

Chicago Times

9 to 12

MORNING, SEPTEMBER 1, 1888.

and there is a fair degree of companionship, and the servants are competent and faithful and unobtrusive. But our conditions are new, and we must work out our problem for ourselves; but of two things I think we may be sure, we shall not get satisfactory Americanized help in our homes till we eliminate the menial phase of domestic service, and till we recognize and provide for the social wants of the domestic help.

Dr. Guthrie, the great pulpit orator of Scotland, laid great stress upon the duties of families to their servants; and especially upon the duty of providing for their social natures. His son told me that his father always allowed their servants to give tea-parties and invite their friends, and insisted that as servants had the same social needs as his children they should have similar privileges.

The plan suggested by Mrs. Starrett seems to me so very feasible that I should be glad to see it undertaken at once; and now that the public mind is so awake to the importance of making domestic service more attractive it would not be difficult to find in this generous city men and women who would give the money required for the equipment of such an institution or for several such institutions and for sustaining them. Once well established they ought to be in a good degree self-sustaining. This scheme would appeal to the public as a noble charity and as a most useful device for promoting home comfort. The larger the company the more sure and speedy the success. The stockholders would receive their dividends in improved cooks, housemaids, and nurses and in the consciousness that they were helping to promote a neglected phase of our civilization. Funds for the equipment and for a considerable part of the running expenses would need to be donated. The joint company would be made up of those who paid annual membership fees and who would thus be entitled to vote in the selection of the managers and would also have the privilege of securing help from the graduates of the institution, for the institution would need to fill the double role of training school and of employment office.

Entirely satisfactory servants could not at once be produced, but the right beginning would have been made and progress would surely follow. In such a large joint company a great many women would be brought to seriously study this domestic-service question, and girls desirous of entering the lists of domestic help would learn to reason about what is just and what is practicable instead of acting from momentary impulse. A strong ballast for these girls would be found in their having staunch friends and wise advisers in the instructors and managers of the training school. Homeless girls or girls cultivated beyond their home surroundings need nothing so much as wise friends in whose judgment and disinterestedness they have confidence. The institution would act as a friend to the girls who went out from it. It would hear their complaints and investigate the causes. It would also hear the complaints of mistresses and learn to train the girls in a way to avoid giving ground for complaints. It would act as a general arbitrator of the differences between the two parties.

The extraordinary success of the schools for training nurses is a fair illustration of the success that might be expected to attend schools for domestic service.

Nursing now stands almost as a professional industry, and is rewarded with large prices and a high degree of respectability. A similar improvement must be made in the character and position of domestic service. This would be the kind of manual training school for girls that is now most imperatively needed, but its success would depend quite as much upon its training the minds of women in regard to the rights and duties of mistresses as it would upon making competent and faithful domestic help. The domestic-service question needs to be thought over and discussed by a large number of intelligent, moral, sympathetic, housekeeping women in order to discover the proper standard of rights and duties and to establish trade scale of the republicans but that then

WAGES AND POLITICS.

The Position Occupied in the Campaign by Manufacturers and Their Employees.

Tariff Reform Gaining at the East by Discussion Among Those Most Deeply Interested in It.

Mr. Blaine's Savings-Bank Theory Calls for the Production of Some Interesting Statistics.

BOSTON, Aug. 23.—A leading official in the postoffice here says that when the inspectors return from their trips to the west they think surely that Cleveland will be re-elected, but after they learn what the situation is in the eastern states they begin to get frightened. Now this doubt regarding the eastern states arises wholly from the position of the manufacturers and of their employees in the campaign. This part of the country is much stronger in its protectionist sentiment than is the more agricultural west. The money power of New England lies largely with the manufacturers, and they are doing all they can to turn their employees over to the republican party. But there is good reason to think that the outlook will be different before the election. In the first place the discussion of the savings-bank issue which Mr. Blaine has forced before the country has brought out some interesting statistics, which but for him might never have been known. The official report of Col. Carroll D. Wright, chief of the state bureau of statistics of labor, published last December, shows that 69 per cent of all the persons who are out of employment are those engaged in the manufacturing industries. Now this is a much larger proportion than they should have according to their number. No other kind of occupation comes anywhere near these poorly paid employees of the industries which have the especial benefit of the protective system. Blaine's savings-bank discussion has also informed the public that not only are these people out of work far more than their proportion of the time, but that they are not able to lay up nearly as much money as the average of all employees in the State. Official figures have not been gathered covering the occupations of the depositors in the savings-banks, for the law does not require them, but enough have been collected by the bureau under Col. Wright to show that the workers for day wages have but 38 per cent of the deposits of the savings banks credited to their account, and that of the deposits above \$300 in amount they have but 26 per cent. If the returns be further analyzed, it appears that the employees in the protected industries, who number about half of the day wage-workers of the state, do not get over one-fourth of the savings-bank deposits of their class. Putting the two things together, it appears that they are out of work more than their share and that they are able to deposit only about half of their proportion with other wage-workers in the savings banks.

So much for the condition of the employees of protected industries; so far as they can be placed by the figures which have been collected by the department of labor. Now as to their disposition to vote with their employers. In republican circles one hears of the large number of workingmen who are going to vote for Harrison on account of the tariff issue. So far as I can learn by personal inquiry, there is no stampede at all to the republican side on the part of workingmen who voted for Cleveland in 1884. Members of the legislature who represent large manufacturing towns and who are familiar with the feelings of the laboring men, especially of those who have been Knights of Labor, say that they are not affected by the free-trade scare of the republicans but that they

said that last year they had a very poor season and that they made only 18 per cent profit in their establishment. When the years are good they make much more than that. In reply to a question as to the wages which were paid to the employees, he said that they had to cut them down to \$1.15 per day. Such statements bear out the Foster circular that the manufacturers practically get the whole benefit of the tariff. Now, that rate of 18 per cent will be a basis for the reader to judge of a statement which was made to me today by a person who had means of knowledge of one of our Massachusetts corporations. Within six months, or for the last six months—for which a computation was made, the corporation in question made a much larger rate of profit than the Pennsylvania corporation made in the year. But these facts will not be given so that political speakers can state them on the platform or even so that they can be published in the newspapers with names, dates, and amounts, so that everyone can know just what the situation is. These things lead out, here a little fact and there a little, given away by someone who is on the inside so that two and two can be put together. But there is the state of things which exists today. A great profit is made by the manufacturers, so great as to seem incredible to those who get only a few dollars per week in the employ of these men who are making money so fast and who feel obliged to cut down their men to starvation wages in order that they may be saved from the calamity of having to accept less than an 18 per cent dividend.

But there is another fact which goes to show that there will very likely be a change in the political tide if the discussion is forced, as it may be before the election. That is that some of the manufacturers would be willing today to accept a much larger reduction of tariff than is proposed in the Mills bill. One, whose protection by the tariff is about 35 per cent, says that he could get along all right if the tariff should be reduced to 20 per cent on the articles which he makes. Some owners of paper-mills have said that they could get on well with much less duty than they are enjoying now. One who is engaged in the manufacture of paper from wood pulp in Maine says that he has some competition from manufacturers in the British provinces just across the line, but if the duty were taken off from the chemicals which he uses in the manufacture he would risk the competition of the Canadians or of anybody else in the world. Some woolen manufacturers would be quite willing to see the Mills bill pass as far as they are concerned, for they import large amounts of foreign wools already, and they believe that if their raw material should be made free they would have a larger market in consequence of being able to manufacture at a lower price, and that they would make more money in the long run. But they are associated with men who are devoted to the tariff and are republicans themselves, and they are not yet ready to let their names appear in public as supporters of the democratic position. One of the treasurers of a large and well known mill, who is himself decided in his determination to vote for President Cleveland, tells me that he believes that nearly a third of the mill treasurers of this state sympathize with his way of thinking, but they are not ready to have their position known. So, with this feeling among the manufacturers themselves, there is no saying what possibilities there are before the end of the campaign. The campaign managers on the democratic side who are aware to some extent of this state of feeling are working cautiously to get some way of bringing these men to declare themselves. All of these things, the refusal of the laboring men to be stampeded to Harrison, the enormous rate of profits made by manufacturers, and the disposition of some manufacturers to support the democratic ticket who have been republicans, are facts in the situation today in Massachusetts and they make possible a complete change in the

CITY SLAVE GIRLS.

Lyman J. Gage's Belief that a Discussion of the Subject Will Be Beneficial.

And Possibly Result in a Good Law, Which Is the Formulation of a Pressing Public Sentiment.

A Plea for the Union as the Protector of Wage-Workers and Their Wages by G. M. Sloan.

"The questions you raise as to a cure for the evils pointed out in THE TIMES articles on wage-working girls are difficult," remarked L. J. Gage, vice president of the First National bank. "I do not believe they can be specifically answered. That is to say, an immediate and perfect remedy can not be found. The cause of these conditions can be inquired into, much light may be thrown upon them, and forces general in character may be set to work which will gradually bring about a much better condition among wage-working girls than now prevails."

"The great supply of what THE TIMES calls 'Slave Girls' is beyond a doubt a grinding poverty, which compels its victims to accept such terms and conditions as the intense competition among employers for cheap production may allow them in the way of wages, and afterward to endure such abuses of overwork and bad sanitary surroundings as the greed or indifference of the employer may enforce on the employed."

"I have said that poverty in the employee is the compelling reason for these conditions; but in this country poverty, while thus a cause, is in itself an effect of prior causes. The prevailing causes for distressful poverty in the United States may be summed up under these names: Domestic misfortune, ignorance, and vice. These three influences, operating separately or together, are the real influences which produce as a result the overworked, ill-clad, underpaid inmates of shops and factories where female and child labor are to be found. To remove the effects the cause must be treated. To name the cause is to suggest the remedy. For domestic misfortune, higher, more generous, and better directed philanthropy. For ignorance, education—an education suitable in character to give some practical preparation for the duties of life. The expression of Charles H. Ham upon this subject I heartily approve. We spend annually in the education of children about \$2,000,000. The same community expends over \$20,000,000 annually for beer. It surely can not be said that the community is too poor to afford a better, a more efficient, and a more expensive system of public instruction. I see no good reason why some part of every school building in the city should not, under proper regulations, be opened evenings for some form of popular instruction in the practicalities of life; nor do I doubt that such opportunities would be availed of by large numbers of both youths and adults."

"Lastly, the remedy for vice is individual reform. You ask what society can do. It can aid all moral reformatory agencies. It can be alive in its sympathy with the unfortunate, and can burn with indignation over oppression and wrong inflicted upon the helpless. Investigations carefully made, such as THE TIMES has inaugurated, if honestly reported without exaggeration, will awaken in society this active spirit. Agencies already exist which are now beneficial, but which with a larger co-operation can be made powerful. The Protective Society for Women and Children is one of these. Others might be named."

"You ask as to the advantage of more legislation. We have more laws now than can be enforced without a stronger support in public sentiment. No good law was ever invented. All wise laws simply formulate

near the complaints of mistresses and learn to train the girls in a way to avoid giving ground for complaints. It would act as a general arbitrator of the differences between the two parties.

The extraordinary success of the schools for training nurses is a fair illustration of the success that might be expected to attend schools for domestic service. Nursing now stands almost as a professional industry, and is rewarded with large prices and a high degree of respectability. A similar improvement must be made in the character and position of domestic service. This would be the kind of manual training school for girls that is now most imperatively needed; but its success would depend quite as much upon its training the minds of women in regard to the rights and duties of mistresses as it would upon making competent and faithful domestic help. The domestic-service question needs to be thought over and discussed by a large number of intelligent, moral, sympathetic, housekeeping women in order to discover the proper standard of rights and duties, and to establish this standard in the public mind. Social changes do not come quickly, but they are sure to begin to come when we get a recognition of right principles.

The kindergarten teachers of Chicago have already begun the work of fitting nurses for the intellectual care of children. Such a department as this would be needed in the school for domestic service.

I have said the public schools are not all prepared to do this work. We are making many experimental changes in education. The school managers are already over-occupied with new problems. The work needs the enthusiasm of individual interest and of a new set of people, and it needs the leisure that does not attach to public school officials. The work would at first be largely experimental and would require a more pliable organization and management than can be provided in the great complex machinery of our public schools. When the right methods are found out and the work is got into a groove very likely it can be incorporated into the public-school system. But the public schools could in no way give the education that now needs to be given to employers. They could not establish the standard of mutual justice and concession, without which a small measure of success can be attained.

Chicago women must take up this work, and, accustomed as they are to the details of organization, they would have no difficulty in working out a practical scheme. I have only aimed to throw out a few suggestions in regard to the need and practicability of putting domestic service on a different basis. In the limited demand for domestic help the majority of wage-earning girls must enter shops and factories. Different plans must be devised to meet their needs.

MARY E. BEEDY.

MOTHER AND SON.

Why James Murphy Got Drunk and How His Spree Resulted.

SALEM, Mass., Aug. 31.—An interesting story was brought to light at the hospital when James Murphy was carried there to have an ugly wound on his face sewed up. James was a leading member of a Catholic total abstinence society and was in good standing. Returning from a meeting a few nights ago he found his mother drinking whisky. He told her that he, too, would take to the intoxicating cup if he ever again found her under the influence of liquor. When he went to dinner the next day his mother was drunk. A few words passed between them and then young Murphy took his membership papers in the total abstinence society from his pocket, threw them into the fire, and made a bee line for the nearest saloon. He drank as much whisky as he could hold and was soon howling drunk. In that condition he presented himself to his intoxicated mother. She was so enraged that she seized a large earthen washbowl and struck him squarely in the face, splitting his face open to the bone. It was a terrible wound and will not heal.

Death Claimed the Bride.

NEW LEXINGTON, O., Aug. 31.—Yesterday Mary Moore, a daughter of a well-to-do farmer in this county, came to town to complete the purchase of her wedding outfit. Returning home she sat down to dinner, eating heartily. Afterward, complaining of toothache, she rose to leave the table and dropped to the floor. Medical aid was summoned, but before reaching her she was dead. She was to be married one week from Tuesday.

Pine Straw for Cotton Bagging.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Aug. 31.—A bale of cotton has been received here covered with pine straw bagging manufactured by a company of this city. It attracted great attention. It passed all tests satisfactorily, including that of compress, and is believed will answer all the purposes of jute bagging at much lower prices.

the fourth of the savings-bank deposits of their class. Putting the two things together, it appears that they are out of work more than their share and that they are able to deposit only about half of their proportion with other wage-workers in the savings banks.

So much for the condition of the employees of protected industries, so far as they can be placed by the figures which have been collected by the department of labor. Now as to their disposition to vote with their employers. In republican circles one hears of the large number of workingmen who are going to vote for Harrison on account of the tariff issue. So far as I can learn by personal inquiry, there is no stampede at all to the republican side on the part of workingmen who voted for Cleveland in 1884. Members of the legislature who represent large manufacturing towns and who are familiar with the feelings of the laboring men, especially of those who have been Knights of Labor, say that they are not affected by the free-trade scars of the republicans, but that they are better posted than they were four years ago, and that the republicans can not frighten them this year. I have found in several places that if Blaine had been nominated he would have received democratic votes, especially from the Irish, which will now be given to Cleveland. The labor diversion to Harrison, I am satisfied, is largely a republican campaign story. The petition of republican manufacturers to Gen. Butler to speak on the tariff shows to what length they will go to influence the labor vote, for they have done all they could to kill Butler politically, but believe he can influence their employees.

Now as to the question of the manufacturers themselves. Of course, they are largely republicans. In such an organization as the Arkwright club they have talked over the matter and have decided that they must do all they can for the success of the republican national ticket. This determination has borne fruit, and within a few days they have effected some sort of an organization for the purpose of raising a large sum of money to be sent to the national republican committee to be spent in such doubtful states as New York, Indiana, New Jersey, and Connecticut. They propose to do all they can for the protection of their interests, and it is said on authority which may be trusted that Fred L. Ames, the cousin of Gov. Ames, has pledged himself to give \$50,000. Fred Ames is by all odds the richest man in the state. His property amounts to from \$35,000 to \$40,000,000 and his annual income is over \$1,000,000. So that he could easily give \$50,000 and have enough for his board and clothes and pay his necessary doctor's bills beside if he should be so unfortunate as to lose a few days by illness. It is the plan to have the other wealthy republican stockholders in corporations of the state give correspondingly according to their ability, and it will be seen at once that the sum which they will raise by this contribution will be very large. The Home Market club, which is the busiest organization in the country on the republican side, probably in the distribution of campaign documents, is supported mainly by the money of the protected manufacturers and it was founded by them and run in their interest. It gets its members from all parts of the country and it has applications from every state in the union. It works in harmony with the republican state committee, but the latter organization leaves the work of preparing documents largely to this protectionist club. Protection literature by the ton is sent out by this club, and the chief aim of its efforts is to persuade the employees of the manufacturing concerns that their prosperity depends mainly upon the tariff. It has sent out as many as 126,000 documents in a day and its average output is about 25,000. That will give some idea of what the manufacturers are doing to save themselves from Cleveland's tariff-reform policy.

But it is not all as it appears on the surface. There are indications that a change will occur before election. In the first place, the manufacturers are not as united as they seem to be. It is the hardest thing in the world to get information from this class of people, for they are so extremely secretive. They do not propose to give away the secrets of their business nor the amounts of their profits, for fear that their prosperity would be diminished by the angry workingmen if they should find out how profitable the manufacturers are. Today I have been told of one in Pennsylvania, probably one of those who did not contribute liberally to the campaign fund and so drew upon himself the condemnation of Foster's "fat" circular, who

yet ready to let their names appear in public as supporters of the democratic position. One of the treasurers of a large and well-known mill, who is himself decided in his determination to vote for President Cleveland, tells me that he believes that nearly a third of the mill treasurers of this state sympathize with his way of thinking, but they are not ready to have their position known. So, with this feeling among the manufacturers themselves, there is no saying what possibilities there are before the end of the campaign. The campaign managers on the democratic side who are aware to some extent of this state of feeling are working cautiously to get some way of bringing these men to declare themselves. All of these things, the refusal of the laboring men to be stampeded to Harrison, the enormous rate of profits made by manufacturers, and the disposition of some manufacturers to support the democratic ticket who have been republicans, are facts in the situation today in Massachusetts and they make possible a complete change in the situation.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK.

An Old Man Cuts His Wife's Throat and Then Kills Himself.

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—Elias Kohn and his wife Barbara lived at 714 Sixth street in a three-story-and-basement building. He was a queer, crabby old man who could not get along even with his own children. He and his wife were found dead this forenoon in their bedroom. The wife's throat was cut. The husband was fearfully mangled with a knife, and a hole in his head which looked like a pistol-shot would puzzle the police. No sound of a pistol shot had been heard by the other tenants of the house in which the Kohns occupied the second floor. It is supposed that the old man killed his wife first and then cut himself. He was said to be wealthy. He lived in that neighborhood and had owned the house for nearly twenty years, since he retired from the cigar-making business with a competency. He was 62 years old and his wife was five years older. They had four children, who are all married. The father could not agree with one of them and frequently quarreled with his wife regarding them. The couple were last seen yesterday forenoon, when they were heard exchanging hard words. It is quite possible that the crime was committed then. The body of Mrs. Kohn was cold when found and the life-blood was pouring from her husband's wounds. He was alive but unconscious. The knife with which the deeds were done was found in a drawer near the bed on which Mr. Kohn lay. A number of wine and brandy bottles were on the table, showing how old man had mangled himself for the double crime. Everybody in the neighborhood knew the Kohns, but they were on speaking terms with scarcely anybody on account of Mr. Kohn's peculiarities.

CROPS IN THE NORTHWEST.

Returns from Minnesota and Dakota Show That Wheat Was Not Greatly Damaged.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Aug. 31.—The weekly crop reports from the northwest show an average yield of about eighteen bushels of wheat to the acre in the central and northern portion of the state and about fifteen bushels to the acre in Dakota and the extreme west. The harvesting and threshing is nearly completed throughout Minnesota and is progressing rapidly in Dakota. While the wheat in the northwestern locality has been somewhat damaged by the frost, it is not nearly so bad as was first reported, and owing to the fact that the farmers get about the same price this year for No. 2 northern, as was received last year for No. 1 hard, it is anticipated that they will be better off this year than last. The most favorable reports come from points on the Watertown, Aberdeen, and Ellendale branches of the Manitoba. Several elevators along the lines have commenced receiving new wheat.

Annual Temperance Meeting.

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—The fifteenth annual meeting of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Miss Frances E. Willard president, will be held in the Metropolitan opera-house, this city, Oct. 18 to 22. The convention will number 400 delegates, representing 16,000 local auxiliaries and more than 200,000 members. Forty departments of work will be reviewed under the heads of preventive, educational, evangelistic, legal, and the department of organization. Mrs. Mary T. Burt, president of the New York Woman's Christian Temperance Union, is at the head of the committee on arrangements.

Glass-Workers' Strike Impending.

PITTSBURG, Aug. 31.—A general strike of the glass-works of the country is expected tomorrow, when the new scale of the engravers is supposed to go into effect. The engravers demand 40 cents per dozen for engraving and the manufacturers say they can not pay the advance, which is about 50 per cent on the cheaper grades of glassware. The men insist upon their scale and a suspension of work in nearly all the factories of the country is probable. About two thousand men will be affected.

Admiral Porter Convalescent.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 31.—Admiral Porter's son authorizes a definite statement that the crisis in his father's case has been safely passed and that he is now out of danger.

should not, under proper regulations, be opened evenings for some form of popular instruction in the practicalities of life; nor do I doubt that such opportunities would be availed of by large numbers of both youths and adults.

"Lastly, the remedy for vice is individual reform. You ask what society can do. It can aid all moral reformatory agencies. It can be alive in its sympathy with the unfortunate, and can burn with indignation over oppression and wrong inflicted upon the helpless. Investigations carefully made, such as *THE TIMES* has inaugurated, if honestly reported without exaggeration, will awaken in society this active spirit. Agencies already exist which are now sufficient, but which with a larger co-operation can be made powerful. The Protective Society for Women and Children is one of these. Others might be named.

"You ask as to the advantage of more legislation. We have more laws now than can be enforced without a stronger support in public sentiment. No good law was ever invented. All wise laws simply formulate a pressing public sentiment. The question of restricting immigration is a very difficult one. By immigration we have developed our resources, built up a vigorous population, and acquired wealth and power; and through it the whole world has been blessed. On this question we ought not to be too reactionary. The incidental evils we may hope that time will do much to remove. Time may also more clearly point out the wisest course which is not now sufficiently clear.

"As to the conditions imposed upon the 'slave girls' by unsympathizing and inhuman employers a good deal can be done by the power of public opinion. Under a close inspection of the shops and factories where these girls are employed, the law, as it is, will furnish the power to enforce good hygienic conditions and provide for reasonable safety to life and limb. The power of the press in this direction is great. It may be truly urged also that girls and young women obliged to seek the means of self-support should lay aside the too prevalent prejudice against domestic service."

A PLEA FOR UNIONS.

George M. Sloan Shows How They Protect the Wages of the Workers.

TO THE EDITOR: The articles headed "City Slave Girls," current in *THE TIMES*, charge upon the employers as common and the rule a treatment of the girls that would be mildly described as revolting. The victims they credit with timid, uncomplaining behavior in the shops; with toil there that overtaxes endurance; with an unselfishness in the bestowal of their scanty wages on those in relationship with them that contrasts strangely with the qualities of those for whose profit they labor. In all this these articles must be regarded in a broad sense as a setting forth in cold type of some of the consequences that result from the present adjustment of the relations between capital and labor. In fact, they are in essence an indictment of society itself.

The publication of such matter is a trespass on ground forbidden in these latter days to the newspaper that relies mainly on advertising patronage for profit. The advertising class and employing class, as far as it is engaged in distribution of product, is one and the same. Tramping as it does on this forbidden territory, with little scruple and less regard for persons, *THE TIMES* makes good its claim to the character of "a people's paper." In this it supplies a want long felt. The mass of the city's population is per force of the employed. Before the new departure of *THE TIMES* the public opinion existed which condemned without stint the insufferable relations, but it had no opportunity to manifest itself, and remained latent in the consciousness of men. Now that it is evoked and manifests itself something is to be hoped for.

The heading of the continuous articles is sensational—no doubt of that. It strikes the eye oddly as printed. This is a land in which all "slavery" was thought to be but recently authoritatively abolished. Freedom for all, we boasted, had been won at an incomparable expense of public morality, generous blood, and toil-won treasure. Our gratitude to those who won it has been boundless. The pension list of the survivors of the war is now greater than the total expenses of the government when it broke out. Such is the expense war necessarily involves. It is not only costly but depraving. The crimes of peace are lawful acts; more than that, are acts obligatory on the citizen-soldier. Such a war as ours was resultant of our neglect to

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legislate wisely for the general welfare. This is what the nation undertook to do when the constitution was framed. Instead, we passed the helm of government to a class of man-owners. We made no provisions that would assure the spread of freedom. We did not comprehend that by dooming men to chattelism we, the people, were in process of losing our own liberties. Nor do we seem to realize now that in the economic conditions fostered and stimulated by law we are again working out a similar catastrophe.

For a generation now "protection" has been the law. Its alleged purpose, "the protection of American labor against the pauper labor of Europe," won it the support of the people. This protection it was supposed was specially accorded to the manufacturing industry. For twenty-five years this policy has stimulated the growth of "manufacturing centers." Did they who urged it, or they who adopted it a generation ago, realize that in one time such "centres" would of necessity, when they came to be established sooner or later, be inhabited as were the plantations—by task-masters and slaves? Do the leaders of the republican party comprehend the fact now, when, for the perpetuity of this policy, they align their ranks to the protection plank of the platform?

Consciously or not, in this heading THE TIMES has daily declared that chattelism is not the only form of slavery. It exhibits these "City Slave Girls" as the slaves of society at large. It shows them now not disposing of their labor in an open market, but accepting as compensation in full whatever is bestowed upon them. It represents the degen- cies of life denied them in cases so frequent as to constitute the rule. It sets forth that their comfort and health are not at all regarded; that the city's supervision over the workshops for this purpose is scarcely felt. In short, it defines the status of the "Slave Girls" as below the protecting reach of the law; that of the employer as above its restraining grasp. These are precisely the relations the serf and noble bore to the state under the *ancien régime*. They were those that existed here under constitutional slavery, when the blacks had no rights the whites were bound to respect. Heretofore in our society these admitted wrongs have flourished unchecked and increased with the passing years. These "city slave girls" are the weakest of the working classes, are the least capable of that organized resistance to economic law, always hopeless while the conditions continue by which the unions struggle to hold up the rate of wages.

To be belabored out of life
Without some small attempt at strife,
Our nature will not grovel.

It is but too plain was not written of them.

THE TIMES offers its columns for discussion of the cause of and remedy for these conditions. As "a people's paper" it does but its duty in this. The citizen who has any defined opinions on the matter is recanted to his obligations if he fails to respond. That the responses are so numerous is a fact that shows in its columns as the bow of promise in the heavens—a visible token that another devastating deluge will not be needed as in the past for the winning of freedom for these helpless slaves. Societies of citizens have passed resolves on the matter. The preachers move as society is impelled to inquire into it and have their say. Eminent citizens in interviews—the time for them snatched from the hours devoted to the business interests that absorb their forces—continue to contribute their views. The shrewd and sensitive genius who penetrated these adyta of wrong and oppression as Dante groped through the caverns which those who enter bid adieu to hope, and revealed to the upper world the doleful woes of the lower, has also her suggestions.

Evidently all these views, opinions, suggestions, must be toned and colored by the medium through which these eyes look. The prohibitionist and state socialist, free-trader and protectionist, the enthusiast for education, and the exponent of the popular religion, each offers his special panacea. The liberal manufacturer, seeing that for the day the unions sustain wage-rates, urges the slave girls to form one for themselves. Co-operation is pressed on them, too, as an escape from their thralldom. The relief they might gain by a change of servitude from the work-rooms to house employ—in which, though, man's work lasts from sun to sun.

The woman's work is never done. This is shown them and they are reproached that they do not emigrate in a body to the

low the point of self-developing growth in manufactures. The culmination is reached when the union and trust combine. Such a combination is now being entered upon. It is in essence a conspiracy of capital and labor against the people—the consumers. It is evidence that stratification in society is an accepted fact. By it the condition of wage-earner and employer, respectively, are fixed beyond the power of change, but from exterior influences.

There is a problem which a people that has inherited a free government theoretically must solve for itself if it would retain its freedom. Human progress demands now its solution. For the people who will not or can not solve it retrogression and decay are inevitable. It may be stated in many forms. This form is readily comprehensible: How can the moral development of a people be so aided and stimulated by law that it may keep pace with the rapid movement of intellectual power, or, how can the people ordain it that an increasing equity in wealth distribution shall become as manifest as the increasing control of natural forces which society continuously gains in wealth production?

If these questions can be answered by a society social serfdom will have been abolished in it and the city slave girl, with her employer, will have become like Uncle Tom and Legree, a doleful reminiscence.

GEORGE M. SLOAN.

TRAFFIC IN WORMS.

Merchants Who Sell Large Quantities to the Fishermen for Bait.

A number of people in this city find an extensive and profitable business in selling sand worms to fishermen for bait, says the New York Sun. One merchant of this commodity in West Forty-second street has sold in a busy season as many as thirty thousand worms in a week. There are two varieties, the sand worms or blood worms as they are commonly called and the white worms.

The blood worms are much more plentiful than the white, running in the ratio of one hundred blood to one white. The blood worms are found on a rocky beach and in sand in which there is considerable vegetable matter. This variety is obtained along the north shore of Long Island, in the vicinity of Fort Hamilton, and along the shores of Staten Island. The white worms are found in clean, white sand, along the south side of Long Island, Sandy Hook, and the coast of New Jersey.

Both varieties are dug at low tide. When the weather is hot they come up to the surface, and when it is cold they go down deeper. They are about six inches long; the white worms rather flat, blunt at both ends, and lined along the sides with a short fringe; the blood worms smooth, more pointed, round, resembling very closely the earth worms found in a rich soil.

Thousands of people are engaged in digging them, and make a good living in supplying the market for them. An entire family devotes itself to the work, earning \$28 to \$30 a week. A single man has earned, at times, \$12 a day by digging and selling these worms.

There is a great demand for them, and it sometimes happens that a dealer is not able to fill his orders. The Forty-second street dealer referred to has a box full of telegrams and letters from Ocean Beach, Asbury Park, Philadelphia, Newburg, and other places, asking for information about these worms and enclosing orders for them.

The white worms command a price of 25 cents a dozen, and have been known to sell for \$5 a hundred. The blood worms generally sell for 10 cents a dozen. They are dug with a hooked fork, and are found about eighteen inches below the surface. They must be alive to be salable, as they are not fit for bait when dead. They can be kept alive for a week, and even longer. Hot weather soon kills them, and a man must understand the business or he is liable to lose a thousand at a time.

These worms are used for catching striped bass mostly. Shedd crabs are used for catching weakfish. In catching bass men put on bathing-suits and go into the surf, where the fish are larger than in deep water. The fish are very fond of these worms. Sometimes a man need merely lay a worm across his hook, toss it quickly into the surf, and he may as quickly pull it out again, with a fish on the end of his line. It is not an uncommon thing to pull in a fish that weighs twenty-five pounds. At Ocean Beach a short time ago a man

THE RAILW

Chicago Roads Will
Modification of
continental

Chairman Midgley Sa
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The St. Paul Decides to
Burlington and No
western

A meeting of the traffic
and southwestern roads,
considering the objections
to the new transcontinen
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Commissioner J. S. Leeds
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stones explained that the
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and followed out the instr
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and Leeds explained that
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The Missouri Pacific and
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Midgley admits that Chic
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not see how the evil can

THE CAR-LOAD

The counsel for the e
popularly known as the "c
just filed their brief with
commission. These cases
brought by members of
transportation and the Mo
and Francis H. Le
trunk line railroads. The
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grocery staples and
household and common
very much lower rates for
the same articles. The
Simon Stern and Charle
claim that these discrimi
west-bound tariffs of the r
1887, and that they now ar
dred articles, whereas ten
only thirty articles that te
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the interstate commerce
were made, one object be
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the local rates on groceries
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UNIONS.

**How They Protect
Workers.**
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for \$5 a hundred. The blood worms gen
erally sell for 10 cents a dozen. They are
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operation is pressed on them, too, as an es
cape from their thralldom. The relief they
might gain by a change of servitude from
the work-rooms to house employ—in which,
though, man's work lasts from sun to sun.

The woman's work is never done. This
is shown them and they are reproached that
they do not emigrate in a body to the
kitchens.

He who would make a study of the "slave
girl" question must study with it the cause
from which these conditions are an evolution;
must study, too, what contributes to
hasten this evolution. No man can do this
effectively unless he can rid himself of all
prepossessions and predilections, and with a
mind unbiased by any theory search out the
facts and build his conclusions on what he
has ascertained to be established verities.
Each of these various remedies must man
ifestly be derived from the conception of a
half truth, for the gloomblor debasing of the
masses of society, one or other of which must
go on—for society knows no halting point,
and when it does not progress must retro
grade. To ascertain the whole truth is cer
tainly not in the power of any man; but to
attempt it with a full comprehension of
what is required to obtain it, promises better
results than to go about the search for it
with eyes blinded by prejudices or self-interest.
All I can affirm of myself is that on no
subject involved here does either of these
impediments cloud my vision. And the
subjects involved here include a study of
what are the natural relations of man to
man, which when established in permanence
result in a progressive society, and also
what are the artificial man-made relations,
for these inevitably tend to the debasement
of men:

At the first glance it is plain here that so
ciety is, in process, of stratification. That
each several class is coming to regard itself
as in a proper place superimposed on the
one below it. That in each upper class the
inspiration to *flaunt* higher is a dominant
quality. Who interest themselves in the fate
of those below them or realize the conditions
they endure? The small manufacturers who
live and work with their employees show
not yet so inspired to the struggle for
wealth as to have lost the audacity nerve to
their co-workers. With these are members
of some of the great and opulent firms in
such control of capital that they are above
the ordinary aquities of commerce. They
make profit rather by purchases than by
sales, and of such interest themselves in
the conditions of their employees. But their
purchasing implies that the conditions of
those employed in the production of
the wares they buy so cheaply are worsened,
and the indirect effects of their business on
the world of work far more than local
balances all the gain balances for their local
ized sympathies.

Between these two classes of employers
the whole interval is a battle-field between
capital and labor, pitiless and remorseless.
But of this battling in which all are en
gaged, employers, employees, and
the community in general, know little of either
this *class-war* economy. The vast
majority are driven to the light, as the working
man, unable to employ himself, is driven
to seek an employer. He competes in wages
with his fellows when their numbers in
crease in the labor market. So, for profits
and in reduction of profits the factories
compete as the markets of production are
glutted. The same law that lowers wages
lessens profits. The competition is suicidal,
for as wages and profits diminish the power
to consume the product diminishes with
them. To protect the wage rate the union is
organized; to save the profits the trust is
formed. The independent manufacturer is
to the trust what the seab is to the union.
The union came in and because the law left
the toilers to the tender mercies of compet
ing manufacturers; the trust came in aid
when the competitors depressed profits be

veras a dozen, and have been known to sell
for \$5 a hundred. The blood worms gen
erally sell for 10 cents a dozen. They are
dug with a hooked fork, and are found about
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These worms are used for catching striped
bass mostly. Shredder crabs are used for
catching weakfish. In catching bass men
put on bathing-suits and go into the surf,
where the fish are larger than in deep water.
The fish are very fond of these worms.
Sometimes a man need merely lay a worm
across his hook, toss it quickly into the
surf, and he may as quickly pull it out
again, with a fish on the end of his line.
It is not an uncommon thing to pull
in a fish that weighs twenty-five pounds.
At Ocean Beach a short time ago a man
landed a striped bass weighing forty pounds.
Along the Hudson this fish is often found,
but not as large as at the beaches. Bass
weighing three or four pounds are also
caught from the piers.

Women are quite enthusiastic over the
sport of fishing, and the dealers frequently
receive orders from them. A woman will
visit a worm-store in the course of her fore
noon shopping and leave an order for one or
more dozen in view of a fishing trip the next
day.

CONFUSING TO COMMERCE.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review Com plaints of Contradictory Crop Reports.

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly
review says: "Crop reports have become ex
ceedingly contradictory and confusing. Dis
patches by the score are published asserting that
frosts have cut down the yield of spring wheat
greatly, especially in Dakota and Minnesota, and at
the same time the government frost reports
are greatly exaggerated. Such confusing ac
counts from all quarters have helped a very
active speculation with sales of ninety-three
million bushels here and a net decline in
price of only half a cent for the week. These
facts lead to the suspicion that gloomy reports are being used to unload specula
tive burdens, and that the actual outcome will not
fall much below previous estimates. Corn is a
fraction lower, with sales of nine million bushels,
and oats 5 cents higher with some activity."

In provisions, also, there has been active specula
tion, an advance, and a reaction. Hogs remain
10 cents higher. Oil has risen 3 cents, and leather
and hides are 1 cent higher. Tin has weakened,
but copper is stronger and lead has been hoisted
1 cent. Coffee has sold largely for speculation,
207,600 bags at New York, but prices halt and the
distribution slackens. Sugar is unchanged, with
a better but not full demand for refined. An act
of vice and stronger prices are noted in hops.

The dry-goods market has been active and even
buoyant, with print cloths still at 4 cents, but
some descriptions of brown sheetings a few cents
higher, and the market for wovens is still irregular and uncertain. Speculation has raised the price of
cotton 4 cents per hundred pounds, with sales of
263,000 bales at New York in spite of favorable
crop adviser.

It is hardly necessary to point out that this
speculative activity, particularly in exportable
products, is not a very healthy sign. If crops are
high, poor business must suffer in consequence;
and if prices are merely inflated without reason
the inevitable reaction will do harm.

Speculation in stocks has been moderately
active and strong. The market does not broaden,
also is the public holding. The treasury has taken
in \$5,000,000 more than it has paid out this week,
but supplies of money are abundant here, and
there are no reports of serious pressure anywhere.
At some points collections are fairly good, but a
much greater number of reports note more than
usual tardiness for the season, and complaints
are general. Yet there is a noticeable increase in
confidence as to the immediate future of business
in all directions, factors from which reports are
received, and banking returns show a continued
increase in exchange.

The business failures number 226, as compared
with a total of 214 last week, and 219 the week
previous to the last. The corresponding week
of last year the figures were 198. In August the
failures numbered 252, against 277 last year.

Electric Convention for Chicago.

NEW YORK, Aug. 31. The electric convention
resolved to hold its next meeting in Chicago. The
following executive committee was elected: B. S.
Sonney, S. A. Barton, W. A. Kreidler, all of Chi
cago; O. A. Moses, New York; E. T. Peck, Brook
lyn; J. F. Morrison, Baltimore; E. F. Lynch, New
York; F. C. Smith, Philadelphia; Frank Dillon,
Baltimore.

Fatally Shot at a Dance.
WASHINGTON, Ind., Aug. 31. At a dance in
this city late last night James Devine and Dick
Hunley, young coal miners, quarreled about a
young woman, and Devine shot Hunley through
the bowels, inflicting a mortal wound. Devine
was arrested and will have a hearing today.

load shipments from the
on grocery staples and various
household and common uses
very much lower rates for car
the same articles. The plan
Simon Stern and Charles F.
claim that these discriminatory
west-bound tariffs of the rail
1887, and that they now apply
articles, whereas ten years
only thirty articles that took
loads in small quantities
for the state of things occasioned
of the interstate commerce law
were made, one object being to
local roads their old local rates.
the local rates on grocery staples
of the interstate law were given
to the charges made for traffic
like articles between competing
discrimination against the
lages was one of the main reg
of the act. Another object
according to the plaintiffs, was
shippers such advantages as
passage of the law. It was proposed
roads to continue the discrimination
large shippers and large sh
teeth of the act forbidding sh
Attention is called to the fact
the arbitrary limit of
increasingly large, the
having been advanced from 2
with no assurance that it would
to twice that quantity in another
indicated that the difference in
charges in the case of most of
or exceeds the jobber's net price
fully prohibits sales of these
board and shipments west-bound
quantities. It is expected that
commission in these cases will
that in the well-known case of
mer, and Teagle of Cleveland
Shore road.

RATES REDUCED BY

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul
finally decided to reduce freight rates
Chicago and St. Paul to the 1-cent class.
This action was determined at the
day's meeting of the northwestern
became evident that further
an agreement for the higher
of competitive business away.
The Burlington is not to be induced to do
and the roads that have
of St. Paul and Minneapolis
months because they already
have grown very tired of the
Freight Agent Bird announced
longer appeared to be any hope
present condition of affairs compelled
to meet the competition.
He will probably give notice
today of the proposed changes
go into effect Monday. In
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul
same course adopted by the
Kansas City and the Wisconsin
long and short haul provided
saw is ignored and the 40-cent
on St. Paul, Minneapolis, La Crosse
business. The rate to intermediate points
remains on the 60-cent basis,
that the Chicago and North Western
Island will meet the 40-cent rate.

TRACK AND TARIFFS.

Commissioner Fink has issued an order
to the effect that the special rates
continue in effect until September
the regular tariff rates and
tariff will apply.

The official notice of the action
Robinson, Jr., as general freight
agent of the St. Joseph and
has just been issued by the
names. Mr. Robinson was
the Great Western Despatch.

Chairman Abbott has received
all the Chicago and St. Louis
visiting him that they have
a lower rate less than regular
authorized to their connection
and class business. The
business that has advanced
great business in accordance
instructions.

At the meeting of the
of the Central Traffic association
agreed to restore grain rates
the territory of the association
May 14, and to make the minimum
cents per hundred pounds over
from Chicago to New York
restore the rates on scrap-iron
of \$2.50 per ton to Pittsburg
town. The action of the com
subject to ratification at a
Monday, when the roads on
action will be heard from.

GRAND EXCURSION AT COUGAR'S GROVE.
On next Sunday, Sept. 2,
railroad will run a special
Cougar's grove, Kankakee, Ill.,
9 a.m.; returning leave G.
Fare for round trip only \$1.