

Vermont Watchman.

IN DARKEST PENNSYLVANIA.

The Social Service Commission of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America recently presented a report on the social and economic conditions of the men employed in the great Bethlehem Steel Works in Pennsylvania, which will be a surprise to many readers.

These members of the commission, through their committee, state that just before the strike 4,725 men, or 51 per cent of all the employees, worked twelve hours a day; 220 workmen had a twelve-hour day, excepting on Saturdays, when they worked ten or eleven hours; 4,203 employees had a work day of from ten and a half to eleven hours, with half a day off on Saturdays, and 47 worked on other schedules not specified.

In addition to these hours, the committee reported, men in many of the departments worked a seven-day week. Twenty-eight per cent of all employees are said to work seven days a week, and in addition were those who work on Sunday regularly as overtime. The total number working seven days a week both regular and overtime, last January is said to have amounted to 4,041, or 43 per cent. The committee reported that while the management at Bethlehem said that the extra work is optional with the men, in some cases the foremen and gang bosses have compelled the men under them to work extra time, under pain of discharge. It is said to have been such a case which brought on the recent strike.

Referring to the wages at Bethlehem, the committee reported that 61 per cent of the 9,184 employees earned less than 18 cents an hour, or \$2.16 for a twelve-hour day, and 31 9-10 per cent earned less than 14 cents an hour. These rates of wages, according to the committee, make it imperative for many men to live in the same room.

It is asserted that during the last year 927 injuries occurred in the Bethlehem plant, of which 754 involved the loss of more than one week's time. Six of these employees lost an arm or a leg and 21 lost their lives.

In its conclusions the committee characterizes the twelve hour day and the seven day week as "disgraces to civilization," and recommends, according to the New York Sun, that laws be passed requiring three shifts in all industries which operate twenty-four hours a day and requiring one day's rest in seven.

It recommends that the Federal Government be urged to include in its specifications for armor plate, war vessels, construction work and the like that the work be done on a six day basis and in cases where continuous work is necessary that the twenty-four day be divided into three shifts.

The report recommends that a day be set apart at church conferences for the discussion of industrial conditions, that the churches be urged to initiate a movement for six day legislation; that properly constituted bodies be authorized to determine just when industrial operations are necessarily continuous, and to make adequate studies of the cost of living and of wages, and that employers of labor recognize labor organizations when they speak in behalf of their members.

That men in a highly organized and profitable industry like the manufacture of steel work twelve hours a day and often seven days in the week, truly is a disgrace to our civilization. Those persons who are antagonistic to organized labor should remember that it is largely due to the unions that such conditions have been abolished in many industries. The individual laborer is helpless against such injustice. Organized in a union and affiliated with other strong labor organizations, he becomes a force that must be dealt with fairly.

It needs no argument to point out the economic wrong that prevails in an industry which pays large dividends, when the workmen must work unreasonably long hours for a low wage. The Government cannot be expected to fix the return on an investment which shall constitute a fair profit, but some governmental authority, more properly that of the State of Pennsylvania, should interfere to prevent excessive hours of labor and employment seven days a week. It may be merely a coincidence that such labor conditions prevail in a State ruled by a corrupt political ring, where graft is revealed in State and municipal affairs to a scandalous extent, but more likely it is all a part of a low state of political and business morality. There is no State in the Union more in need of a genuine revival of political and economic righteousness than Pennsylvania.

THE FOREST RESERVE BILL.

Owing to a filibuster by Senator Burton, of Ohio, and Senator Newlands, of Nevada, the passage of the Appalachian forest bill in the Senate was prevented on the eve of the adjournment of Congress. The House, however, after a spirited contest passed a similar bill and that measure will come up for consideration during the regular session which

opens in December, the date for a vote being set for Feb. 15.

It is strange that after millions have been voted for irrigation projects in Nevada and other Western States, and large sums have been appropriated for improving the navigation of the Ohio River. Senators from Nevada and Ohio should deliberately talk to death a measure of such merit as the forest reserve bill. A mistake was made in leaving the measure until so late in the season. When Senator Brandegee, of Connecticut, finally was aroused to bring up this bill, of which he had charge, he made a good fight for it, but he showed only a languid interest in it until very recently.

The bill that came up as unfinished business in the Senate next December provides for the expenditure of \$1,000,000 the first year and \$2,000,000 each year thereafter until and including 1915 for the acquisition of forest lands, the preservation of existing forests and the reforestation of denuded portions of the watersheds of the White and Appalachian Mountains in those States which maintain forestry bureaus and systems of fire control. The bill further provides that the Secretaries of Agriculture, War and the Treasury shall constitute a committee to formulate rules and regulations for the expenditure of the fund so appropriated.

The need of the passage of a bill protecting the head waters of the Connecticut River is shown by a report submitted by Senator Brandegee, of Connecticut, as a part of his remarks, a part of which follows:

"In the year 1881 the State of New Hampshire established a forest commission, who were instructed to inquire among other matters relating to the forests, into the effect, if any, produced by the destruction of our forests upon our rainfall, and consequently upon our ponds and streams." In their report, made in 1885, the commission presented a summary of the large number of replies to their inquiries. These replies came from all parts of the State. From the summary the following citations are made: "Beginning with the southern portion of the State, and with the town of Richfield, attention is called to a small stream there, which in 1865 furnished sufficient power for four sawmills nearly all the year, but which began to dry up with the more rapid removal of the timber occasioned by the introduction of steam as an auxiliary power. The wet woods have disappeared together, and the same is the case in other portions of the town."

"In Fitzwilliam and Rindge the same results have been reached all the more rapidly because of the near proximity of these towns to a market. Well-known trout streams, once abundantly stocked with fish, are now dry half of the year, and the treeless ground and naked rocks along their banks and about their sources have considered a sufficient explanation."

"The chairman of the board of selectmen in Henniker, who has given much attention to the subject, is confident that the water in the Contoocook River has decreased fully one-third within even twenty years, and that the tributaries have fallen off still more, many being nearly dry in the summer. During this period \$75,000 worth of timber has been cut within this one town. In the surrounding towns also the timber has disappeared with equal rapidity, and the water supply has seriously decreased."

"The report from Bow, which covers a period of fifty years, within which most of the timber has been cut off, and that from Hopkinton which covers a period of sixty years, both tell the same story of naked hillsides and diminished streams."

"At Hanover the Connecticut River for many years has been decreasing in volume, and with increasing rapidity the timber from its headwaters has been floating by."

"In Canaan sixty-five years ago there were nine or more mills of different kinds; abundant water power all the year around; no thought of reservoirs or double dams or precautions against drought. Canaan street now covered with a firm dry sod, was laid out through a swamp, impassable but for the hummocks and fallen trees, while dense forests of giant trees covered the hills. The writer who furnishes the above facts, a native of the place, returning after an absence of thirty years, found the hills and rocks bare, the springs choked up, and the mills obliged to resort to steam power or lie idle."

"The great mountain region of the State lies in contiguous parts of the counties of Grafton, Carroll, and Coos. The numberless streams originating in this region, protected by the primitive forests, might be thought to be beyond any disturbing cause, but such is not the case. The town of Linton depends upon the Ammonoosuc for its water power, but three of its oldest citizens testify that this power has diminished one-third within fifty or sixty years."

"The mountain forests during this same period have been encroached upon, as never before, and it is not surprising that so commonly these two facts are associated as cause and consequence."

"Coos county contains more of the first growth of timber than any other portion of the State. In the midst of this region are the sources of the Connecticut, Androscoggin, Saco, and their many tributaries, and a diminished water supply at this point is felt throughout the course of these important streams. The report from Jefferson is that the older inhabitants agree that the streams are smaller than formerly."

dent reports an alarming decrease in the waters of the streams and springs during the past sixty years and especially during the last twenty-five years, within which period the small or timber also has been removed. Israel's River in his boyhood was a large mill stream of eight or ten rods wide, with sufficient water to carry a very large amount of machinery the year around. Now it is an insignificant stream, with, from May to November, not more than half the water it had fifty years ago. Other streams have suffered in the same way, and the springs have, if possible, suffered more than the streams. Many once thought to be never failing are now for long periods dry. That the cutting off the forests accounts very largely for this change he considers as sure as that effect follows cause, and the result is hastened by the reckless methods in use. Instead of cutting timber that is matured, everything is cut to the size of five or six inches in diameter, and what remains is cut into firewood or burned at once, leaving a dreary waste."

If these facts were correct in 1885, more striking illustrations might be obtained in the year 1910, and the condition of affairs pictured in New Hampshire may be duplicated in Vermont and many other States. It is earnestly to be hoped that this meritorious bill may become a law before the short term of Congress expires.

THE PROBLEM OF THE AVERAGE MAN.

The Randolph Herald says: "At a fair estimate, we should say that about one voter in ten cares enough about politics or the rival candidacies for offices to attend caucuses on his own volition. The voter has formed opinions—or prejudices—from which he cannot be moved, and he is on hand to vote. Besides him are the vastly more numerous who don't care a burrah about it, one way or the other. By going among them personally, talking and working with them, it is possible to get them to turn out to the caucuses in numbers sufficient to affect the result. They generally need only a 'stirring up' and invitation to come. But they need this, expect it, and won't come unless they get it. Few voters pretend to keep a close run of politics. With the great mass, personality is everything, measures and issues little or nothing. This explains why there is always more interest in a local town representative fight than in anything else. As the circle widens, interest wanes. The average man, hoeing corn out in the field on one of the few fair days of the season, is apt to think that it is of more consequence to him to put as many rows as possible behind him by nightfall than it is which of two men, personally unknown to him and who care nothing about him except his vote, is Governor or Congressman. And though it runs counter to his ideals of government, perhaps he is right."

There is altogether too much truth for comfort or satisfaction in the foregoing expression of opinion. Nevertheless it is the average man hoeing corn or cutting granite, or working at a bench, or forge, who is the ruler of the United States, and of Vermont. A republican form of government is based upon the rule of the average man—not the very rich or the very poor, not the very wise or the very ignorant, not the very good or the very bad, but just the average type of citizen. It is when the average man is too busy with the hoeing of his corn, or with the cutting of granite, or with his toil at the bench or the forge or the desk that the political heeler gets in his work. He is very careful not to disturb Mr. Average Man, who really is a good citizen, when aroused; but he passes the word quietly among "a few of the boys" upon whom he can depend to vote "right," the caucus is carried, and the voice of the town very likely is given for men and measures not approved by the majority of the community. It is this indifference, this apathy, that constitutes one of the most serious of the evils that menace our form of government. The average man receives all the protection and all the privileges granted by the Nation or the State to its citizens, and these rights and privileges entail upon him corresponding duties. Before our State government was organized, Col. Seth Warner, being assigned to the task of securing reinforcements to resist Burgoyne's invasion, wrote: "I should be glad if a few hills of corn unhoed should not be a motive sufficient to detain men at home." The same wish may be expressed properly in regard to the performance of political duties. The average man ought to care who is nominated for Governor to execute the laws of his State, or who is nominated as member of Congress, to represent him in the law making body of the Nation. The indifference of the average man is the opportunity of the least desirable element in our political life.

The average man is not slow to criticize his Governor or his Congressman, as he may think occasion requires, but if he has neglected the duty of exercising his choice to help choose or defeat that official for the sake of hoeing corn, he should confine his criticisms to matters more strictly agricultural in their nature. One of the great problems of the government is how to make the duty of citizenship outweigh the cornfield of the average man.

THE PROHIBITIONIST PARTY.

A handful of voters met in Burlington on Thursday, placed in nomination a Prohibitionist ticket for State offices, and adopted a platform. This

paper would not speak disparagingly of any political organization because it is small. Most of the great movements of history came from small beginnings. The Prohibitionist party, however, has been nominating tickets and making platforms for many years and the tendency appears toward weakness rather than strength. Is there any real need for a Prohibitionist party? The Journal believes that to this fair question a reply in the negative must be given. The people of Vermont and the people of the United States steadfastly have refused in any considerable numbers, to make a political Prohibitionist party the custodian of the cause of temperance. In the ranks of the great political parties will be found millions of voters who stand for real temperance but they do not consider that a separate party is required for the purpose.

Every year, at a time when there are no State or national interests to distract attention from municipal problems, the voters in every town and city of Vermont are given the opportunity to express their temperance ideas in a vote on the question of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors. The great majority of our municipalities, year after year, refuse to sanction the sale of liquor and the Journal believes that there is more real prohibition in the State than there had been for many years under the prohibitory law. It is urged that one "wet" town will corrupt many "dry" towns in its vicinity, and illustrations are cited to show that murders may be traced to liquor sold in license towns to persons from no-license communities. Those who make this argument forget that murders could be traced to drunkenness in the days when prohibition was a State policy. The serious error into which many very good people fall is in considering that the greatest possible victory for temperance is won, and that righteousness is established, when a prohibitory law is placed on the statute book. A vote to shut out the saloon every year, keeps the issue a live one, and represents public sentiment. A State law prohibiting the sale of liquor is much less likely to command respect and the public become indifferent.

The Prohibition platform demands the resubmission of prohibition to the people by constitutional amendment. The Republican platform expresses the belief that the local option principle should not be abandoned without a referendum similar to that by which it was adopted. If the Journal believed that majority of the voters of Vermont desired another referendum on the liquor question it would favor it, but it does not so believe. If such a demand exists, then it should manifest itself in the election of members of the Legislature.

Temperance principles cannot be confined to a single party any more than any other virtue can be politically organized. The third party has accomplished the defeat of good men in some instances by drawing away votes from the better of two candidates. Several years ago a Sheriff in a Vermont county, in the days when the prohibitory law was in force, had been particularly vigilant in enforcement of the act, and by his faithfulness had incurred the enmity of the liquor element. They attempted to throw a sufficient number of votes to the Democratic candidate to defeat the Republican official. No third party man could have done better work for prohibition than the man in office, and yet a Prohibition candidate was nominated. By a very narrow margin the Republican candidate won, but his success was imperiled by the very men who claimed to be the best temperance men in the county. This is a fair illustration of the most that a third party Prohibitionist ticket can accomplish. There is no real demand for the existence of such a party.

COURTING DISASTER.

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad"—so runs an ancient proverb. The action of both branches of the New York Legislature in defeating the Cobb direct primary bill is a fresh illustration of this old saying. This action of the New York law makers is a direct slap at the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt, the most powerful and the most popular Republican in the State, who had just openly advised the passage of the measure. For sheer, stubborn folly and stupidity, for swift political suicide, no surer course could be chosen. The logical conclusion of this policy would be the nomination of Speaker James W. Wadsworth for Governor, as a result of which the Republican ticket probably would be buried under a majority of several hundred thousand votes.

Nothing could be better calculated to convince the rank and file of the voters that the direct primary system was eminently desirable than the desperate resistance of the bosslets and machine politicians to the measure. Within the past few months this machine aggregation has openly defied three of the wisest and most justly famous of the Republican leaders in the United States, Gov. Charles E. Hughes, Senator Elihu Root, and Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt. They can hardly expect that the people of New York State will approve opposition to such leaders, but evidently they prefer defeat to the relinquishment of their hold on the Republican machine. Such a defiance is a dramatic object lesson of the need of cleaning out this unscrupulous gang at Albany. The signs of the times point to Re-

PRESS COMMENT

What the Newspapers of Vermont and Other States Are Saying About Topics of Interest to Journal Readers.

THE STATE CONVENTION.

(Burlington Free Press.) The Vermont Republican Convention at Montpelier nominated Dr. John A. Mead of Rutland for Governor and L. P. Slack of St. Johnsbury for Lieutenant-Governor after one of the most interesting and exciting contests in the history of Vermont politics, two ballots being necessary to decide the issue as to both the Governorship and the second place on the ticket. It was as pretty a contest as one could wish to see, and while the issues were sharply drawn, it was a good feeling contest on the whole, at least so far as the relations of the candidates themselves are concerned.

The night before the convention is usually the most momentous part of a struggle over nominations for State offices, and this was no exception to the rule. The developments of the evening brought out what has so often been noted in Vermont politics, the sharp difference between the voters of the west and the east sides of the mountain. When the trains from the west side took their contingents to Montpelier in the evening, the Mead boys were largely in evidence and the followers of the Rutland candidate were, boasting that it was all their way, which was apparent to the uninitiated. During the evening unpledged and weak-kneed delegates were "canvassed" by representatives of the different candidates, and the scene was an animated one. Back and forth between the different headquarters of candidates surged the delegates, with the workers freely interspersed, and, when midnight arrived, representatives of Dr. Mead claimed that he would have anywhere from 60 to 100 delegates more than the number necessary to nominate.

THE LEE STATUE.

(Randolph Herald.) From the G. A. R. and others in the North comes a protest against the plan proposed by the State of Virginia of placing in Statuary hall in the Capitol building at Washington a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee, clad in full Confederate uniform. Nor is this strange. Virginia must have anticipated that such action would have provoked resentment in the North. The right or wrong of it, ethically, may be discussed ad infinitum. How far the North should go in the way of forgiving the leaders of the Southern rebellion; how long a time should elapse before Davis and Lee and Jackson are to receive the same degree of honor as the heroes of the undivided republic; how soon all, everything, of the "late unpleasantness" will be forgotten and the chasm closed as firmly as the Wars of the Roses are closed in England today, we cannot tell. It will require more than one generation. The men who fought the battles of the Union against plotters and seceders and traitors (whatever, in our softened feelings we call them now), who shed blood, endured hardship and braved death in a great cause, are many of them living. Neither these, nor their sons, their wives and daughters, can be expected to relish the glorification of those who led the movement that required their sacrifice. It is not that Lee was not a great and good man, and probably the ablest general on either side, but it is the outcry of patriotism against a seeming desertion. The Capitol should not now be the place of honor for characters whom the reunited nation cannot yet honor in sincerity.

In view of the fact that the accuracy of the canvass conducted by the Free Press had been questioned we have taken particular pleasure in comparing the number of delegates credited to Dr. Mead in the final table of the canvass printed on Saturday, June 18, and the number of delegates who actually voted for him on the first ballot in the convention, twelve days later, as shown by the tables of the first ballot printed elsewhere.

In Addison county our canvass gave Dr. Mead 39 and on the first ballot he received actually 38. In Bennington county we gave him 9 and he received 9. In Caledonia county we gave him 17 with 6 to hear from, and he received also all the missing ones, his vote in that county being 23. In Chittenden county we credited him with 48 and he received 46. In Essex county we gave him 5 with 9 to hear from and he received 11. In Franklin county we credited him with 40 and he received 39. In Grand Isle county we gave him 4 and he received 3. In Orange county we gave him 12 and he received 15, capturing two credited to Batchelder. In Orleans county we gave him 34 and he received 34. In Rutland county, his home county, we gave him 57 out of 91 and he received 60. In Washington county we gave him 20 with five to hear from and he had 25. In Windham county where our canvass was least complete we gave him 9, with some scattering, and he had 16. In Windsor county we gave him 17 and he had 20, the total putting him largely in the lead. For a canvass of returns made a dozen days before the convention, we submit that this table bore internal evidence of fairness to both sides. Moreover it is significant that our table gave Batchelder's total vote as 82 and he received 80.

THE CHAMPLAIN MEMORIAL.

(Vergennes Enterprise.) It is naturally very pleasing to this paper, that was the first, and for a long time the only newspaper to advocate placing the memorial to the great discoverer in the best place, the most conspicuous location and the one nearest the scene of his greatest adventures on the lake, Crown Point, to have it located there by the joint Commission of Vermont and New York.

Some of the papers in the north part of the State and a few on the east side felt grieved that the Vermont Commission joined with the New York Commission in selecting this site for a joint memorial. Considering the fact that Vermont's appropriation was so small and the site selected is so near, and so conspicuous from the Vermont shore, we think the commission is to be commended rather than reproved. More Vermonters will see the monument and it is nearer the shore than Juniper Island and some other sites that had strong and persistent advocates.

CONGRESSMAN PLUMLEY.

(Rutland News.) The renomination of Congressman Frank Plumley in the second district was entirely expected. Mr. Plumley has made a splendid record during his first term at Washington and is already recognized by his colleagues as a man of wide knowledge and broad ideas. Left in his seat long enough he will become one of the leaders of the lower house of Congress. It is somewhat significant that the Republicans of his district passed resolutions commending Mr. Plumley's position on the revision of the rules of the House of Representatives. It will be remembered that he voted for the Norris resolution increasing the size of the committee on rules and removing therefrom the Speaker of the House, but that Mr. Plumley did not vote to oust Speaker Cannon from the chair. It is believed that the great majority of Vermont Republicans are with the second district congressman in his position in this matter.

showed this to be correct. We considered that the convention showed the time and expense of securing our canvass was well spent.

Speaking of figures we will say in this connection that Caledonia county exhibited good politics all right as regards its efforts to secure the Lieutenant-Governorship. On both the first and second ballots on the Governorship Caledonia's total vote of 46 was equally divided, Mead and Fleetwood each receiving 23.

The platform adopted by the State convention received unusual attention and discussion, and it will be a difficult matter for any man on the State ticket or any member of the next Legislature who accepts office as a Republican to say that this declaration of principles has no binding power so far as they are concerned.

The plank regarding the liquidation means that the matter of a referendum is really in the hands of the Legislature, and that if the people want a referendum they can have it by sending to that body men favoring a public mandate on the subject, as intimated by Dr. Mead in his speech of acceptance.

Only passive interest was taken in most of the other planks, but the applause which greeted the reference of Chairman DeBoer to the matter of hedging about our caucuses and conventions with stronger safeguards, and the manner in which the plank demanding the same restrictions as apply to elections was presented, showed plainly that the paramount issue in the campaign is caucus reform. This subject will be discussed more than any other during the State campaign now begun, and the Republican candidates who stand on the platform will perform speak for this reform.

FORESTRY AT BILTMORE.

(Hay, Flour and Feed Journal.) In point of variety and scope the forest work done on the Biltmore estate in North Carolina is remarkable. The forests, which cover 139,000 acres, and made profitable by the production of various forms of material. Four million feet of lumber, five thousand cords of tannic acid wood and fuel, one thousand cords of tan bark and several hundred cords of pulp wood are cut every year. At the same time the forest through wise management is bettered and is steadily increasing in value. Workmen employed along the boundaries of the forest do duty as fire guards. Thus fire protection is secured at least through out all the accessible parts of the tract. In connection with all lumbering operations permanent logging roads are built. These minimize the present cost of transportation, and will greatly reduce the cost of marketing future crops. Thus the extension of the roads is steadily adding to the investment value of the forest. Moreover, they serve also as a network of fire lines. Forest planting is practised where fire will not threaten its success.

A Psalm of the Helpers.

(Henry Van Dyke.) The ways of the world are full of haste and turmoil. I will sing of the tribe of helpers who travel in peace. He that turneth from the road to rescue another Turneth toward his goal; He shall arrive in due time by the footpath of mercy. God will be his guide.

He that taketh up the burden of the fainting Lighteneth his own load; The Almighty will put His arms underneath him; He shall lean upon the Lord.

He that speaketh comfortable words to mourners Healeth his own heart; In his time of grief they will return to remembrance, God will use them for balm.

He that careth for the sick and wounded Watcheth not alone; There are three in the darkness together, And the third is the Lord.

They All Demand It.

Montpelier, Like Every City and Town in the Union, Receives It. People with kidney ills want to be cured. When one suffers the tortures of an aching back, relief is eagerly sought for. There are many remedies today that relieve but do not cure. Here is evidence to prove that Doan's Kidney Pills cure, and the cure is lasting.

Mrs. George C. Buzzell, 8 First avenue, Montpelier, Vt., says: "I have had no cause to change my high opinion of Doan's Kidney Pills since I publicly recommended them some years ago. I was bothered at that time by pains through my back, my head ached intensely and to stoop or lift caused my trouble to become severe. I used different remedies, but obtained no benefit and was about discouraged when I heard of Doan's Kidney Pills and procured a box from W. E. Poole's Drug Store. It was not long after using them that I noticed a great improvement and by the time I had taken the contents of three boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills the pain in my back had ceased and I felt better in every way."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.