

## WHEN WAGES WERE DOWN.

Interesting Reading for Those Who Think Their Pay Poor and Life Hard.

In 1793 the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Canal company advertised for workmen, offering \$5 a month for the winter months and \$6 for summer, with board and lodging. The next year there was a debate in the house of representatives which brought out the fact that soldiers got but \$2 a month. A Vermont member discussing the proposal to raise it to \$4, said that in his state men were hired for \$18 a year, or \$4 a month, with board and clothing. Mr. Wadsworth, of Pennsylvania, said: "In the states north of Pennsylvania the wages of the common laborer are not upon the whole, superior to the common soldier."

In 1787 a Rhode Island farmer hired a good farm-hand at \$3 a month; and \$5 a month was paid to those who got employment for the eight busy months of the farmer's year. A strong boy could be had at that time in Connecticut at \$1 a month through these months, and he earned it by working from daybreak until 8 or 9 o'clock at night. He could buy a coarse cotton shirt with the earnings of three such months. The farmers could pay no better, for the price they got for produce was wretched. Butter sold for 8 cents a pound, and when it suddenly rose to 10 cents several farmers' wives and daughters went out of their minds with excitement. Women picked the wool off the bushes and briers where the sheep had left it, and spun and knit into mittens to earn \$1 a year by this so-called business. They hired out as help for 25 cents a month and their board. By a day's hard work at the spinning wheel a woman and girl together could earn 12 cents. As late as 1821 the best farm hands could be had for 25 cents a day, or twice as much in moving time.

Matthew Carey, in his "Letters on the Charities of Philadelphia" (1829), gives a painful picture of the working classes at that time. Every avenue to employment was choked with applicants. Men left the cities to find work on the canals at from 40 to 75 cents a day, had to encounter the malaria, which laid them low in numbers. The highest wages paid to women was 25 cents a day, and even the women who made clothes for the general were paid by the government at the higher rates. When the ladies of the city begged for an improvement of the rate, the secretary has stated least it should discourage the relations of capital and labor throughout the city! Poor people died of cold and want every winter in the city, and the fact seems to have made an impression only on benevolently-disposed persons like Mr. Carey. —*New York Evening Post.*

## Why Bean Heller Wilted.

"Sort of an all-goneness to the place, you see."

"What's the cause? Has the plague struck the town?"

"Plague? Wuss nor a plague; a plague hasn't nowhere. See that stin buildin' over there?"

"Yes."

"Union store once. Had five clocks and a feller to count in money. You don't see no signs of biz there now? Course you don't. Had to have a short stop, though, what could gobble up daisy-cutters without peelin' the skin off his nose."

"Short stop?"

"Jes so. Palled the money out the bank, shut up the Union store, and got a short-stop what pull the rag off the bush. See that steeple up there 'mong the trees on the hill?"

"Yes. That's your church."

"Jes so. Hain't no preachin' there now, though. A dandy fus-class preacher costs five hundred, but we changed off an got a rip-snootin' bang-up pitcher this year instead. He's a lil' o' the fuss water. Arter we got a pitcher we had to have a catcher to hold him. Sold the church organ for four hundred. Got a crack back-stop man. Then we had to have a first-baseman. The bell what used to call us up Sunday to our weekly dose o' gospel music went, and we got a first-baseman. So it went. The drug man mortgaged his soda-fountain to get a fus-class left-fielder, an' the butcher sold his wagon to buy a smart uniform for our base-ball club. I tell you, there hain't nuthin' we go on so hefty as we do on our club. When a game is on you can't find no one but me in town."

"And why do you stay here alone?"

"Keep it on the Q. T. I live over in Bed-Bug Hill. I—well—I'm peelin' the carpet off the church to buy a new roof for our grand stand. We got a club on the Hill that can knock the socks off the Hoppers. Going? Good-day. Two hours more'n I'll have the church skinned."

Puck.

## Make out the Mittimus.

"I am getting tired of continuing this case for want of an important witness," said the judge, impatiently. "If Mrs. Barkins isn't in court this afternoon when the case is called it will go to trial without her. Mr. Barkins, I shall expect you to produce your wife at 2 o'clock, in this court."

"Me?" gasped Mr. Barkins. "Judge,

you don't know my wife. Produce her!" And he groaned. "I'd like to see any living man produce her if she didn't want to be produced."

"I shall send you to jail for 30 days for contempt of court if you don't bring her here, and I'll scold with her afterward," said the judge, sternly.

"Make out the mittimus, judge," said Mr. Barkins, shaking his head sadly; "you don't know her! Thirty days ain't nuthin'!" —*Chicago Tribune.*

## Important Ruling on the Desert Land Act.

The Cheyenne, who reports the case of desert land entry of much importance. It arose on the construction of the word "reclaim" in the desert land act, and the point was whether the bringing of water on the land was a sufficient compliance with the law, or whether in addition, crops must actually have been raised before final proof could be made. Of course Commissioner Sparks held to the interpretation which would impose the greatest burden and restriction upon the settler, and ruled that agricultural crops are required, in addition to the reclamation by bringing water upon the land. But he was reversed by Secretary Lamar, who wrote to Sparks: "By the terms of the desert land act the land is to be reclaimed by conducting water upon it. The first question to be determined is the significance of the word 'reclaim.' It is used in the act. In the interpretation of statutes the rule is that 'words are generally used in their usual and most known signification.' Hence, applying the general meaning to the word 'reclaim' as given by Webster, and the meaning of the statute is: That desert lands shall be reduced to an agricultural state by conducting water upon the same. It does not follow, however, that an agricultural crop must be raised in order to show that such conditions have been complied with. In other words it is not necessary to show the results of reclamation in order to prove the fact of reclamation. Entering the views I do upon this question, I hereby reverse your decision."

## SARATOGA STORIES.

The Letter Was Not From Pa—How She Knew It Wasn't.

He told a good story the other day. He said he came upon a wealthy lady and her little daughter listening to the morning music on the piazza. The lady's maid handed her a letter which she tore open and proceeded to read. The little daughter looked at her and exclaimed: "I'm sorry; I hoped that was from pa. Why doesn't he write?" "How do you know that isn't from pa?" the mother inquired. "Because you're reading a lot in it," the little girl replied. "If it was from pa it would just say: 'Dear ma, am sorry you aren't feeling well. Enclosed please find check. Your loving husband, Sam.'"

The very opposite and contradiction of the chief dupe in most respects is a brother who is here and is noted as being the homeliest man in Wall street. He is a poorly all nose and his eyes are of many colors, ranging from the deepest red to the muskadee to the black, brown and white of his chin whiskers. He denies public opinion in this precisely fashionable resort, wearing a Macinaw hat—the low hat—being that straw hats are not in good vogue because they come within every one's means. It is said that he made a hundred dollars by winning a bet that he was not the ugliest man in New York. He won it by producing his son.

## The Difference.

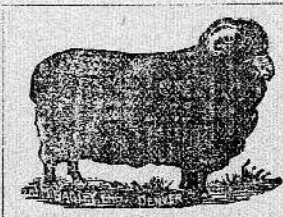
Those are very entertaining letters which Mr. Henry Watterson is writing to his newspaper, the *Courier-Journal*. In the latter he shows how much advantage the European novelist has over the American. He says there is a color in Europe which cannot be found in America; that the very names of localities in Europe have a music in them, and then gives an example of the possible opening of Swiss and American novel as follows:

Swiss.—Midway between Villeneuve and Bouveret, as the sun was setting behind the crags of Territe, and the blue waters of Lake Lemman reflected, like a mirror, all the hues of the rainbow, the gallant Count Casimir de Guise and the fair-haired Griselda, daughter of Baron Rudolph von Gerolstein, the Austrian Ambassador, etc., etc., etc.

American.—Midway between Lickskill and Hell's Half Acre, as the sun was setting behind the poplars on Wild Cat, and the yellow waters of Higgins' mill-pond reflected, like a brass kettle, all the hues of the rainbow, the gallant but penniless and the famished Polly Ann, daughter of 'Smiley' Jiggs McLaughlin, Magistrate of that civil district, etc., etc., etc. —*Salt Lake Tribune.*

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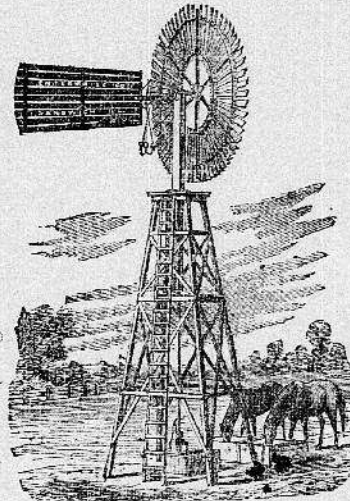
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