

# CURRENT DOES WORK

## FORMER RAILROAD OFFICIAL FARMS WITH ELECTRICITY.

Thomas W. Lee of Idaho Falls, N. Y., Has a Large Tract Strung with Wires to Furnish Power for Machinery.

New York.—Thomas W. Lee, until about two years ago general passenger agent of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, with headquarters in New York, is the first man in the world to farm by electricity. Mr. Lee owns the Bungalow, a tract of more than 2,000 acres in the vicinity of Idaho Falls. All that he has to do now when he wishes to farm is to push a button. Electricity does the rest.

The ground in the Bungalow was broken for cultivation two years ago. The first season it returned a profit on grain. It is fenced, has fine buildings, machinery and stock and is managed by a man to whom system is as necessary as breath.

One year ago Mr. Lee utilized steam, but that proved too slow and too expensive. This year the grain of the Bungalow will be reaped, stacked, threshed, sacked and made ready for market by electricity.

Mr. Lee is now laying by electricity. A simple wheeled contrivance containing a heavy coil of wire is taken to the desired position. Motor and machinery are set, and in a few minutes the pleasant, steady hum of machinery is heard. This power is transmitted about 12 miles. The feed wire on the ranch is fitted with plugs and the juice is ready for coil and motor wherever it may be located.

Mr. Lee installed private telephone and electric wires. These wires, erected at his own expense, are stretched two miles from the main line of the power company. These poles carry three wires, which are used for both power and lighting purposes.

Water is pumped, grinders are turned, saws, corn shellers, root cutters, hay forks, hay cutters, cider mills, mixer mills, ensilage cutters, cement mixers, churns and separators are all run by electricity. A 25-horsepower electric motor accomplishes all these things.

The Bungalow is wired from corner to corner. Miles of poles and cables, motors, revolving drums and the most up-to-date farming machinery that money can buy constitute the equipment.

This season the entire crop of the Bungalow, aggregating 2,000 tons of hay, alfalfa and clover, 40,000 bushels of grain and potatoes and other products will be placed on tracks and with cable reels be handled with greater facility than it could ever be handled with human hands.

The cost of steam, with the coal and labor, was much greater than that of electricity. During the threshing season labor alone costs \$50 a day for 25 days. Mr. Lee figures that the installation of electricity means a saving for the first year of \$2,200 on first cost, and thereafter the cost of operating will be about one-fourth the former figures. During the threshing season the cost with the electric current will be only \$400, as against \$1,500 with steam.

Aside from the saving, Mr. Lee says the power is reliable, constant and doesn't go on strike; the danger of fire is eliminated and the satisfaction constitutes not the smallest feature.

### Give Life to Win Game.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Rather than drop the ball, which, unless he held it, would mean the loss of a hard-fought twilight game for his team, Willie Rainey, 12 years old, took great chances, and though he held the game safe, he may lose his life in consequence. He fell into an abandoned coal mine which lay under the game field on Cassan's hill, where the game was being played.

The batsman hit a fearful drive that looked as if it would get over Rainey's head, but he ran backward far and fast. Finally, by a remarkable jump, Rainey got the ball in one hand, and as he reached the earth again he stumbled and lurched into the yawning mouth of the abandoned coal mine. It was half an hour before the youngster was fished out of the coal mine, and it was found that one of his legs was broken and that he had sustained fearful internal injuries. In the grimy little right hand he held the ball.

### Hung Out \$200 on Line to Dry.

Ansonia, Conn.—William Wilhelmy, a baker of this city, drove to Woodbury to visit his brother. He was caught in a rainstorm, and when he reached his brother's his trousers were wringing wet and bespattered with mud. He borrowed another pair of pants and wore them while the hired girl washed the other pair.

Wilhelmy went calling on friends, and when he returned he found a crowd looking at \$200 in wet money hanging on a clothes line.

The girl had been in this country only a few days and did not know that what she found in the pants was money.

### Prize Corn of Iowa.

Rockwell, Ia.—Rockwell claims the possession of the most thrifty stalk of corn in all Iowa. On exhibition in one of her stores is a cornstalk containing 18 ears of corn of normal size and stalked ready for maturity. The stalk was grown on a piece of leased land near the town, and it is said nothing like it has been seen in corn-growing.

### Small Reward for Honest Act.

Chicago.—A certified check for \$50,000 from the Cudahy Packing company to the La Salle Oil company was found in the street by William Becker, a postoffice wagon driver. When Becker returned the check to the owner he was given a \$2 bill for his honesty.

### A Fifty-Year-Old Mustache.

Elizabethtown, Pa.—Abram Schaeffer, who resides near here, made a vow in 1856 that if Buchanan should be elected president he would never part with his mustache.

## YEARLY TOBACCO CONSUMPTION.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Gives Some Interesting Figures.

Washington.—Cigarettes to the number of 55,492,336,113 were consumed in the United States in the last year. Counting the number of men and boys of smoking age as 25,000,000 each consumed 2,216 cigarettes last year.

In this enormous total are not included millions of cigarettes which are listed as cigars.

The preliminary report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that the receipts of his office from all internal revenue sources during the year ending July 31, 1908, was \$251,665,950, which is a decrease of \$17,998,072 as compared with the fiscal year ended July 31, 1907. The expenses in collecting this sum will amount to about \$4,832,000.

The quantities on which tax was paid during the year are as follows:

Spirits distilled from fruit, gallons, 1,679,931.

Spirits distilled from materials other than fruit, gallons, 119,898,462.

Imitation champagne, etc., 69 bottles.

Fermented liquors, 58,747,680 barrels.

Cigars weighing more than three pounds per 1,000, 6,904,758,783.

Cigars not weighing more than three pounds per 1,000, 109,352,396.

Cigarettes weighing not more than three pounds per 1,000, 55,283,204,630.

Cigarettes weighing more than three pounds per 1,000, 19,121,483.

Snuff, pounds, 23,547,752; tobacco, pounds, 364,109,395; oleomargarine, pounds, 18,107,302; filled cheese, pounds, 127,152.

### SAYS LOVE IS A DELUSION.

Chinese Philosopher Tells Why We Have Divorce Courts.

San Francisco.—"The world must look to China for a remedy of the divorce evil." This is the view of Ng Poon Chew, Chinese philosopher and socialist, who declared that only in the Celestial kingdom are divorce courts unnecessary.

"In my country," he says, "marriage is a common job. Everyone has to take part, voluntarily or otherwise. We marry because we must, you marry because you fancy you have found your affinity. We know of no affinities.

"The Chinese regard the breaking of the marriage bond, either by divorce or separation, not only as immoral, but as a fearful crime against society. Here you are bound to follow the whims and fancy of every changing emotion in the selection of life partners, but we regard marriage as a matter of the head. Our young people have absolutely nothing to do with marriage. We do not recognize love and we have never been lured by Cupid. To the Chinese mind love is a delusion, hallucination, intoxication and a mirage in the desert of passion.

"We have solved the problems of marriage, you have not. We have no need of divorce courts, you cannot do away with them."

Ng Poon Chew has attracted wide attention on the Pacific coast by a number of essays on various sociological subjects.

### WOULD BAR FAIRY TALES.

School Trustee Wants Children to Stick to Dry Facts.

Passaic, N. J.—"Fairy tales and fables have no place in our public schools," declared Harry A. Hettema, school trustee for the Second ward, in discussing a fight he had made at the meeting of the board of education to have all such books discarded from the reading courses. "How many of our children are taken out of school and sent to work the day they are 14 years old? Their time, while they are in school, should be spent in acquiring practical knowledge."

Asked what he would have the children read Hettema said he would suggest books of travel, history, geography, and anything that would improve the mind and be useful to the child in after years.

"The Dutch," he continued, "are particularly opposed to having their children read fairy tales. In Paterson they have opened a private school because the fairy stories were read in the public schools, and there has been talk of doing the same Passaic."

A majority of Hettema's constituents are of Dutch descent, as he is himself.

### Lightning Plays Pranks.

Waterbury, Conn.—Lightning played queer pranks here during a storm. One bolt entered the front door of a dwelling owned by H. B. Beardsley, tore out a window and hurled the tenant of the house, William Shaw, out onto the back veranda without injuring him in the least.

The family sewing machine was moved from the parlor into the dining room, but Mrs. Shaw says she wanted it there anyway. To add to its good work the lightning killed thousands of elm tree beetles, which were turning the old town's majestic trees into barren stumps.

### Sleepwalker's Long Fall.

Philadelphia.—While walking in his sleep James Carter, aged 43 years, of 424 South Twelfth street, fell to the sidewalk from the third-story window of his home. He was taken to the Pennsylvania hospital, and reached there unconscious, though he was soon revived.

The strange part about the man's case is that, while he was badly bruised, not a bone was broken. He will recover unless he has suffered internal injuries.

### Initiated by a Real Goat.

Bethlehem, Pa.—Billy, the Felton house goat, had the better of a strenuous argument with Franz Becker, a local character. Becker unwittingly shook his walking stick at the goat, and the next moment was butted into the middle of the street.

Covered with mud, Becker attempted to rise, but every time he moved, bang! Billy butted him a little deeper into the mire.

Several hundred amused people had gathered by this time, and Becker was rescued.

## PINS FAITH IN HIS DIRIGIBLE BALLOON



Capt. Thomas Baldwin, the inventor and builder of a new dirigible balloon, is confident he will be able to meet the government conditions in the coming tests at Fort Meyer.

## MARRY IN A HURRY.

### RECORD MADE IN CUPID'S GREAT GAME AT PHILADELPHIA.

Total Strangers Meet by Chance at 4:00 P. M., Proposal Made at 4:14 P. M., and Minister Ties Knot at 5:35 P. M.

Philadelphia.—It took Charles MacGregor, aged 30, and Estelle Meyers, aged 22, both of Baltimore, to show Philadelphians, and for that matter the world at large, what can be accomplished in the way of speed in matrimonial affairs. MacGregor is a rich real estate dealer whose home is on East Chase street. Miss Snack lives on East Preston street. They had never seen or heard of each other until she met him in the railroad station at 4 p. m. Don't forget the time.

Miss Snack had been spending her vacation in Atlantic City. She was returning home via Philadelphia. As she stood in the waiting room of the Broad street station she dropped her purse. A few feet away stood MacGregor on his way to Atlantic City to begin spending his vacation.

He noticed the fallen purse and sprang forward and picked it up. His eyes met the girl's for a moment. Both blushed. MacGregor found himself strangely unable to go away. A conversation was begun with the "Thank you" of the girl.

When they discovered that their homes were in the same city they were easy. Each was very much interested in the other. At 4:10 the conversation turned to a discussion of marriage. At 4:14 it had taken on such an aspect that MacGregor was able to propose without changing the subject. One minute later he had been accepted.

The difficulty then was to arrange the marriage. As MacGregor pondered the difficulty he was aroused by a heavy slap on the back. When he looked around he almost shouted with joy. Before him, hand outstretched and smiling, was Rev. David T. Neely, pastor of the Asquith street Presbyterian church in Baltimore, his own church. Now, what do you think of that?

When the circumstances were explained the minister agreed to perform the ceremony. It was after hours for the license bureau, so Clerk Goebel of the marriage bureau was reached on the phone. Goebel said that he had blanks at his house, so the trio jumped into a taxicab, motored to the clerk's house and obtained the license.

John J. Robinson, an intimate friend of MacGregor, was the next to receive a "phone call. He gave assent to a proposition that the ceremony be performed in his house. Again the taxicab was called into requisition and the party, this time with Goebel along as a witness, went to Robinson's residence, No. 17 Saunders avenue.

There were no further obstacles, and the ceremony was performed. As the minister spoke the first words of the service the time stood at exactly 5:35. At the conclusion of the ceremony the bride and groom left for Atlantic City to spend their honeymoon.

"We did it quickly, but well," said MacGregor, the night before he left the city. "It was a sure case of love at first sight."

"We shall be happy," was all the bride could say. Both looked happy.

### LIGHTS LURE MOTHS TO DOOM.

Novel Trap Aids in Fight on Plague in German Forests.

Zittau, Germany.—The Saxon authorities have discovered what would seem to be an excellent way to put an end to the caterpillar plague, which is having such a disastrous effect on the local forests. They have discovered a method to catch the brown moths that lay the eggs from which the caterpillars come in enormous quantities. They make use of what they call the electric light trap. This consists of two large and powerful reflectors placed over a deep receptacle and powerful exhaust fans.

The whole has been erected on top of the municipal electric plant. At night two great streams of light are thrown from the reflectors on the wooded mountain sides half a mile distant. The moths, drawn by the brilliancy, come fluttering in thousands along the broad rays of light. When they get within a certain distance of the reflectors the exhaust fans, with powerful currents of air, swirl them into the receptacle.

On the first night three tons of moths were caught. It has been decided to build another trap on the Rathaus tower.

### College Wants 40,000 Insects.

Iowa School Needs Them for Use in Winter Lectures.

Ames, Ia.—The residents of Ames have discovered that insects have a market value, and are making such a relentless war upon them that bugs of every description threaten to become scarce here as icicles in—well, in July, for instance. The state college extension department has announced it must have 40,000 insects between now and the time of the first freeze.

For the last two months it has employed several regular insect catchers, and still the list is far from complete. Of late additions have been made to the force, and the work is being pushed.

No variety is exempt from pursuit. The list is off, and it is open season for insects 24 hours in the day. Arctotactic blue and yellow butterflies are unceremoniously chucked into the same bottle with prebent potato bugs. Plant lice so small that they can be seen only with a microscope, and devil's darning needles as large as hummingbirds, bloodthirsty mosquitoes and the unmentionable bugs that occupy the leading hotels, all meet death in the same inorganic way.

But these many bugs are not being sacrificed wantonly. They are given their lives for the interest of science. They are an offering at the altar of education. The department is collecting all the insects, common and uncommon, injurious and otherwise, that inhabit the state of Iowa, and mounting them in sets.

The collection will be used at the various short courses to be held throughout the state this winter, and also in the rural schools where agriculture or nature study occupies a prominent position. By this means the boys and girls of the state will be taught which insects are good and which ones bad, so that they may destroy discriminatingly.

### CAT FINDS A HOME BY AUTO.

Mystery Is How It Got on Machine in Long Trip.

Winsted, Conn.—Leaving Orange, N. J., for Falls Village, this country, Mr. and Mrs. Miles Hanchett, traveling in their auto, made but one stop between before reaching Suffern, N. Y., and that at a grade crossing to let a train pass. On reaching Suffern they heard the meow of a cat.

Investigation located a half-grown kitten on the gear box of the machine. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Hanchett had any idea when or where the cat boarded the car.

Twice the cat was taken from the machine and placed on the roadside, but each time it jumped back and they finally decided to take it to Falls Village, where it sat quietly during the remainder of the journey and apparently enjoyed the trip.

### Hand-shake Breaks Man's Arm.

Too Vigorous Welcome Sends Sixty-Year-Old Man to Hospital.

Wilmington, Del.—As the result of a vigorous hand-shake, Jeremiah Berger, aged 60, is at the Delaware hospital suffering from a broken arm.

Berger is a powder worker for the Du Pont Powder Company and lives at Henry Clay. A few days ago he met Patrick Dougherty, a hotel proprietor, and the two clasped hands in a hearty shake, as it was the first time they had met for several months.

A few days later Berger's arm began to pain him. He went to the hospital to consult a physician, and was then told a bone had been broken.

Berger declares he will be careful hereafter to whom he extends his hand in greeting.

Most airships are all right, except that they won't fly.

# WHAT UNCLE SAM IS DOING FOR LABOR

ONE line of accomplishment in which the United States government has gone ahead mightily in recent years is in the help that has been rendered to the cause of labor. Moreover the aid that has been given to the working classes of the country has not by any means been confined to those conspicuous services with which the public is familiar, such as the settlement of the anthracite coal strike, the enforcement of the eight-hour day on government work and the establishment of labor's own branch of public service—the department of commerce and labor.

Uncle Sam stands ready, of course, to step into the breach wherever occasion demands in an effort to secure a "square deal" and living wages for the toiling masses but even when there are no clouds on the horizon of the relations between capital and labor this paternal government is busily engaged with the problem of promoting the welfare of those who labor with hands or brain. A number of different branches of the government are contributing to this policy but in the main the work devolves upon the bureau of labor at Washington, which, in effect, the labor division of the department of commerce and labor.

Newspaper readers hear of the bureau of labor when its head, the commissioner of labor, steps in and attempts to arbitrate some strike or threatened strike, as for instance the recent difficulties of the telegraphers of the country, but there is not one citizen in a thousand who has any idea of the scope of the everyday work of the bureau in acquiring and diffusing useful information on subjects connected with labor in the most general and most comprehensive sense of that word.

It is doing good work. By means of an energetic "field force" and a capable corps of experts in the home office at Washington this branch of the government is continually investigating in all parts of the country such subjects as the relations of capital and labor, the hours of labor, the earnings of laboring men and women, and other similarly fruitful topics. What is more, this public institution is continually striving to promote the material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity of the workers. Of course these government scouts in the labor field cannot work in a rut. Indeed the force is so mobile and the individual workers so versatile that when a serious dispute arises between employers and employees or there is a controversy such as that some time ago regarding conditions in the meat packing industry all other work at the bureau can be dropped and all hands concentrate their attention upon the causes and facts of the crisis of the moment.

The late Senator Hoar of Massachusetts is perhaps entitled to be considered the father of the movement to have Uncle Sam systematically aid the cause of labor. It was in 1871 that Mr. Hoar, then a member of the United States house of representatives, introduced a bill providing for the appointment of a commission to study the subject of wages and hours of labor and the division of profits between labor and capital in the United States. The bill did not pass but still had been started on its way and in 1884 made provision for a bureau of labor as a part of the interior department. When the department of commerce and labor was organized in 1903 the bureau of labor was taken under its wing as one of its principal branches.

Congress has conferred pretty broad powers upon the commissioner of labor. He can undertake at his discretion any investigation which in his judgment relates to the welfare of the working people of the country and he can employ in this quest for information all the means at his disposal and the corps of statistical experts, special agents, clerks, etc., carried on the payroll of the bureau of labor. Uncle Sam's labor commissioner may, if he choose, simply make a report to congress once a year on his investigations but of late years special reports have been issued monthly or even oftener, and on a number of occasions the president has called upon the commissioner of labor to make special inquiry in some field and communicate his findings as quickly as possible.

The bureau of labor is in reality a great "intelligence office" that pours out information through four different channels. The first of these is made up of the results of original investigations conducted by the bureau or its agents and experts. Secondly the labor bureau gives the whole country a digest of state labor reports, thus bringing to the attention of the general public many matters relating to conditions in the different states of the union that might not otherwise become matters of common knowledge.

Has Wide Scope. Thirdly, this bureau of labor information reviews exhaustively for the benefit of its millions of American clients the labor and statistical documents of all foreign countries and when anything is discovered that has

a bearing on labor interests in Yankeeedom it is promptly brought to the attention of the people concerned. Fourthly, the bureau fulfills its function as public servant by publishing and sending broadcast all new laws that are passed affecting the interests of the working people. No matter whether a law be passed by the national congress or by the legislature in some one of our two score states it is no sooner on the statute books than the labor bureau sends the tidings to the toilers who will be affected. Finally there is a similar system for the distribution of news relative to court decisions interpreting labor laws or other happenings affecting the relations of employer and employee.

Most interesting and most important of the undertakings of the bureau of labor are the special investigations conducted by its own experts. These have covered a very wide range of subjects. It is, of course, impossible to enumerate them at length but just to convey an idea of the fields that have been explored there may be cited such subjects as industrial communities at home and abroad; co-operative distribution; railway relief departments; the padrone system; condition of negro workers; building and loan associations; the inspection of factories and workshops; the trade-union label; protection of workmen in their employment; child labor in the United States; wages and cost of living, etc.

Deals Only in Facts. In the earlier years of the work people did not, in many instances, take kindly to the idea of having their private affairs probed for the benefit of the public, but latterly this spirit has largely disappeared. Nowadays if the special agents of the bureau of labor are refused information by one manufacturer they usually have no difficulty in discovering some other establishment where the needed data may be obtained. The government labor experts have won confidence by never allowing the names of parties furnishing facts to be given in its reports, although, to be sure, they take every possible means to verify all the information gathered. The bureau will have nothing to do with estimates or hearsay statements about labor conditions. It never makes any statements unless it has positive facts to back them up.

At the outset the government labor experts thought that they could carry on their investigations largely by mail, but it was soon found that few people would respond satisfactorily to queries thus transmitted and so the bureau of labor had to organize a corps of special agents who are continually "on the wing" securing information at first hand and recording it on carefully prepared schedules. The policy of the bureau of labor in looking into labor conditions and the problems of life affecting the working people is seldom if ever to argue a point. It simply secures all the facts in the case and then lets the intelligent labor man decide what is best for him from the information set out for his benefit. The bureau of labor is particularly fortunate in its directing heads. The commissioner of labor, Dr. Charles P. Neill, formerly one of the faculty of the Catholic university at Washington, is a man who has a wonderful faculty for clear-sighted investigation and the chief clerk of the bureau, Mr. G. W. W. Hanger, has been fitted by long experience for work in behalf of the cause of labor.

Employment Bureau. Uncle Sam has also inaugurated another aid to labor in the form of the largest employment bureau in the world. This is an adjunct of the bureau of immigration, and is in charge of Terence V. Powderly, at one time a recognized leader of union labor throughout the country. It is the function of this new bureau to inquire as to the facts about the reported demand for labor in all parts of the country. Mr. Powderly has opened correspondence with responsible officers in every state in the union concerning the need for labor and the opportunities for employment in each state and when any workman desires to make a change of location all he has to do is to inquire of Uncle Sam as to the prospects in any section in which he would like to find employment.

### EIGHT-HOUR SONG.

Eight hours work, that none may shirk,  
Their duty for each day;  
Eight hours for rest, that each may  
beat.

Earn well his weekly pay,  
For leisure eight, that up-to-date  
Our brain and brawn may be;  
Six days a week; a day to seek  
God and Eternity.

Aye, let us sing, with a merry ring  
We honor work and leisure best;  
For work and rest, and leisure best;  
For cheer of family.

All around the earth let there be no  
death  
Of loving brotherhood.  
Then blessed by God, on every sod  
Comes a glad brotherhood.

When work is done by setting sun  
We honor work and leisure best;  
See, on the run the children come  
For "Here comes dad," they say,  
"There's mother, dear, with face all  
cheer."

She's looking, too, for pay—  
A kiss, so sweet, a sweetheart treat—  
Home's best prize, any day."  
—Rev. C. L. Thurgood.

## Hub and Center of Organized Labor

In a modern little brick structure under the shadow of the monster pension building at Washington is located the nerve center of the organized labor movement in the United States and Uncle Sam's new possessions, writes Walden Fawcett. In these quarters, which are none too commodious for the strenuous activities carried on therein, an executive staff of upward of three dozen men and women keeps in close touch with an army of 2,000,000 artisans in every state and territory in the union. This beehive is the national headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, that great central body that exercises jurisdiction over the local workingmen's organizations from one end of the country to the other.

To appreciate the significance of the work carried on at this place it is necessary to know something of the American Federation of Labor and its remarkable growth. The first move toward the voluntary organization of labor in America was made early in the nineteenth century but it gained almost no headway until a score of years later. The earliest known trade union composed of journeymen was the New York Society of Journeymen Shipwrights, which was legally incorporated in 1803. Unions of tailors and carpenters were organized in the metropolis in 1806 and a union of haters came into existence in 1819.

The first crusade on the part of organized labor was for a ten-hour workday. In the spring of 1840 President Van Buren issued a proclamation establishing the ten-hour day on all government work, but it was several years later ere anything approaching a complete victory was won in the private establishments of the country. The year 1851 saw another important advance in the labor movement, namely the formation of the first national union by the banding together of various local organizations. The printers were the pioneers in this progressive step and were shortly followed by the iron molders. For some years these two classes of artisans were alone in their advanced position but with the civil war and its significant proclamation abolishing slavery a spur was given to the cause of organized labor and in 1864 the National Cigar-makers union was formed. The Bricklayers and Masons' International union came into existence soon after and before many months had elapsed several other classes of toilers had taken the decisive step of formulating national bodies.

The great panic of 1873 gave some thing of a setback to organized labor for the reason that with the shutting down of manufactories and the suspension of work generally many toilers were unable to pay their dues and in some instances local unions were compelled to disband for lack of funds. With the advent of somewhat better times organized labor gradually took a new lease of life and there was nurtured that spirit of expansion which led up to the organization of the American Federation of Labor in 1881.

In discussing the matter the other day President Samuel Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor, and the most powerful labor leader in the world, pointed out that the development of trades unionism in this country may be classified, broadly speaking, in three successive periods. The first of these intervals saw the rise of the local unions of various kinds; the second period was characterized by the inception of the idea of the national union; and finally the third era in which we are now living has witnessed the amalgamation of these national unions into the all-powerful federated body. By this amalgamation and centralization of power the American working classes have put themselves in a position to hold their own with those immense aggregations of capital—the "trusts" of the industrial and commercial world.

SAYS TOIL IS DEMOCRATIC. Minister Declares Labor is the Evolution of Happiness.

Rev. Frank C. Bruner, pastor of the Oakwood Union church, Chicago, preached recently on "The Democracy of Culture," taking for his text: "Man goeth forth unto his labor and to his work until the evening."—Psalm, cld. 23. He said in part: "The idea held that labor is a curse to the race is a misnomer. In it is an evolution of big happiness. Its advent was not ordained in man's transgression. God made it in affinity with heroic humanity. Labor is universal in its character and toil is most democratic. All creation is hinged on a busy existence and the glittering universe is a vast system of busy wheels, an object lesson for man to consider. The parasite element of human society is separated from God. The being of indolence is a fraud to society; the man who does not work breaks the commandment of God and the tired-born who never draw an industrious breath are, in common language, thieves.

"They rob the world of toilhood, (take unearned bread to live on. We talk about the laboring class; there is no such thing in the economy of God. No man, if he be as rich as Cyprius, Rockefeller or Sage, but what is followed by the man who works on the railroad section, carries the hod of brick or the woman that wearily works in the washtub world. So many look on labor as the product of sin and the chief disgrace of mankind. The democracy of labor is the superlative end of man. Such an example as the Carpenter of Nazareth proves the honor of labor and its adaptability for the benefit of mankind."

Laws on Eight-Hour Day. Twenty-seven states and territories, besides the United States, have passed laws establishing the eight-hour workday. There are six states where eight hours is prescribed as the limit for a day's work, unless specified to the contrary.