considerations in reference to the condition of the laboring classes, which were already in a condition of pressing necessity, and which promised to be very much greater. The call was the same as that which was made in 1861, and the time has come when it has been found necessary to teach the masters that the servants had some rights. It is expected that thousands of the workingmen will soon be walking about in enforced idleness. He concluded by asking the meeting to nominate a Secretary, which they did by nominating Mr. Ward, who then read the following preamble and resolutions, which the meeting adopted:—

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, The condition of the working people of this city urgently demands the immediate attention and prompt action of the public authorities; therefore,

Resolved, That we demand that the Common Council and heads of departments, in order to relieve the necessities of the unemployed, place more work in the market.

Resolved, That we demand that the Comptroller approve of the contracts for public improvements now in his hands, and issue bonds to meet all the public requirements and place them in the market for sale to the highest bidder.

Resolved, That should the Comptroller fail to sell the bonds aforesaid, then that he issue city scrip, in sums of $5, $10 and $20, for the purpose of paying the laborers for their work.

Resolved, That the workmen should be employed without reference to any political influence, but solely with regard to their capacity, fitness and necessity.

Resolved, That all workmen employed on the public works should be residents of the city and county of New York.

Resolved, That the national government be requested by the authorities of the city of New York to loan to said city the sum of $10,000,000 out of the Reserve Fund for the purpose of labor.

Resolved, That the building of all vessels of war ordered by Congress be immediately commenced in the navy yards by the national government.

Resolved, That we condemn the action of the Legislature of 1873 in passing a law which calls for the letting out by contract of the public works.

Resolved, That we condemn the employment of non-resident workmen in preference or in the stead of the tax-paying laborers of this city and county.

Resolved, That we call the attention of the public to a statement of Commissioner Budd of recent date, and that we fully concur in his view as expressed therein in relation to having the work done on the ground.

Resolved, That for the purpose of relieving our present necessities we petition for the appropriation of a sum sufficient to pay for the cutting of the stone for public purposes during the winter, in order that it may be ready for setting as soon as the weather is favorable.

Resolved, That while we are in favor of an "Industrial Building" and "rapid transit," we believe that they should be constructed by the county or State, and that we are opposed to loaning money to private corporations.

Resolved, That in the event of the Common Council loaning money to the "Industrial Exhibition," they should have supervisory power over the construction of its buildings, and should require the materials to be of American manufacture. The work to be done on the ground, and the men to be residents of the city and State.

GOVERNMENT THE GUARDIAN OF INDUSTRY.

Mr. Thompson, of the Workingmen's Association, said that this was the second meeting of its kind that had been held in this city demanding public employment by the workingmen of the public authorities. The first was held about two years ago in Tompkins square. He said that they were advocating a new idea—that the government alone should be entrusted with the industries of this country, and that no longer should private corporations obtain from the industrial classes their strength for their own private aggrandizement. The government that failed to give liberty, life and happiness to every person under its protection failed in its first duty. What shall be done with the tide of emigration that was seeking these shores? He contended that it was the duty of government to discipline and organize this labor. This winter this city is filled with unemployed men, and they have made this city beauteous, for which they have rendered an equivalent for their bread. Now they are paupers. We propose that the authorities shall furnish employment for these men, or by the Eternal there will be a revolution here! (Cheers.) We do not want soup houses; that is a degradation of our manhood. What we want is employment. When that day came they would find no more stock jobbing in Wall street. Who speculated with the products of industry? The workingmen had the power of the ballot in their hands, and this was more powerful than the sword or the press. Capital has had a long day, but its days are numbered; and now has come the day when labor will be the master. The speaker then stated that the Senate of the United States had sold itself for gold. But when they got the workingmen there this would not occur. As to foreign immigration, he said that there was room enough for all. The grandeur of this country will never fill its position in the place of the world until labor is recognized, through government, as its agent. It was degrading to know that 50,000 men this winter were starving for want of employment. There never was a time in the history of this country when industry was more needed. But, then, it was said that money cannot be obtained. But all that was required for that was a few reams of printing paper and a printing press, and that was why they called for "city bonds."

THE COMPTROLLER AND THE CONTRACTS.

Mr. Robert Crowe, of the tailors, then addressed the meeting, and after referring to the recent Tammany frauds he denounced the establishment of soup kitchens, and urged the employment of men on public works, as done in Brooklyn. He said that, if Commissioner Van Nort and Comptroller Green wished that the workingmen of this city should be employed on the formation of an underground railroad there are 75 proposals in the hands of Van Nort for grading and paving and opening streets. Let Van Nort and Green put their heads together and set men to work. Then two-thirds of the unemployed in this city would be set to work. The city of New York could not go ahead until men were selected for public office for their qualifications to fill that office. He hoped that a delegation of workingmen would be appointed to see the Comptroller as to the contracts that that officer had his feet upon. He did not believe that either Van Nort or Green had hearts, and if they granted this they would do it because they wanted the votes of the workingmen. But if Mr. Green wished to be the next Mayor of New York let him employ the working men of this city, and if he does this, by the gods! he shall have my vote. (Loud cheers and laughter.)

Mr. McMahon, of the painters, then spoke in behalf of the object of the meeting, and said that there were

THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND GIRLS

employed in this city, who averaged as wages not more than $3 50 a week. This was, too, in a land devoted to the inheritance of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The ballot box was powerless unless we demand the inauguration of the referendum, by which the laws went back to the people. Then we should have no salary grabbers like Dix and Grant. The power of money has gone so far that workingmen are not allowed to speak unless the dogs of those who govern first bark. Let workingmen demand that as citizens work should be supplied them, and that we are entitled to our subsistence. In the Department of Parks it was found by recent legislation that no contract over $1,000 could be given out except to contractors. ("Shame!")

Mr. Thompson, of the bricklayers, said that the industry of the country was

DESTROYED BY THE SPECULATORS.

He asked for nothing from this city for which he should not render his equivalent. The maxim of this country to-day was to degrade the workingman. The resources of the municipal government were sufficient to give all the unemployed work. If this was not done why the workingmen committed no sin if they went and took the flour and bread that were in the city. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Henry Roffy, of the stonecutters, then addressed the meeting, and urged that there was no necessity for the want of labor. This was brought about by men and women living too fast, and also by the limiting the amount of work of the city government that shall not be submitted to contract to the amount of $1,000. He complained that stonecutting for this city was done "down East," and the workingmen of this city were deprived of the opportunity of earning their food by their labor.

Mr. King, of the plasterers, and a delegation from Philadelphia spoke, after which the meeting adjourned.

CONNECTICUT.

Dulness in New London—Decline in the Whaling Business—State of the Factories.

New London, Nov. 14, 1873.

The number of manufacturers in this cool city by the Sound is limited. It is a brave and beautiful place in the gladsome summer months, when the gallant yachtsmen of New York come down to dance and bask in the smiles of New England female beauty, such as it is; but now, when the trees are bare and yachting looks as much out of season as bathing, a cloud of dulness has crept over New London, and what with the panic and the falling off in the whaling business there is little more life left than one might find in a graveyard. There was a time when this port equipped and sent forth in the season a fleet of seventy-five vessels to the whaling grounds. This has now fallen off to about twenty, and there is little hope the number will ever much exceed that figure.

WHALING IN THE PAST.

Speaking to Mr. Williams, of the firm of Williams & Haven, great whaling men, whose ships are on all the oceans of the earth, from the South to the North Pole, I learned, as I supposed, that the panic had but little effect on their business. "Whaling," said he, "has declined. Where 15 years ago there was a fleet of 600 American vessels engaged in the business there are now only 250. You see petroleum and the new oil they are making from cotton seed have cut in on the whale oil trade and reduced its profits and importance. Nor is there the same demand for whalebone. We have only 10 vessels engaged now in the business. At this time of the year there is nothing done. The boats go out generally from June to September and return from April to July. We are now chiefly in the guano and seal fur trade. In partnership with another firm we have leased the Seal Islands of Alaska from the government, and down in the Indian Ocean, at the islands of Kerguelen and Providence, we have three ships in the seal fishing, and other ships off the west coast of South America carrying guano to the Southern States." The falling off in this whaling business was a loss to New London, but, with the instinctive turn for manufacturing characteristic of Connecticut people, factories were established or extended, and though the whalers are no longer such a source of wealth to the community other things have been made to yield a revenue in their place.

NO DECREASE OF SHIPWRIGHTS' WAGES.

A considerable fleet of vessels is still owned by this port and most of them are doing a safe coasting traffic. Out of the five steamers plying between New London and New York, two are laid up on account of the hard times. Though vessels are here for sale and building has fallen off 50 per cent, shipwrights are as high priced in their wages as in the best of days.

ANXIOUS FOR A WAR WITH SPAIN.

The talk of the town to-day is the probability of a war with Spain. It would be very popular among the New Londoners. Naval officers out of work who are stopping around here, are beside themselves, with joyful anticipation of such a prospect. The natives are marine in their tastes, and, clean and airy as the town appears, the smell and presence of tar are sufficiently palpable to indicate the presence of a seafaring population. The government could easily man a few line of battle ships from the unemployed sailors of the port.

THE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES.

The number of operatives out of work is about nine on three-quarter time, and out of its ordinary 100. The Albertson & Douglas machine shop is running force of 120 men, employs at present 100. There has been no reduction of pay, and whether the shop will continue as it is depends on trade. The Wilson Manufacturing Company are also on three-quarter time. They have discharged some of their hands. The Attwood silk thread factory is on half time, with 30 hands; no reduction of wages. The New London woollen mill has 80 hands employed on full time and pay. Brown's cotton gin factory has 60 men engaged at half time. Woodworth's paper mills are on half time, with 13 hands. Warner's tannery on full time, with the same number. The Mountain Avenue Shirt Factory, working on five-sixth time, has discharged ten per cent of the 120 hands it employed. Dudley & Stevens' carriage factory is running full capacity and discharging none of its help. Robertson's paper mills are fully employed. These constitute the industrial activities of New London, and manage to circulate enough money to keep the population of 8,000 or 9,000 tolerably comfortable.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Hard Times in the Coal Regions—Coal Companies Working Three-quarter Time.

Wilkesbarre, Nov. 12, 1873.

Thus far in the financial crisis the coal operators have borne up bravely against the pressure, keeping the production up to the ordinary standard for the time of year and giving employment to the average number of men. But it is noticeable that the "hard times" have crept into the coal regions, and the coal corporations indicate a disposition to curtail operations for a time at least, just the same as other people are doing. On Monday next the Wilkesbarre Coal and Iron Company, a branch of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company of Mauch Chunk, will inaugurate a reduction in business by putting their men on

THREE-QUARTER TIME.

This step has been rendered necessary by the great falling off in the demand for coal incident to the decline of the iron interest in the Lehigh Valley, and from the fact that the company have no further room for stocking coal, their yards and wharves being filled to their utmost capacity. The other companies in Wyoming Valley will, no doubt, fall into the policy of the corporation alluded to and reduce their production fully one-fourth. It is intimated that the short time will be but temporary, probably a month or six weeks; but parties professing to be fully posted in relation to

THE COAL TRADE

declare that it is hardly possible that active production of coal will be commenced again before March or April. Any decline in the coal business in this region produces an immediate depression in all other branches of industry, and it may be said that all kinds of business in Wyoming Valley are now stale, flat and unprofitable, and will remain so for the coming four or five months. Money is quite as scarce here as elsewhere, the banks afford no accommodations worth speaking of, and as for making collections on old accounts, that is simply out of the question for the present. And yet our people do not appear to be very desponding under the hard times. They are hopeful and seem

DETERMINED TO MAKE THE BEST OF MATTERS

as they transpire. Moderation and a spirit of forbearance prevail, and everybody is calmly awaiting the advent of better days. The increasing confidence exhibited in the cities and the prospects that currency will soon be put in circulation in New York and Philadelphia produce a more cheerful feeling here, and the prospects are that we shall all get over the winter without much suffering or any greater business embarrassments.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Wilmington Feeling the Effects of the Stringency in Money, but Better off Than Any Other Southern City—The Poor Not Suffering.

Wilmington, Nov. 9, 1873.

Of serious commercial disaster and of actual suffering occasioned by the late panic it is absolutely certain that this city has known less than has been experienced by any city of equal size in the Union. And the curious feature of the comparative insensibility of Wilmington to the throbs which have so convulsed other cities is that here is the chief commercial centre of a State which supplies so vast an amount of staples which may truthfully be characterized as indispensable, not only to the commerce of the Union, but to the comfortable existence of many thousands of people throughout the world. As an important centre for cotton, as the most important

DEPOT OF NAVAL STORES

in the world, and as the seat of an immense lumber interest, it would be reasonable to infer that Wilmington and its sustaining back country must be largely the creditor of New York and its chief dependencies. That such is not now the case, is a matter which the merchants here are less anxious than they are willing to rejoice over. The status of commercial affairs here just now may be summarily stated as follows:—In naval stores there has been a shrinkage of values sufficient to authorize the statement that business in this important line of commerce here has seriously suffered; the cotton market has, as it has everywhere else, perceptibly yielded to the financial depression at the North; the lumber trade has also suffered from the same cause that has depressed the cotton market, though it has been only within the last week that any of the sawmills have stopped work, while many are yet at work.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF WILMINGTON

is good so far as I am permitted to accept the state of the banks as indices. The three banks with which the merchants transact their business are perfectly sound and their solvency is not questioned for a moment. When the financial panic was at its height there was little of the apprehension felt in other cities because it was known that the bankers had been engaged in none of the speculations which involved many Southern banking houses in the fall of leading banking houses at the North. Indeed one of the city banks here in a circular recently issued makes the following boast:—"This bank and its branches paid currency for all demands during the late panic and did not resort to the use of certified checks or Clearing House certificates." Satisfied that the only true method of ascertaining the real influence upon a community of such a financial crisis as that which now afflicts the country was to consult prominent and reliable sources of information, I have been at some pains to-day to do so. To Colonel De Rossett, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and a prominent member of one of the oldest mercantile establishments in the South, I am indebted for the general statement as to the condition of trade given above. Captain Grainger, President of the Bank of New Hanover, expressed views not dissimilar to those of Colonel De Rossett. He feels assured that Wilmington is infinitely

BETTER OFF THAN ANY OTHER SOUTHERN CITY

with whose condition he has any acquaintance. He expressed the opinion that but for the low price of cotton there was no reason why the financial trouble at the North, save very remotely, should affect Wilmington, since New York owes the people here no money. "All that our people now need," said Captain Grainger, "is that they shall get their produce to market and then be able to find purchasers." Remembering the value of newspapers as barometers of the condition of the community in which they are published, your correspondent called upon Mr. Bernard, the editor of the *Star*, one of the most enterprising paper publishers in the Southern country. He believed that

MATTERS HAD REACHED THEIR WORST STAGE

in this city during the last half of September; that since the culmination of the financial troubles in New York affairs have steadily, though slowly, improved here, and that all that is needed to produce a comfortable commercial and financial status in Wilmington is that a ready market be found for the abundant and valuable produce of which it is the depot. In consequence of the absence of the great manufacturing establishments so numerous at the North there has been little suffering occasioned by

THE DISCHARGE OF OPERATIVES.

The negroes discharged from the sawmills easily find employment in other branches of labor, and they require very little to meet their simple and inexpensive wants. I have heard of the discharge of employés at a few manufacturing establishments within the city limits, but the number is small and there is not the slightest indication of unusual suffering among the poor of the city.

A More Hopeful Aspect Than Might be Expected—A Little Accommodation Only Necessary to Bridge over the Winter.

Raleigh, Nov. 8, 1873.

Although Wilmington is the chief city, both in commerce and population, Raleigh is the money centre of North Carolina. The three banks here control half the banking capital in the State, and their lines of discount have usually extended accommodation to Wilmington and various of the other business centres of North Carolina.

It is creditable to the intelligence of the people, and public confidence pays a handsome tribute to the character of the men who constitute the banking and commercial community of the State, that at no time has there been a panic in North Carolina. The crisis of low prices seriously stagnates trade and impedes the progress of business, but a panic, or loss of confidence, there is not the least evidence of here. Your correspondent has been at considerable pains to get at the true state of affairs here and throughout the State, and, after three days of patient inquiry, is enabled to give the impressions of the leading men representing the various lines of business in the State.

STATE FINANCES.

According to the last published report of the Comptroller of the Currency, North Carolina has an authorized and outstanding circulation of $1,733,420 against a banking capital of $5,000,000 before the war when the laws of the State allowed the banks to issue three for one, thus making a circulation of $15,000,000 at the breaking out of the war. The actual capital was then more than $5 per capita and the circulation some $15, as against a per capita circulation of $1 62 now. The Comptroller, in his report, makes the mistake of limiting the ante-bellum circulation of South Carolina to the actual banking capital authorized, whereas the laws of the State permitted an issue of $3 for every gold dollar held by the banks. I am asked here to call his attention to the error.

Under the national banking system North Carolina is put down by the Comptroller as being entitled to an issue of six and a half millions, apportioned on population and wealth, whereas she actually has little over a million and a half. Business men here point to the fact that the Eastern and Northern States have issued much more than their share, and thus overfavored by the government and overfed with currency they have gambled away their trust, overreached themselves and distressed the country with this temporary ruin of trade.

THE PEOPLE CONFIDENT.

But the people here are hopeful. Well-grounded in confidence, one for another, they are all working together, determined to weather the storm, without the loss of a single one of the crew, satisfied that they are on the course to and daily nearing the harbor of "peace and plenty." Not a single failure has thus far occurred in Raleigh, and scarcely one attributable to the present crisis in the State, and bankers, merchants, capitalists and farmers all seem determined that there shall be none. The banks of this city—and the same is true of those of the State—are in better condition than on the day of Jay Cooke's failure. They have never discontinued discounting, and keeping themselves in condition to meet every legitimate demand upon them they are still affording every possible relief and accommodation to the public.

COMMERCIAL SECURITY.

The merchants are in good spirits and confident of meeting their obligations as they mature. Their customers and those to whom they made advances for the cotton crop are coming up and paying part, and in throwing just enough of their produce into the market to relieve their merchants all hands appear to feel satisfied that the worst the crisis can do for them is to dissipate anticipated profits.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Of the crop of 1871 Raleigh handled about 17,000 bales; of 1872, 22,000, and of the present crop 25,000 was the anticipation. 4,600 bales, or nearly one-fifth of the expected amount, has been already received, and, compared with the operations in 1871, the receipts are 800 bales heavier to this date than up to the same date in November of that year. As against this date last year the receipts are 800 bales short. Cotton was then quoted 17c. a 17½c., now it is 11½c.

RAILROAD FREIGHTS AND TRANSPORTATION.

Dr. W. J. Hawkins, President of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, informs me that both outgoing and incoming freights are greatly diminished and travel much stagnated, but he is confident of maintaining himself, and has neither reduced time, wages, nor discharged any of his force, either in the shops or on the road. Mr. George T. Jones, agent of the North Carolina division of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, reports a heavy falling off in freights.

COTTON FACTORIES FIRM.

Colonel Thomas M. Holt, of Alamance, one of the largest cotton manufacturers of the State, informs your correspondent that E. M. Holt's Sons and J. H. & W. E. Holt & Co., of Graham; Holt & Newlin, of Saxapahaw, and Holt & Moore, of Haw River, are all running on full time and wages, and that they will all continue to run without change.

My information from Fayetteville, in the southeast of the State, is to the effect that the Bluff, Rockfish and Beaver Creek cotton mills are all running on full time, and the same is true of the other cotton mills of the State. I apprehend, however, that there must be some reduction in the manufacturing operations of this State, but no total suspensions.

The large tobacco manufactories at Durham and elsewhere are all reported to be running on full time and wages, though a reduction in both may take place any day. I am confident that the people of North Carolina have the ability and the determination to preserve themselves from serious disaster, and that they will stand in position to gather the first fruits of trade when it shall open again. All interests appear to be working together, and one helping another. The farmers are masters of the situation. They have generally paid their labor, and while many do not owe anything, the bulk of the indebtedness resting on farmers is with the commission merchants and the banks. Farmers who owe are selling enough cotton to keep their merchants afloat, and the banks are taking part pay and extending paper. In this way business is going on to a successful issue. The State has produced a fair supply of breadstuffs and is amply provisioned for the winter, and in any event there cannot be an unusual amount of suffering among the population of North Carolina. The climate is mild, nearly every family has produced something, and fuel is convenient to almost every household in the State. The situation in prospective presents North Carolina in a light more advantageous, in many respects, than many other States of the Union, and the circumstances of this crisis, her condition in it, and the bearing of her people under it, cannot fail to attract that attention of capital and immigration which will in a few years doubly compensate her for all the sacrifices of the great crisis of 1873.

THE CRISIS ELSEWHERE.

THE WORST KIND OF HARD TIMES.

The Midland Railroad owes laborers over $500,000.

DISTILLERIES RUNNING ON FULL TIME.

There are five large distilleries within one mile of Lynchburg, Tenn., all running on full time.

NO REDUCTION ON ALPACA GOODS.

The Jamestown (N. Y.) alpaca mills are to have a consuming capacity of 10,000 pounds of wool weekly.

THE CAR WORKS AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

The Car Works Company at Indianapolis have gradually discharged their workmen until only about 100 out of 230, their usual force, remain.

LET ALL HAVE THEIR SHARE OF SUFFERING.

While the railroad companies are taking the hard times as a pretext for discharging a large number of their workmen, reducing the wages of others and running their shops on half and three-quarter time, it would be well to consider the feasibility of reducing the salaries of the officers of the various roads.

AN OASIS IN THE FINANCIAL DESERT.

The Sandusky (Ohio) *Register* sent a reporter among the shops and business establishments of that city, and learns that the financial disturbance has not been felt much in Sandusky.

TIME REDUCED.

The employés of the Lehigh Valley Railroad in the machine shops at South Easton, Pa., have been reduced to nine hours' work per day. As yet no one has been discharged, but it is apprehended that the force will be lessened.

GLASS WORKS STOPPED.

On Saturday, November 8, the fire at the Glass Works at Covington, Pa., went out, and consequently over 30 men are thrown out of employment. What the company intend doing is not at present known.

THE PITTSBURG (PA.) MINERS.

The Pittsburg miners have not made much by their strike, entailing a loss of $200,000. Finally they concluded to resume work at the old price. But the employers now decline to pay even that. The miners will have to accept any price now, or do worse.

THE MANUFACTORIES AT NORTH ADAMS, MASS.

Retrenchment is the order of the day among the manufacturers in the vicinity of North Adams. Messrs. W. W. Freeman & Co., cotton manufacturers, have reduced their payroll one-fifth in amount, and Messrs. Houghton, Galloupe, Smith & Co. will follow their example. These firms employ an aggregate of 2,500 people.

Blackinton & Co., employing 2,000 persons, are running their mills only seven and one-half hours per day, and have decreased their pay roll one-half.

Messrs. Briggs Brothers and Harvey Arnold & Co. are running on full time.

THE IRON INTERESTS OF OHIO.

Jackson county has eight blast furnaces all running.

The upper furnace, at Steubenville, is turning out 40 tons of iron per day.

The Valley rolling mill, at Youngstown, is expected to resume operations shortly.

The blast furnace at Irondale, near Steubenville, is idle, but it is thought it will be started again before long.

The new Masillon rolling mill can be ready in twenty days for the manufacture of bar iron, but the company will not start their mill until a better feeling exists in the iron market.

THE PANIC IN ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The panic has told the hardest on the branches of business depending on railroad work, the machine shops, foundries, &c. The outlook for these branches is not very promising. Some work is being done on long time. Orders from several railroad companies received lately by one or two manufacturing concerns will not be filled, the credit of the companies not being considered good. Resumption of work is not anticipated before next summer. Some shops have discharged men and reduced the hours of labor on those remaining. Twenty-five hundred men are dependent for their living on this department of business.

The furniture ware manufacturers employ in this city generally 2,000 or 3,000 persons. Many of the manufactories have ceased work and the men been discharged. One, C. J. Hayden & Co., keep all of their men at work, but on reduced time and pay. They have a full stock and do not need to purchase. Arrangements with merchants to accept orders for provisions, clothing, &c., enable them to keep on with their work without total payments in currency. The effect on those people who are able to buy cabinet ware is that they get goods at cost price and sometimes less. Work generally will be resumed as soon as confidence is restored in monetary circles.

PROBABLE TERMINATION OF A LONG STRIKE.

The Troy *Times* of November 12 says:—"A rumor is being circulated at the iron works to the effect that Corning's mills will resume operations on Monday next, the men having accepted the reduction of 15 per cent in wages. This is a step in the right direction, and will no doubt be the cause of preventing much suffering from want and privation. It is also stated that steps are being taken by the puddlers employed in Burden's steam mill on the flats, looking towards a resumption of work in that mill. A meeting of the puddlers was held on Saturday night, and a committee was appointed to wait on the Messrs. Burden and inform them of the determination. The committee subsequently refused to act, and Mr. Burden has as yet received no notice of the meeting. It is understood that in case the men return to work they will be paid as usual, and that summer prices will be paid them and a year's steady work guaranteed. From indications it would seem that there is a prospect of a speedy termination of the long strike. It was six months on the 10th of November since this strike commenced, it being the longest and most disastrous one that ever occurred at the iron works."

WHISKEY AND BEER IN KENTUCKY.

The Louisville *Journal* of November 11 says:—The whiskey distilleries of the city are, with but one or two exceptions, lying idle, although it is usual, as we have stated, with distillers to commence operations about the 15th of October. When that time of the present season arrived the prospects were so discouraging that it was deemed politic not to start until the future might appear more favorable. The consequence of this step was, that although there were no workingmen thrown directly out of work, yet about 150 men who intended finding employment in this direction must seek it, for a time, at least, in some other. It is estimated that not over one-third of the distilleries throughout the State are in operation. It is generally contemplated, however, to resume operations about the 1st of January, and perhaps earlier. The reason for the dulness of the market is apparent. Sales cannot be made because cash is demanded, no one being able, or at least willing, to sell on time, and the cash of the country is secreted in stockings or hoarded in bank, beside the large outlay required for excise. The breweries are, on the contrary, in a prosperous condition. They have neither lessened their hours of labor, reduced wages, nor diminished their force of employés. The reason for this prosperity is evident. Their sales are made in small lots to small dealers. Cash is, in consequence, readily obtained. And it is an admitted fact that beer drinking is liable to no variation. It is always in "good demand," and never has the panic been among its consumers. On the contrary, the harder and gloomier the times, the greater will be its flow.

THE SPRAGUE SUSPENSION.

Meeting of Hoyt, Spragues & Co.'s Creditors—A Suit Against One of the Sprague Corporations.

Providence, R. I., Nov. 15, 1873.

A meeting of the creditors of Hoyt, Spragues & Co., resident in this city, was held in Horse Guards Hall at eleven o'clock to-day, to consider whether they will be represented at a meeting of creditors in New York next Wednesday. There were present between 75 and 100 persons. William S. Patten, cashier of the Manufacturers' National Bank, presided. William C. Chapin, in behalf of Hoyt, Spragues & Co., presented the following statement of the condition of the firm:—

LIABILITIES.

Notes payable on acceptance (of which are drafts of the A. W. Sprague Manufacturing Company $5,813,300)	$9,009,630
Due banks and others, borrowed on collaterals	559,316
Due consignors and for money in trust	242,396
Due on sundry small accounts	26,000
Total	$9,837,342

ASSETS.

Due from the A. & W. Sprague Manufacturing Company	$3,518,277	
Due from open accounts on books	4,130,611	
Due on unmatured drafts drawn by the Atlantic Delaine Company and Riverside Mills	2,469,106	
Due from consignees and others secured by goods in hand, real estate, mills and machinery	3,887,973	
Cash and bills receivable	857,458	
Bonds, stocks, real estate and good suspended accounts	295,180	
		12,158,594
Surplus of assets over liabilities		$2,321,252

The meeting after discussion rejected the resolution to appoint a committee to attend the meeting of creditors in New York, and passed the following:—

Resolved, That it is deemed inexpedient for this meeting to appoint any committee to attend the meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Hoyt, Sprague & Co., to be holden in New York on the 19th inst., inasmuch as the banks and other large creditors of said firm in this city and vicinity will doubtless be represented at that meeting individually.

The meeting then adjourned.

A Suit Against the Atlantic Delaine Company.

Providence, R. I., Nov. 15, 1873.

In the United States Court, in the case of Lucinda James, administratrix, against the Atlantic Delaine Company, in which a decree had been rendered at a former term of the Court in favor of the complainant, the counsel for the complainant this morning moved the Court for an injunction against the corporation and the appointment of a receiver of the property. A citation was ordered to issue, returnable next Tuesday.

CONSEQUENCES OF A WILL ROBBERY IN JERSEY.

In February, 1869, in Hope township, Warner county, N. J., Abram M. Vliet, a wealthy farmer, died, leaving a will. This will distributed his estate so that his sons received the lion's share and his daughters $3,000 each only. When he died, however, the will could not be found, and, under instructions of the Court, the estate was divided share and share alike to each of the children. Recently it transpired that the will had been stolen by a young man named Albertson, whose father had been given possession of it. He and another young scapegrace named Barton had been hired, as alleged, to steal the will by the husbands of the daughters, and were to receive $2,500. Barton received $1,450 on the spot. Affidavits to these facts have been made and it seems likely that Jonathan Lunday and G. E. Albertson, husbands of the two daughters, will get into trouble. The property altogether was worth about $50,000.

FATAL HATCHWAY CASUALTY.

On Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Leveredge, colored people, with their son Elmer, 12 years of age, went to call on some friends at No. 212 Broadway, and subsequently missing the little boy search was made for him, when his dead body was found lying in the sub-basement, he having fallen through the hatchway from the fifth floor. It is supposed that deceased fell through the hatchway while at play on the top floor of the building. Coroner Kessler was notified to hold an inquest in the case.

STATION HOUSE GUESTS.

Where the Poor Sleep and What They Say About the Hard Times.

OUSTING THE "REVOLVERS."

Lodgers' Rooms and How They Are Conducted.

In most of the station houses in the city is an apartment called "the lodgers' room." It is intended and is now used for the homeless poor of both sexes. The space in some of the stations does not admit of this accommodation, because the houses were selected for police purposes before the idea of giving shelter to the needy was adopted. In the larger and more modernly constructed places, however, some attempt is made at giving them shelter. These apartments are divided into one, two, three, and sometimes four rooms, one or two, as the occasion demands, being given up to the females, and the remainder to the men. They are kept scrupulously clean and healthy and are regularly inspected by the physician of the district. In each room, some eight or ten inches from the floor, are large iron frames, with supports on the inside edge, to receive and sustain the boards that are the beds of the "lodgers." These frames are intended to keep them from the floor and give room for a current of air to sweep underneath, and are, in reality, bedsteads. They are slightly elevated at the wall ends and incline gradually out. The boards are all separate, and as the "lodger" enters the room at night he carries his plank with him from the yard below and returns it to the same place on leaving in the morning. Every afternoon the planks are washed by the doormen attached to the station houses, and by night they are again dry, clean and ready for use. This operation in the station house is called

"MAKING THE BEDS,"

and is sometimes performed by one of the "lodgers." When this is the case the man is appointed "captain of the squad" for the night, and the honor is much sought after. Naturally the doorman is a great authority among the "lodgers," but, the door closed upon him, the "captain of the squad" becomes the ruler. He decides who shall have the softest (?) bed; whether the fat man, with the stubbly beard and red face, is encroaching on the space of the lean man, with no beard and pale face; who shall have the nearest place in front of the stove, or which of the claimants at the water tank shall have the first "show." He orders that the small boy with the big boots shall take them off and not kick the clothes off the big boy with no boots. He takes the first drink from the only whiskey bottle in the party, and then invites whoever he likes to join him in a carousal. If he is a selfish and guzzling "captain of the squad," which is not an unfrequent specimen, he may drink it all himself, and then sing the "boys" a comic song, "on the quiet," or ask the fellow with the new clay pipe to give him "a draw." He decides who shall sleep next the door, and who furthest from the fire—whether the young man with the horse blanket came by that article honestly, and whether it should not be applied to the comfort of the "captain of the squad," as being a thing in dispute. He orders the long, emaciated-looking boy on the middle plank not to go on dreaming that he is eating "a square meal" in that way and dancing with delight at the novelty of a full stomach, for he's kicking his neighbors, and neither the idea nor its effects are pleasing to them. He listens to the complaint that the big man in the flannel shirt has taken a "chaw" and a pipeful out of the common store of tobacco, and decides in favor of the big man, because he is afraid of him. He settles all disputes, listens to all grievances, takes the best of everything—which can never be said to be very heavy spoil—for himself, and the poor "lodgers" find they have only fled from a grasping, grinding, pitiless world outside to be ruled by an upstart despot in "the lodgers' room," who would give himself the airs of the King of the Beggars. When

THE LABOR MARKET

is in a healthy condition and employment is easily procured or procurable at all "the lodgers' room" becomes the headquarters of the careless, the idle and the drunken. One after another they roll into the station house in every stage of alcoholism, and at once give themselves up to the drowsy disposings of the prison. In very fine weather this worthless, degraded class take the fields and parks in preference to "the lodgers' room," and pass their nights beneath the stars. They sometimes patronize the docks and bulkheads at the water's edge and sleep upon the piers or under them, or in any convenient and cosey nook that may happen to be at hand. The great aim and endeavor of these men and women is to procure whiskey, or the vile compound dispensed in "bucket shops" under that name, or money to buy it. Food is never thought of; that comes of itself, and if it does not the other supplies its place and is much more welcome to the polluted palate. Terrible as the assertion is, its truth is beyond question—women are the best providers and the greediest consumers. As active beggars and stealthy, noiseless purloiners, they are unapproachable, and the men who have been moving around the town all day, watching and waiting, but never succeeding, arrive at night empty handed, while the women put in a pleasant appearance and a well-filled bottle. Then the pipe of peace and good fellowship is lighted. Whether in station house, on pier, in field or garret and the narrow necked bowl circulates. Sometimes cards are introduced before the party get too drunk, and frequently they indulge in a "row" all round, for there is considerable "fight" in the whiskey they drink. These people are very adroit and cunning in their way. They avoid as much as possible going to the same station house often. They don't want their faces known, and they avoid as much as they can being denominated "revolvers," the name given by the police to

THE CONSTANT VISITOR

to "the lodgers' room." Sergeant Murray, of the Fifteenth precinct, was obliged, a few nights ago, to deny an old "revolving" friend.

"What!" said he indignantly and with many a roll of his unsteady eye, "not admit me! Well, this is nice, and the cold weather just here, too. Sergeant! Sergeant! these are evil days that you and I have fallen upon. Deny me the privilege of my old habitation? This is an outrage—monstrous. Why, sir, I could not sleep comfortably off that board; the outline of my figure is worn into it most gracefully and beautifully. Time, time alone could do that, sir; and now you say I must not go in. Sergeant, Sergeant, now say did you ever in your life, sir, see me——"

"Sober? no, indeed, Mr. McLoughlan, I never did."

And whose was the fault? Whose? Whose? The wicked, heartless world that went back on me and would not give me a chance. You would not know me now; but once I had my three square meals a day, and four if I wanted them. Couldn't miss 'em then; 'twould kill me now to eat twice at the same hour in a month. Being hungry, Lord! it's nothing when you're used to it! Mere mechanical things teach human nature to do anything. Good night, Sergeant; very sorry. By the way, I could go around to Mr. Kenealy's if I had ten cents. Last time I shall ever ask—until you're a captain. Pay you back certainly to-morrow. You haven't got it for that purpose? Ah, well, let us hope the times will soon improve, and respectable men won't be driven into the streets like this.

The "revolvers" no longer find places in the station houses, because the demand for shelter of really respectable looking, deserving men, is so great. In winter time the number of "lodgers" increases, but this winter there is not accommodation for one-fifth the applicants. Not only is there a great difference in the numbers, but there is a most marked and painful difference in the people. Instead of the old "revolvers," quiet, hard working men now present themselves at the desk, and with eyes cast down, ask permission to remain over night. The police in every case give these men the preference, and sent away the "revolvers;" but the most distressing feature of this state of things is that

THERE IS NOT ROOM FOR ALL.

In the Fifteenth precinct last night there were 58 men in the "lodgers rooms." Some were smoking, some were talking; but all were hungry and many were desperate. "The captain of squad" was a busy, careful man, who did his best to make them comfortable. To a question from the writer he said:—

"There ain't a man in this room but is willing to work and has tried hard to get it. Do you think they'd come here if they had any other place; no, sir, they would not. A poor workingman is sometimes a proud man and this is the last place he would think of, to come to for a night's lodging. But you see we have got down to it and most of us have wives and families. I walked the streets for four nights before I could bring myself down to come in here; but the cold and the want of clothing drove me to it at last. Then I hadn't sold all my things, but they went one after another to keep the children together and I had to send my shame and self-respect after them. We can't sleep at home, you see, because we have no homes. Two or three of us married men club together what we squeeze out during the day to pay for a room for the women and children to sleep in at night. They have the same fare there as we have here, only perhaps not so much fire; have boards and empty stomachs. Where it is going to end, heaven only knows, but something must be done and done soon, for the numbers are increasing every day."

A strong, rather well clad young man, about 25 years old, entering the room at that moment, he was asked why he went there to sleep.

"I have no other place," he answered. "I have been all over this town looking for work and I can't find any; I am a paperbox maker by trade, and a good worker, but there's nothing to do. I'm willing to take a job at anything and for anything, but I can't get one. There's what my last employers in Broome street think of me," said he, pulling two recommendations out of his pocket. They gave him a character for honesty, sobriety and industry. As they were handed back to him again he remarked, "Now, with these my hand I can't get employment, although I have offered to work for my board—$4 a week—or anything they like to give me. No use, no use. This is the third time I have slept here, and I have not eaten a bite since yesterday at four o'clock."

"Now," said a man, jumping up from the middle of the party stretched on the boards, "what chance have I to feed my five children, my mother and my wife against that young man. He's twenty years younger than me and better able to work. Young, quick and strong, and can't get work to do at

FOUR DOLLARS A WEEK?

What am I to do? lie down and starve, and see my children do the same thing? Great God!—and in America!"

Every one in the room was now attentive, and a quiet demeanored man of about fifty rose and said:—

"I suppose you have interest in this subject or you would not be here. Now, if you will take the trouble to look into that next room you will find twenty Germans there who have not been in this country a year, any one of them, and many of them not three months. That's one of the reasons why you find us here. Another is somewhat connected with the strikes last summer, but the greatest of all is the villany of those scoundrels in Wall street. I have no objection to people coming here from other countries. I am in favor of populating the Provinces, but I think some measures might be taken to prevent them from contributing to this sort of thing. Why, bless you, some of these Germans sleeping on the boards in there have as much as $100 on their persons. Of course, others have none at all, but it does seem hard that poor men, born on the soil, are turned from the door into the cold for want of room, while these fellows are lying here that they may save a few cents. I am American born, and so was my family for generations, and I never thought I should see my country brought down to this. Why, even the Spaniards insult our flag, and, like poor, starved curs, we cannot even turn our heads back to snarl at them. I have a daughter at the Normal School, and do you know what I'm going to do before I take her away? Steal! Now, there it is."

What he said was strictly true. The room adjoining contained almost all Germans. Many of them looked like recent arrivals, and not one could speak English. In the Twenty-ninth precinct there were forty-two men, and the same story was told, even down to the Germans.

"The captain of the squad" in this room was a nervous, fidgetty little man, and he had evidently managed to find sufficient beverage somewhere to make his tongue wag unevenly.

"We are all hard-working men," he said, "except them Dutch in the next room." He seemed to be "down on" the Dutch.

"I don't know nothin' about them, an' I don't want to. We're most of us married men. I'm a plasterer, but I aint had nothin' to do for two months. I had a little in the bank, and that stood us for a while; but when it run out, and I could get nothin' to do, except an odd job now and then for a day or two, the clothes and furniture had to go, and at last here I am. In the day time I shovel in a ton of coal or do any kind of an odd job I can get for a trifle, and it manages to buy bread. But, now, isn't that

A QUEER EMPLOYMENT

in New York for a man who served his time to his trade? That man and me—he's a stone cutter—have a room between us for the women and children, and his wife can't go out because she's got nothing on her but an old wrapper, and the winter's here. That's the truth, sir." Said the stone cutter:—"I was born in this street, on this very block, and the first time I ever put my foot in a station house was to go there to ask for a bed; you know what kind of a one it is. A man will stand a good deal until he sees his children starving; and there are thousands of men in New York, the greatest city in the world, looking at that operation to-day."

One of the Germans in this batch could speak English. He said he had been in the country two years. Was employed in the country, but, getting discharged, he came to New York to look for something to do. The others, he said, were all newly arrived, some three months in the country and others less. Captain McElwain, in the Twentieth precinct, had forty-nine men. The rooms and most of the cells were crammed, and he had turned away as many more. Here, too, there were Germans and negroes, and the same story about the difficulty of getting work. Captain McElwain said the men were of a very much better class than he ever saw before applying for lodging, and it was extremely painful to see their dejected faces when told there was no more room. There were sixty-three men in the Fourteenth precinct, and all they could hold in the Eighth, Ninth, Sixth, Fourth, Tenth, Eleventh and Thirteenth. All the captains and sergeants testified to the seeming respectability and standing of the men, and expressed themselves strongly on the necessity of further accommodation for the people. As figures are supposed to tell the truth in a more forcible and direct manner than anything else, the following statistics are given. They carry an aspect of the state of affairs that nothing but them could show, and yet they present to the mind but an inadequate picture of what really exists. Six hundred and forty-four men and boys and 240 women and girls slept in the "lodgers' rooms" in the city last Thursday night. On the corresponding night in 1872 the total number accommodated was 430, and the greater part of these were "revolvers." Friday night last the number increased, and last night it was still larger.

During the year ending April 5, 1871, there were 141,788 persons provided with lodgings; in 1872, 147,427; and up to the 4th of April, 1873, 153,884. This shows that under a comparatively healthy state of affairs the number has gone on increasing steadily, and it may be easily conjectured what it will be at the end of this year. Remedies are being suggested on all sides to help the people, but something should be done at once, and the easiest thing and the one to lend the greatest aid at the moment, would be the establishment of supplemental "lodgings" close to the station houses and under the control of the police.

THE HARLEM BOILER EXPLOSION.

Coroner Kessler was yesterday engaged at the Twelfth precinct station house, Harlem, in issuing subpœnas for witnesses to attend the investigation into the boiler explosion which occurred, on Tuesday last, near 128th street. The Coroner has already engaged Mr. Belknap to make a thorough examination of the various parts of the boiler, with a view to determining the cause of the explosion. Mr. Belknap will be ready to give his testimony on Wednesday next, and several other experts will be also subpœnaed for the investigation, which will be held at the Coroners' Office on that day. Several broken parts of the boiler will be shown to the jury, in order that they may intelligently understand the opinions of the experts.

Mr. Dillon, the Contractor, Arrested—His Sub-Contractors Held to Bail—An Important Witness.

Yesterday morning Detectives Bennett and Moore, of the Central Office, brought to the Coroners' office Mr. Sidney Dillon, one of the contractors for the work in 128th street and Fourth avenue, where the explosion occurred a few days ago with such disastrous results, and also Horace J. Beemer and Andrew Coyne, the sub-contractors. Coroner Kessler required the defendants to give bail in the sum of $25,000 each, which they did forthwith, Mr. James N. Smith, of No. 265 Clinton avenue, Brooklyn, becoming bondsman for Mr. Dillon, who lives at No. 5 West Thirty-seventh street, whereupon the latter gentleman gave the requisite security for the further appearance of Messrs. Beemer & Coyne, who were owners of the exploded boiler. The parties were then released and proceeded about their business. Mr. Coyne lives at No. 1 East 127th street, as also does Mr. Beemer. Mr. Clyde, of the firm of Dillon, Clyde & Co., being absent at his home in Springfield, Mass., will appear on Tuesday next and give bail in the like amount with his partner, Mr. Dillon.

AN IMPORTANT WITNESS.

On Friday Captain Theodore R. Bennett, of the Twelfth precinct police, received a note, of which the following is a copy, in regard to a witness who could testify as to the condition of the collapsed boiler:—

Captain T. R. Bennett:—

Dear Sir—Having been informed by Captain Tallman, of the New York and New Haven Company, that Henry White, a licensed engineer, of Payne's Mills, called the attention of the engineer of the exploded boiler to the defective condition of said boiler several days previous to the explosion, and believing Henry White to be an important witness for the Coroner, I take this mode of having him subpœnaed. Respectfully, yours,

S. A. BASSFORD.

Mr. White has been summoned to appear and give his testimony during the investigation, which is to be commenced on Wednesday next.

CALIFORNIA JUSTICE.

San Francisco, Nov. 14, 1873.

A despatch from San Juan South to-day says:—By the arrival of the stage from New Idra we learn that a sheep herder was murdered in that place on the 12th inst. by two men, one of whom is named Chaves. His companion belonged to Vasquez's gang. They fired six shots into their victim and then Chaves cut his throat. Chaves escaped, but the other murderer was caught and tried by a lynch jury. He confessed his participation in the crime and was hanged. His name and the name of the murdered man are unknown.