

SHORT-DAY SYMPOSIUM

Opinions of Several Prominent Men of the Country on the Eight-Hour Movement.

John Swinton Asserts that Those Who Work Fewest Hours Draw the Largest Pay.

Glaring Injustices Attending the Distribution of Wealth Pointed Out by Henry George.

Favorable Views by Jarrett, Kelley, Weaver, Teller, Redpath, Lawler and Kate Field.

[We are forced to curtail local labor news on account of the publication of the views of noted men on the eight-hour day. Several pertinent communications will appear in these columns at a later date.]

JOHN SWINTON

Gives Three Reasons Favorable to the Eight-Hour Day.

Out of the thousands of arguments that buttress the demand for a shorter work day there are three. First, it is a moral elevator. When the hours of labor in England were the longest, the degradation of the laborer was the lowest. Just as the working day has been shortened, time and again, so have the working masses risen out of the slough. We all know their deplorable condition between 1830 and 1850 under a fourteen-hour system; we all know the change that is being wrought since one-third of the time has been taken off.

DECREASE OF SOTTISHNESS

which does not now prevail to one-half its former extent. It is becoming known. It appears that the budget sent to parliament a few days ago that the revenue of England from the sale of liquor, during the fiscal year just closed, was nearly \$5,000,000 less than for the previous year, and that, within the past ten years the receipts of the government from this source have decreased \$50,000,000. Right straight along for forty years, with the decline of working hours, has gone the consumption of liquor. Here are facts not to be disputed; and in them there is a lesson of overwhelming importance to mankind.

WE HAVE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCE

in our own country. There is far less sottishness among our working classes than there used to be when the day's labor was two or three or four hours longer than it now is. The industries that work the fewest hours suffer the least from drunkenness; and I base this remark upon extensive investigations that I have made. The brown-stone cutters, the glass workers and several other trades have for years had the eight-hour working day; the cigarmakers are endeavoring to shorten their time-hour day to the eight-hour system on the 1st of July; the bricklayers and stonemasons of this city have had the nine-hour day for over a year, and a very slight inquiry will show whether this shortened time has brought about this.

THE GENERAL REDUCTION OF THE WORKING DAY

to eight hours will according to all analogy and experience, still further reduce the besetting mania, and still further raise the moral status of the masses. One does not need to look far to find the reason for this. Secondly, the shorter day is an economical elevator. There has been a great deal of sarcasm flung at the old couplet:

STAND IDLE

a reduction of hours, even if it proportionately lessened the efficiency of labor, would bring no general loss. But instead of lessening the efficiency of labor, a reduction of the working day must increase it. The great agent in production is not muscle, but mind. It is not by virtue of these powers that he shares in with the animal, but by virtue of the powers in which he rises superior to the animal, that man is the producer of the things that he uses. He may be taking thought, and a cubit to his stature—but he may, by taking thought, avail himself of the mighty strength of Nature's forces, and convert her raw material into the form that ministers to her own desire. To human power in this direction there seems, practically, no limit. In the light of what has been already accomplished by the application of the steam engine, it is not to be wondered at that the mind should be able to do what, discovery and invention may hereafter do. The proposition to reduce the working hours is a proposition to secure the masses more leisure, and is thus a proposition for the increase of popular intelligence—that faculty which is alone competent to remedy the

GLARING INJUSTICES

which now attend the distribution of wealth, and from which increased power in the production of wealth must proceed. Its effect will be not only to equalize in a better manner work and leisure, but to increase the efficiency of work, and thus make more leisure possible.

THE REDUCTION OF THE WORKING DAY

to eight hours involves no reduction of wages. Under the conditions that exist, whatever land has been made private property and men who have nothing but the power to labor are consequently found in a cut-throat competition to sell their labor power to some other human creature who can give them "leave to toil." The general wages must be governed by what the laboring masses must be content to live on. If the working day was increased to sixteen hours wages would rise; if they were reduced to six hours they would not fall. But the longer the working day the less the ability of the workers to discover and remedy the wrongs of which all are conscious. The shorter the working day the greater the power. In the attempt to limit the working class to eight hours, the labor associations are taking the

THE MOST HOPEFUL STEP

they have yet attempted. But may it not well be asked why the inauguration of this beneficent reform should be left to the efforts of wage-workers? If the state may wisely prohibit labor for more than six days in the week, why may it not prohibit labor of the same kind for more than eight hours in the day? There is no denying that the eight-hour system is compulsory eight-hour law. Yet no matter to what undue length Sabbatarianism may have sometimes been carried, the "day of rest" has been the most precious of boons that Christianity has given to Western civilization. But for this compulsory law, propagated centuries ago in the "Sinaitic wilderness, workingmen would, under the conditions that now exist, be toiling seven days instead of six for no more pay than they get now and would find it even harder to reduce working hours.

JOHN J. JARRETT

Sees in Crushing Competition an Omen of Universal Benefit.

The agitation for reduced hours of labor and higher wages now going on in the industrial world is in the right direction and in harmony with the social and moral progress and advancement of man, as laid down by the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." The old dogma that the laborer is the wage-slave of the capitalist is being transformed into the producers of wealth—the share of the increased production caused by the invention and perfection of machinery and the discovery of new forms or properties of material matter. Up to the present time the actual producers have received but a very inadequate portion of their share of the benefits accruing from their own industry and special tools. Principally these benefits have been absorbed in the enlargement and centralization

of capital in the hands of a few, and utilized entirely for the advancement of trade and commerce. The tendency of the present system is to establish a class of wage-slaves that human slavery ever entailed on the human family. Modern invention in all its bearings is dangerously stirring up the deeper and darker passions in man. They seek to grow rich by day, and to get rich, and avarice, passion, and ambition, and jealousy, and covetousness and discontent are engendered on the other hand. The chief cause of this is the competition, which is a crushing, killing competition, by which every man is set against his neighbor, under which, in the general scramble for the supremacy, a point has been reached that threatens universal ruin.

NO GREATER ERROR

was ever made by intelligent men, than the adoption of the principle of "free competition, the survival of the fittest." Who would resume that the virtue in freedom lies in the fact that a person enjoys freedom must be absolutely free, to do as he has a mind to without any regard for right or wrong. Such a presumption is absurd, and the competition, which is the physical and mental ability of its members to perform productive labor as sedulously as it protects and defends the real and personal estate of those who derive incomes from such production. Again, if it is said that by limiting the hours of labor we would increase the cost of our productions and destroy our own market for them by the over-worked and under-paid laborers of other lands in competition with them, I answer that if such invidious wages would produce alternating periods of enforced idleness and excessive labor, by the right of our working people, we can and ought to defend them by such a tariff of customs duties as would effectually exclude from our market the cheaper productions of the wrong laborers of other lands.

WILLIAM D. KELLEY

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CONGRESSMAN WEAVER

I am a thorough believer in the eight hour law. I have studied the question closely and I have come to the conclusion that eight hours a day is as much as an ordinary man ought to work and that it is the duty of congress and the legislatures of the several states to pass laws that will enforce it. I believe that the present law is a gross wrong and that it is the duty of congress and the legislatures of the several states to pass laws that will enforce it. I believe that the present law is a gross wrong and that it is the duty of congress and the legislatures of the several states to pass laws that will enforce it.

ADVANCE MEANS

of consumption, it is very plain to understand that the first remedy that presents itself is a reduction of the hours of labor. By keeping up the wages, we keep up the circulating capital, or medium, of course prices will be higher in every direction, but not in proportion to amount paid in advanced wages. The great object of the education of the masses would make, under the reduced hours of labor, but a very short time would elapse before the rates of wages paid, or cost of production of all products, would be reduced to the point of equilibrium. Speculation and cornering of food products, watering of stock by large corporations, and the like, would cease, and consequently less fluctuations in price exist. It is the greatest mistake conceivable to argue that to reduce the hours of labor would mean a loss of production. I reply, no! Still, however, the difficulties in the way can be easily removed if we have the will to do so. In the first place we must have a leveling of the conditions of the working people of our country. There must be a system adopted of making wages more uniform than they now are. The laws of the wages paid according to the value of the products, the same wages to be paid to women as is paid to men on the basis of price of product. Second, the movement must be national, a general information must be secured for the employers of labor in one state cannot compete with those of other states if longer hours of labor are allowed; and, again, if competition between the states is to be maintained, conditions would be dangerous, then

FOREIGN COMPETITION

in our markets, if permitted, would be as dangerous, and more so. The object being to elevate labor, it is to be remembered that to do so we must place restrictions against foreign elements interfering with us. These restrictions, of course, would be unnecessary if foreign labor could do the same work as we do. Lasting, however, of manufactured goods, over \$400,000,000 worth, which amount represents lost labor to our working people. It is largely to be met by the importation of goods from other countries. The eight-hour work day should be put in operation in as early a date as possible. There is nothing to hinder it being done at once, there is no question of competition to provide against, nor is there any necessity as to an arrangement of prices, as it does not include the question of price to the employer, who senses that profit and loss is applied to trade and commerce. It is wrong to argue that one man can under reduced hours of labor turn out as much work in eight hours as he can under the present system. It is necessary that he should, unless it be made possible that greater production is needed, by the aid of machinery, of course, to meet the greater and enlarged needs of the people.

JOHN J. JARRETT

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Sees Reduction of Wages to Match Means of Production as a Wrong.

I am an ardent supporter of the eight-hour day. I believe that the present law is a gross wrong and that it is the duty of congress and the legislatures of the several states to pass laws that will enforce it. I believe that the present law is a gross wrong and that it is the duty of congress and the legislatures of the several states to pass laws that will enforce it.

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A SHINING LIGHT

Something of C. W. Stevenson, the Eloquent Knight of Labor. Few men in the Knights of Labor are better known or more respected in this state than C. W. Stevenson. He is of Irish extraction, a native of the state of New York, and now 32 years of age. He is a painter by trade, and has, in his career, followed many different occupations, and has seen twenty-six states and territories. He has spent his life in seeing the world and its men. He became a citizen of St. Paul in 1880, and, for the past two years, has been quite prominent in labor affairs. He is a member of the Knights of Labor, and now being in the service of that order as a state officer. He has always been a very strong advocate of the eight-hour day, and the effectiveness and necessity of organization properly conducted. But though in hearty sympathy with the ends and necessities of the cause of labor, he differs sometimes from the more extreme members of the order, and believes that the boycott, judiciously used, is a proper and necessary weapon in certain cases. It is often carried beyond the bounds of prudence and justice. He also believes that the success of the labor movement will be necessarily slow, and requires long years of agitation and education and the perseverance of the present day are premature. He is a very intelligent man, self-educated, and is gifted by nature with a true and convincing eloquence that has done much to advance the better interests of labor in this state.

PLUMBERS IN PRINT

The many reports of plumbers being extorted by the Knights of Labor are untrue. One paper says that we are asking \$5.50 per day for eight hours' labor, another \$4.50 for eight hours' labor. Now, our demand is for a ten-hour day, five days a week, and eight hours on Saturday. In the fall of the year we will demand a ten-hour day, five days a week, and eight hours on Saturday, and by working the balance of the nine hours we will have uniform working hours soon winter sets in the

every reduction of wages that is made in obedience to the demand for cheaper goods has been a step in the right direction. The universal establishment of eight hours a day is the limit.

THE LIMIT

of a day's labor would improve the social habits and increase the intelligence of the laboring classes as the reduction from sixteen hours to ten hours a day, only thirty years ago. So firmly have I been convinced of this that when opposing the adoption of Col. Morrison's horizontal tariff bill in April, 1884, I suggested as one of the remedies for the evil of the over-worked and under-paid laborer, the passing of a law that would limit the longest period in any one day that man or machinery may be employed in productive employment. If it is suggested that this is beyond the scope of government, I reply that it is the duty of a popular government to

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LOCAL BITS

The master plumbers of the state, which in this case is mainly the twin cities, organized the Minneapolis association of plumbers in a meeting in St. Paul Tuesday evening. This is the first state association of plumbers in the country and the exceptional interest its members are taking in it is due mainly to their trouble with the journeymen. Papers and addresses were listened to, a banquet was disposed of and the labor situation was discussed until midnight.

MINNEAPOLIS COOPERS

The Hennepin and North Star shops have received some stock for one-stave barrels. The wages for the last week are not the same as for last week. The North Star barrel company intends to dispose of its buildings and grounds, its present location having become too valuable for a cooper shop.

MINNEAPOLIS MILLERS

The mills running last week were the Pillsbury A, Phoenix (one-half), Galaxy, Washburn C, Fetti, Newberry, Minneapolis, Washburn B, Cataract, Holly, St. Anthony, Columbia, Crown Roller, Dakota, Standard and the Excelsior. The mills this week were the Pillsbury A, Phoenix (one-half), Galaxy, Washburn C, Fetti, Newberry, Minneapolis, Washburn B, Cataract, Holly, St. Anthony, Columbia, Crown Roller, Dakota, Standard and the Excelsior. The mills this week were the Pillsbury A, Phoenix (one-half), Galaxy, Washburn C, Fetti, Newberry, Minneapolis, Washburn B, Cataract, Holly, St. Anthony, Columbia, Crown Roller, Dakota, Standard and the Excelsior.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR NOTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Operative Millers' association will be held to-day at the Pillsbury mill. The advisability of making the rate of wages for the millers eligible to membership will be discussed. Dr. Morrison & Co. closed the Standard and Excelsior mills yesterday afternoon, their men to seek work elsewhere. The reason assigned is "no money in flour." About 150 men are thus thrown out of work. George Alley, Henry Pickett and Thomas Hill are the new men in the crew of the Standard mill. J. K. Hare, recently at the Washburn A, has gone to Port Townsend, W. T., to take charge of a mill there. The stock of flour stored in the city which is now estimated at 150,000, is being very slowly reduced. The lease held by Morse & Sammon's on the Pillsbury mill, is a lease, and will not be renewed. Trade is dull, and the flour market is unsettled by the frequent fluctuations in wheat. The Pillsbury mill, is a heavy, will be operated to its full capacity this week. William Snell of the Pillsbury A is the father of a twelve-pound girl. The Hennepin millers held their regular meeting for May on Tuesday. The Pillsbury mill probably not start up before next week.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR NOTES

President John Wright of the bricklayers' union calls attention to the by-law requiring all bricklayers not having traveling cards to procure a permit from the shop steward by paying half their initiation fee in order to work with members of the union until the next regular meeting. There is considerable talk among labor organizations of erecting a building in which there is a present hall, 250 Second avenue, which is much too small, and many of the unions are obliged to meet from place to place. The wholesale dry goods houses of Minneapolis will probably close on Saturday at 3 p. m. after June 1, and the North Star Boot and Shoe company will follow suit. An effort is being made to induce the wholesale grocers to close at the same time. A meeting of the barbers will be held this evening at 110 Washington avenue, with a view to organizing a protective union, with help to closing on Sunday. Representatives of the Knights of Labor will address the meeting. The Carpenters' Union have addressed the school board, asking that from now on carpenter work on school buildings shall be paid for at the rate of 30 cents an hour, nine hours to constitute a day's work. O. M. Lambert has been re-elected auditor of the cooperative stores. Michael Bitt, S. M. Schmidt and Fred G. Johnson directors. The quarterly report shows the store to have made a profit of \$10,000. The fourth annual ball of the Boiler-makers and Iron Ship-builders' union No. 13 at the Leland rink Friday night was largely attended, and a good time was enjoyed. Eighty couples attended the Head Packers' ball at Windsor hall Thursday night. G. W. Mortimer, W. Davis and T. A. Gallagher, officiated as floor managers. The report that the employes of Johnson & Hildreth, the sack and bin manufacturers, contemplate striking has been contradicted. A meeting of contracting and journeymen plasterers was held at 108 Hennepin avenue last night.

NORTHWESTERN NOTES

The Brainerd barbers have asked the council to pass an ordinance prohibiting Sunday opening. All shops but one have signed the petition. A farming mill factor has been established at Parkersburg, Iowa. The journeymen tailors of Eau Claire demanded an advance in wages of 10 to 15 per cent, and got it. C. W. Stevenson reports the K. of L. order booming in Dakota, where a state organization was recently appointed. He speaks in highest terms of the master mechanics and employes of the Northern Pacific shops at Fargo.

THE BEST

You Need The Dueber Watch Case. The most effective medicine for the cure of any serious ailment. If you are suffering from Scrofula, General Debility, Stomach, Liver, or Kidney diseases, try Ayer's Sarsaparilla—the safest, best, and most economical blood purifier in use. For many years I was troubled with Liver and Kidney complaint. Hearing Ayer's Sarsaparilla very highly recommended, I decided to try it, and have done so with the most satisfactory results. I am convinced that Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best remedy ever compounded, for diseases caused by Liver and Kidney complaint. Hearing Ayer's Sarsaparilla very highly recommended, I decided to try it, and have done so with the most satisfactory results. I am convinced that Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best remedy ever compounded, for diseases caused by Liver and Kidney complaint.

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The master plumbers of the state, which in this case is mainly the twin cities, organized the Minneapolis association of plumbers in a meeting in St. Paul Tuesday evening. This is the first state association of plumbers in the country and the exceptional interest its members are taking in it is due mainly to their trouble with the journeymen. Papers and addresses were listened to, a banquet was disposed of and the labor situation was discussed until midnight.

MINNEAPOLIS COOPERS

The Hennepin and North Star shops have received some stock for one-stave barrels. The wages for the last week are not the same as for last week. The North Star barrel company intends to dispose of its buildings and grounds, its present location having become too valuable for a cooper shop.

MINNEAPOLIS MILLERS

The mills running last week were the Pillsbury A, Phoenix (one-half), Galaxy, Washburn C, Fetti, Newberry, Minneapolis, Washburn B, Cataract, Holly, St. Anthony, Columbia, Crown Roller, Dakota, Standard and the Excelsior. The mills this week were the Pillsbury A, Phoenix (one-half), Galaxy, Washburn C, Fetti, Newberry, Minneapolis, Washburn B, Cataract, Holly, St. Anthony, Columbia, Crown Roller, Dakota, Standard and the Excelsior. The mills this week were the Pillsbury A, Phoenix (one-half), Galaxy, Washburn C, Fetti, Newberry, Minneapolis, Washburn B, Cataract, Holly, St. Anthony, Columbia, Crown Roller, Dakota, Standard and the Excelsior.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR NOTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Operative Millers' association will be held to-day at the Pillsbury mill. The advisability of making the rate of wages for the millers eligible to membership will be discussed. Dr. Morrison & Co. closed the Standard and Excelsior mills yesterday afternoon, their men to seek work elsewhere. The reason assigned is "no money in flour." About 150 men are thus thrown out of work. George Alley, Henry Pickett and Thomas Hill are the new men in the crew of the Standard mill. J. K. Hare, recently at the Washburn A, has gone to Port Townsend, W. T., to take charge of a mill there. The stock of flour stored in the city which is now estimated at 150,000, is being very slowly reduced. The lease held by Morse & Sammon's on the Pillsbury mill, is a lease, and will not be renewed. Trade is dull, and the flour market is unsettled by the frequent fluctuations in wheat. The Pillsbury mill, is a heavy, will be operated to its full capacity this week. William Snell of the Pillsbury A is the father of a twelve-pound girl. The Hennepin millers held their regular meeting for May on Tuesday. The Pillsbury mill probably not start up before next week.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR NOTES

President John Wright of the bricklayers' union calls attention to the by-law requiring all bricklayers not having traveling cards to procure a permit from the shop steward by paying half their initiation fee in order to work with members of the union until the next regular meeting. There is considerable talk among labor organizations of erecting a building in which there is a present hall, 25