## What High Wages Mean

Higher Living Costs, but Also More Active Human Minds.
High wages, it is said, do little good, for moat, potatoe rent, breed go up as rapidly as wages, or more rapidly. spend ton dollers where he uned to spend five.
There is, however, one beneflt in higher wages more important than extra monoy to spo

When wages are low and men are cheap it is hard to ces hose that have power to pay attention to the workers.

There was a time when chimneys were cleaned by tying a string to the leg of a goose and dropping the goose down we chmey. Strugging, alapping

In England and 'various other countries, in place of the goose a small child was used. Children were underfed purposely and thus kept thin that they might be abie
go through the smallest chimneys.
at the same smallest chimneys.
At the same time other children were being used up in that it lacked men big enough to go into the army. It cut that it lacked men big en agh still the men were too small dinen it was discovered that chimney sweeping and factory work were harmful, and the government made laws to protect children. If plenty of big men had remained after small children had been used in factories and chimnoys those laws would have been delayed.

Similarly in this and other countries, while men and children are plentiful and cheap little attention is paid to improving machinery or protecting children. The mine owners could hire smail boys for a fow cents a coal with on the breakrs, bleeding ingers. 80
by the "breaker boys."
by the "breaker boys." became expensive, their wages high, it was worth while to invent machinery had been doing. When "patriotism" was at its height it was made even more simple by selling the coal with the slate in it.

A farm hand getting seven dollars a day will do a great deal to develop agricultural machinery

Double wages for cotton pickers will probably bring forth the much-sought-for machine to pick cotton.
be possible to do it on the "vacuum cleaner") basis.

Ditch digging will be done by machinery when diggers' wages rise to eight or ten dollars a day, or none are to be found, and so with other lines of work.

The ignorant, of course, will say that all these new machi.

But only the deeply ignorant will say it. A few printers objected to the printing machine, which employs more printers than ever set type by hand.
ractically all the men engaged in cloth making in Fngland rebelled against the improved machinery that now produces about a thousand times as much cloth, hires a hundred times as many men, and pays much higher wages.

When life is easy we take things easily. When human labor is cheap we use only human labor and are content. When life becomes difficult and labor becomes expensive men use their brains, and that means progress. and consequently greater production, and incidentally higher wages in the future day.


Convention Sketches
By T. E. POWERS

Letters From the Public to the Editor

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Congressmen Poorly Paid-.. Who's Looney Now?

## By BILL PRICE

Washington's wealthy and highly overpaid Governmen employes-those described by the Honorable Soda Fountain BLANTON of Texas as having "cinches" in life's sirug gles-cannot fail to be deeply interested the Post.
the admirable hotel-corridor column of the

This interview is with "Colonel"-Tennesseeans neve have subordinate titles-THOMAS C. LOONEY, of Memphis. Colonel Looney sympathizes deeply with members of Congress and high officers of the Government in the small salaries paid them. "He feels that "they are hit as hard" by the high cost of living as "salaried persons in all other walks of life." Those are the quoted words.

Probably the colonel, whose human sympathies do not necessarily indicate he is "looney" now, or ever wil be,
does not know the facts about Washington salary workere The not know the facts about Congressman is $\$ 7,500$ a year. The Tennes The pay of a Congressman is $\$ 7,500$ a year. Tre Tennes-
seean frankly concedes that many of them are not worth seean frankly concedes that many of them are not worth
that; are truly overpaid. The 100,000 or more Federal and that; are truly overpaid.
District Government employes in Washington average little above a statutory salary of $\$ 1,200$ a year, a difference in
of more than $\$ 6,000$ a year.
Thousands of Government employes are paid less thas $\$ 900$ a year.
We grant that a Congressman must put up "a front." Most of them got into Congress that way. Many house The tomatoes thus "get by." We grant that a national legislator should dress somewhat better than the middleclass salary man or the mechanic, not that he is any better han any other man, but that other nations and people, would be badly impressed to see able statesmen like Uncla
JOE CANNON wearing overalls, with his sleeves turned up and face and arms black with grime.
and face and arms black with grime.
We concede that the cost of putting up "a front" considerable, but the main cost of living now is in food
supplies, the absolute necessaries of life. And as to that supplies, the absolute necessaries of life. And as to that
the "front" should disappear. A Congressman's stomach may be larger than that of a $\$ 1,200$ Government clerk-and it usually is-but it is not entitled to any more inside of r to any better quality of food. Neither prestige no possession of money removes the fact that a poor man requires as much to sustain life as his more fortunate fellow being. And what the small-salary man buys in essentials cost him just as much as it costs a Congressman. His under worked digestive tract enjoys a juicy steak as much as other man's overworked digestive engine.
. Nobody will begrudge a Congressman salary sufficient to maintain himsel in reasonaing saton, but he should no worker, a wage that will enable that worker to have reasonworker, a wag
able comforts
HEARD AND SEEN
THE FRECKLES GIRL.

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