

Chicago Times

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 16, 1888.

The
Real Cause
Of It.

Why
Labor Is
Pauperized.

Read
The Times
Daily.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

ald lawns abounded, and inscriptions such as "Ave Maria," "Te Deum Laudamus," the dates "1811" (birth), "1838" (ordination to the priesthood), and "1888" (jubilee year of Father Sorin), were observable in every place of vantage, worked in either flowers or brilliantly illuminated fabrics. The entire facade of the university building and St. Edward's hall were festooned in the national colors, from all the windows fluttered innumerable little flags, while festoons of evergreen sustained wreaths of palm and laurel, dotted with red and yellow roses.

The first ecclesiastical ceremony of the day was the solemn consecration of the new church of the Sacred Heart. This edifice was begun in 1872 and has just been completed. It consists of a spacious and loftily built Gothic nave and transept, and even without galleries it will seat more than two thousand persons, as was proved by the congregations accommodated yesterday. The main altar, an elaborately-carved and richly gilded shrine, relieved with illuminated panels, is so placed as to provide a rear chapel for minor services. The side altars of the blessed virgin and of St. Joseph are also exceedingly beautiful specimens of carving and adornment in gold and colors. Rt. Rev. Dr. Dwenger, bishop of the diocese, officiated in the consecration service early in the morning, assisted by Rev. Fathers Fitté, Frenon, Coleman, and several other clergymen. The consecration, which was witnessed by several bishops and a large congregation, notwithstanding the early hour, was carried forward according to the established office provided for such occasions, comprising the blessing of the church, sprinkling with holy water, and anointment of the principal portions of the edifice and the sacramental vessels.

The consecration was followed by a low mass said by Father Sorin. It was his fifth annual mass, the celebration of his golden wedding to the church, the bride of Christ, and simple and quite unostentatious as it was, the spectacle of the venerable priest before the altar he had served so long and lovingly excited the profound sympathy of all and the deep emotion of many in the devout congregation. The priests of the order, the members and faculty of the college, and the resident members of the community of Sisters of the Holy Cross were present at this celebration.

The principal service of the day, the pontifical high mass, in honor of the occasion, at which Cardinal Gibbons was the celebrant, was the event of the day, in which culminated the impressive splendor of ecclesiastical pageantry and the pomp of a gorgeous ritual. Preceded by a line of acolytes, cross-bearers, deacons, and priests of various degrees, the procession of the prelates, resplendent in their episcopal robes, slowly took its way across the greenward between the university building and the church. In this apostolic line, vested in silken cassocks of the long-privileged purple, were in the order of seniority of their consecration, Juniors first, Bishops Janssen, Belleville, Ill., Burke, Cheyenne; Richter, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Keane, formerly of Richmond, now rector of the new Catholic university, Washington D. C.; Ryan, Alton; Watterson, Columbus; Cosgrove, Davenport; Phelan, Pittsburg; Spalding, Peoria; Ryan, Buffalo; Gilmore, Cleveland; Dwenger, Fort Wayne; Archbishops Ireland of Minnesota and Elder of Cincinnati, and lastly, in the place of special honor, a slight but erect and striking figure, clad in the significant scarlet of the papal council, James Gibbons, cardinal-archbishop of the historic primacy of Baltimore.

Very Rev. Father Edward Sorin occupied a place of honor in the sanctuary and as soon as the bishops and clergy were seated and the crowded church restored to the quiet the entrance of the imposing procession had disturbed high mass was begun. His eminence Cardinal Gibbons pontificated at this mass, his assistant officers being Rev. Dr. J. M. Cleary, Kenosha, assistant

EDWARDS IS THE MAN.

The Imaginary Head of an Extensive Gang of United States Mail Robbers.

How Fred Von Oberkamp and Thomas F. Mack, the Real Thieves, Would Shift Their Crimes.

No Importance Attached to Their Statements--The Manner in Which They Worked--Witnesses.

Frederick Von Oberkamp, who robbed the postal boxes of \$1,000,000 worth of mail, is a very shrewd rascal, but he is unable to tell the same story twice in succession. He is not a hard looking man in any sense. His little round hat sits jauntily on his head, his white teeth gleam through his mustache, his long black hair is smooth and glossy, and his well-knit figure stands erect. He does not show fear and his hazel eyes look straight into those of his questioner. He is a humorous villain, too, and declares with a smile that Mack, who is under arrest as his accomplice, is entirely innocent of any complicity in the mail robbery. It is very sardonic, that same smile, and Mack sees it and becomes anxious.

The wily foreigner would make no statement yesterday, but agreed to answer any questions that might be asked of him, providing they did not force him to compromise himself.

"I have been in this country about three years," he said. "On shipboard as I was coming over I met a man by the name of Charles Edwards. I remained only a few days in New York and then I came to Chicago. About a year afterward Edwards followed me here and I went into his employ. I made an honest living for a time with him. He claimed to me that he was in the secret service of the government and was engaged in investigating various insurance companies. I used to do considerable translating and corresponding for him and sent out a large number of advertising circulars all over the country for him. In this part of the work was to address the envelopes. I had no idea of the nature of Edwards' business, but he used to pay me part of my salary in uncanceled postage stamps, saying they had come to him in the regular course of his business. These stamps I used to sell at the drug stores and other places and get my salary in money in that way. I worked for Edwards for fourteen months."

"Where was Edwards during the last ten months?" was asked.

Mack interrupted him and told him to tell the same story he had told the inspector. "Well, then," continued Von Oberkamp, "I had been working for him up to the time I was arrested. I saw him at the Illinois Central depot last Friday. I don't know where he can be found, but he is the man whom the police should arrest. I did not know that he was doing wrong, and he paid me on the average about \$12 a week. I asked him why it was that he paid me so often in stamps, and he told me that in addition to the stamps he received from his customers he had been in the service of the postoffice department and had procured the stamps there. I never knew where he lived, and he used to make appointments with me to meet him by means of a postal card sent to the general delivery window of the postoffice. He never gave me any business address either. However, he was not much with blue eyes and dark hair, and a high forehead."

"The postoffice inspector says that your description accords exactly with that of Mack. How is that?"

Von Oberkamp turned to Mack and surveyed him from head to foot. "Yes," he said, "Edwards looked very much like Mack, but he had a harsher look in his face and appeared like a man who would commit murder at any moment. But this is not the man, and Mack is entirely innocent of the

Since then I have been engaged in writing up insurance for agents who would give me part of the commission. This insurance was in the Metropolitan, the American Aid Society, and a secret society. I was arrested during the republican convention by a detective who said he knew me. They made a mistake in the man, but I have constantly been hounded by detectives, and wherever I went I would find them dogging my footsteps. I became acquainted with Von Oberkamp about a year and a half ago, when he was introduced to me by a man in my employ. I saw, very little of him until a few weeks ago, when he came to me and asked me to keep some papers for him as he had no safe place to keep them. I had nothing to do with the proceeds of the check that was cashed by Von Oberkamp's landlady, and did not receive any of the money."

Von Oberkamp again showed his teeth and asserted that Mack was an entirely innocent man. Mack seemed nothing loath to have his companion become a vicious abettor, but he hated to look at that smile.

BIGGEST LIAR ON EARTH.

Von Oberkamp, the Mail Robber, as Described by a Postal Inspector.

The postal inspector's room on the top floor of the government building yesterday was littered with insurance policies, trust deeds, and miscellaneous letters found in Von Oberkamp and Mack's possession. There is no doubt that the letters recovered constitute but a small portion of the stealings of the two men, for it is known that Von Oberkamp was in the habit of burning a number of letters every night. He retained all that contained papers of value and personal letters, which contained any spy communications for the same humor that makes him assert Mack's amiable character led him to preserve this class of correspondence. The insurance policies and deeds were spread out on the tables and it was noticeable that the name either of the sender or of the person to whom the letter was addressed was preserved intact. From this the inspector inferred that it was Von Oberkamp's intention to take them with him to Germany and write from there to one of the parties interested, offering for a small consideration to turn the papers over. There were two cents of operations for the robbers. One was in the neighborhood of the board of trade building, where the mail sent out by the insurance companies was dropped for collection. The other place was about State street and Michigan avenue among the wholesale grocery houses. The primary object of the thieves seems to have been to secure letters on which there was a large amount of postage.

Inspector Kidder and the postoffice officials seem very happy over the capture, and consider that the discoveries fully account for all disappearances of mail matter which have caused so much complaint against the postoffice. Now that the extent of the operations has become known they wonder that complaints have not been more frequent.

"Von Oberkamp is the biggest liar on the face of the earth," said Inspector Kidder. "He has told us stories of one purport and then told different stories and acknowledged that he lied in the first instance. No reliance can be placed on anything he says. At first he denied that he had an accomplice and then confessed that he had. He told us that among his effects would be found a photograph of the man who was engaged in the business with him. We found the photograph and also found that it was Mack's photograph. He may claim that Mack is an innocent man, but the truth is that Edwards is Mack. There is no truth in his assertion that he was only one of a gang in Edwards' employ, for all the work was done in Chicago."

It may be hard-work to tell the exact relationship which existed between these two men, but it is noticeable that fully nine-tenths of the checks, drafts, and money orders which might be realized on by means of forged indorsements were in Mack's possession. About two hundred of these were found in one package. How they managed to get them which are the boxes. They are shrewd enough not to empty the boxes, but would take just enough so that the carriers would not become suspicious because of the small collections. Of Von Oberkamp we know nothing before he came to Chicago. I received a letter today from an Iowa man saying that Von Oberkamp, formerly lived at Sanborn, Iowa, where he was interested in a bank and had also been connected with the postoffice. Among the papers found are ten shares of bank stock in the name of Fred Oberkamp. This Von Oberkamp denies.

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CITY SLAVE GIRLS.

Take a Trip with a "Times" Reporter Through a Mattress and Pillow Manufactory

And You Will Learn What Becomes of the Loathsome Rags Picked Up by the Italian Scavengers.

You Will Also Find Gaunt Emaciated, Silent Women Tolling Away for \$3 a Week.

Then Go Into the Box Factories and Look at the Scores of Boys Who Work for 3 Cents an Hour.

After Which Walk Through the Sash and Door Making Concerns and Pity Chicago's Child Slaves.

If you want to see a snow-storm in summer, or its counterpart in appearance, go to the "separating-room" of the mattress and pillow manufactory of Potgen & Menzie, 333 to 351 Twentieth street. If you have any curiosity to know how it feels to be feathered on the inside go to the same room. One minute will do the work satisfactorily. The above suggestions are for people of poetic temperament, or who think they are. But the practical masses must enter the "picking" and "dusting" rooms to get an intelligent idea of what a factory of that kind is.

We will go through the mattress department first. The materials for filling are hair, fine and coarse shavings known as "excelsior," palm-leaf, corn-shusks, woolen and cotton rags, and sea grass. The finest hair, that of the mane and tail of the horse, is called "drawings," and sells at 20 cents a pound wholesale. Thence down the scale you go by easy stages till hog-hair is reached, which costs next to nothing. As the average purchaser merely asks for a hair mattress and buys the cheapest he generally becomes the residuary legatee of a pig. Shavings are clean, and so is the palm-leaf fiber. Most of the alleged "sea grass" is harvested in the Calumet swamps, so it is the buyer and not the material that is "salted." There are no sanitary objections to this home product, however, but there are to the woolen and cotton fillings. They are made in part from the rags picked up in back alleys by the Italian rag-pickers. In the mixed assortment are fragments that have seen service as bandages for every part of the human form and for every kind of loathsome disease. They have been washed, of course, but in the main the so-called washing is a mere rinsing which does not even remove the discolorations of dirt, to say nothing of disinfecting them. Packed in musty bales these rags are bought and stored in the manufactory. In this form they go to the "picking-room" and are run through machines that destroy all indications of their original shape. It is a day

than picking, the difference being that the fiber is not destroyed. But so much of the stuff is shoddy there is no fiber. Only two or three men are employed feeding the machines and the clouds of dust partially obscure them from view.

And as the dust is in this room it is as nothing compared with that in the room adjacent, where the picked stuff is dropped

he can be found, but he is the man whom the police should arrest. I did not know that he was doing wrong, and he paid me on the average about \$12 a week. I asked him why was that he paid me so often in stamps, and he told me that in addition to the stamps he received from his customers he had been in the service of the postoffice department and had procured the stamps there. I never knew where he lived, and he used to make appointments with me to meet him by means of a postal card sent to the general delivery window of the postoffice. He never gave me any business address either. He was a German man with blue eyes and a black mustache."

Von Oberkampf turned to Mack and surveyed him from head to foot. "Yes," he said, "Edwards looked very much like Mack, but he had a harsher look in his face and appeared like a man who would commit murder at any moment. But this is not the man, and Mack is entirely innocent of the charge made against him in the mail robbery. Mack is a good man," and then "the mustache went up and the nose came down" and that sardonic smile made Mack wince.

"I never was in the business only so far as I did work for Edwards. He used to get letters from all parts of the world with undirected stamps on them. From this I believe that he was at the head of a gang of thieves engaged in robbing mail pouches all over the world and that they sent all their proceeds to him for disposition."

"To keep for him," Edwards said that he did not want his business found out and he had no place to keep the papers where they would be safe. "They were sent to me in a trunk and he said that I could keep them safer than he could because I was a foreigner and was held in respect by all who knew me, and therefore the detectives would not be liable to suspect me."

"I did not have any permanent boarding place then, and I thought Mack could keep them safer than I could. When Edward gave them to me, I had a place where they could be kept. I knew the papers were valuable, but I never tried to pass any of them until about six weeks ago, when I

"On Aug. 19 did You not try to purchase a gold watch?"

"I don't remember," and a blank look came into Von Oberkamp's face. The two looked at each other as they had often done while Von Oberkamp was talking and each sought corroboration from the other. A moment, when two or three reports were asked, questions of the men, Von Oberkamp proposed to answer one reported a question while Mack talked to the others. "This" was

stated that the two should not talk at the same time. The question in the attempt to purchase a watch was pressed and Mack finally answered, "That is some thing else," and nothing further on the Subject could be obtained.

MacK seemed very anxious to talk and expressed considerable interest in what the papers said about the case. "I formerly worked for the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, at 90 1/2 E. S. S. street," said he, "and on May 31, 1953 was made an assistant superintendent and was transferred to the branch office at 12 North Clark street. I resigned my position last December in order to accept a better offer. Because I was a valuable man whom they disliked to lose the officers of the Metropolitan caused me to

be arrested on the charge of embezzling \$50, but the case against me was dismissed, and the superintendent acknowledged to me that the arrest had been caused wrongfully.

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How John Jenkinson Happened to Trade with the Robbers.

John Jenkinson of the jewelry and stationery firm, Jenkinson & Shelley, 562 West Madison street, to whom Oberkamp sold postage stamps, and a pair of gold eye-glass frames that he had stolen from the mail, gave the story of his connection with the mail robber last evening. He said he first met Oberkamp about two years ago, when he used to purchase Lovell's novels occasionally. After awhile he brought in small lots of postage stamps, sometimes fifty and sometimes one hundred in the package, and disposed of them at a discount of 10 per cent. When Mr. Jenkinson asked him how they came to be all single stamps Oberkamp said that was the way they came to him "from the country," and that he got them in good condition and stamped on the back to make them untraceable. He visited the firm regularly during the past year and a half and sold stamps, but never more than \$1 or \$2 worth at a time. Once he sold a \$2 lot, but the total would not exceed \$15.

Regarding the eye-glass transaction Mr. Jenkins said that when Frank A. Colburn, the optician, claimed that they went to the postoffice and saw Inspector Kidder and a chief of carriers. They were told by the postoffice authorities that so far as the theft of the gold eye-glass frame was concerned, the department could do nothing because the package was placed on the top of the mailing-box instead of inside, and was consequently never in possession of the government or any of its servants.

When asked why he had not notified the postoffice officials when Oberkamp had called again and offered a pair of steel-framed eye-glasses for sale he replied: "I'm not a detective. I could not cause the man's arrest for he had not done anything to me. I suspected he was a thief after the gold-spectacle affair, but I could not cause his arrest for that, particularly when the postoffice people said they were not responsible for the theft. Certainly no one can accuse me of complicity with the fellow, and with my evidence in regard to the clock, offered as last Friday, Inspector Kidder expects to convict both Oberkamp and Mack."

A Chief of Police Cruelly Maltreats a Prisoner and Nearly Causes a Riot.

SOUTH NORWICH, Conn., Aug. 25. Chief of Police John Lockwood clubbed Patrick Cahill last night, then tied him by the hands to the rear of a wagon and dragged him to the lock-up half a mile away, with his head bumping on the paving stones. He put him in the lock-up and then set a bull dog on him. There has been almost a riot over the case. Lockwood has been suspended from the police force.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "J. H. Smith", "W. J. Jones", and "A. B. Brown", among others.

A Chicago officer was instructed to procure the necessary papers and hurry to Buffalo for the purpose of escorting the woman back to Chicago. Judge Prendergast was located at Waukegan, but before the arrival of the officer had come to Oconomowoc. After a chase of thirty-six hours he was overtaken and signed papers for a regular ticket.

CANAMARRIE, N. S. AUG. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer and Miss Sarah Cuning of Brookville, have just been married. The groom is 34 years of age and the bride 26. The peculiar feature of the marriage is the fact that Miss Cuning was a step-daughter of Sawyer. The father of the bride was killed in the civil war. When she was 2 years of age her mother was married to Mr. Sawyer. By her four sons were born to Mr. Sawyer, to whom she is half-sister in law and mother.

Hampton's Celebration.
HAMPTON, N. H., Aug. 13.—This town is 30 years old today. There has been a demonstration.

than picking, the difference being that the fiber is not destroyed. But so much of the stuff is shoddy there is no fiber. Only two or three men are employed feeding the machines and the clouds of dust partially obscure them from view.

Had as the dust is in this room it is as nothing compared with that in the room adjacent, where the picked stuff is dropped into a huge box after having run the gantlet of the two fans in the "duster," where, theoretically, all dust is removed and blown into a water-tank in the engine-room. Two or three whiffs will stifle a novice. Up to a recent date this villainous stuff was blown out over the roof and distributed through the neighborhood free of charge. Complaints were made to the health department, and the result is that the bulk of it is lifted by suction and buried downward into a water-tank, where in two or three days it has the consistency of mush and is scooped out and carted away to the dumping ground. Notwithstanding all recent improvements one does not have to go far for a sample.

From the dumping-box the ground stuff is carried up stairs to the mattress factory in baskets, fashioned and hidden away in ticks which are tied in bales and shipped to all parts of the United States. Health Commissioner DeWitt has for some time had in contemplation the framing of an ordinance that should at least require a thorough disinfection of all mats used for secondary purposes. The possibilities of propagating contagious diseases through this medium are considered very great by experienced sanitarians. This particular factory is no worse than any other of the kind, and the proprietors show a willingness to accept all suggestions looking toward improvement.

Feathers for beds and pillows are also bought by the bale. The common grades are dumped into a sort of bin ten or twelve feet square, the wooden walls rising three or four feet from the floor. In this bin, sitting on the floor, were five women literally buried in feathers up to their breasts, nothing but hands and shoulders visible. They formed a line across the bin. On their right and in front of and covering them were feathers fresh from the birds; to their left, and with no apparent line of demarcation, were feathers that had been inspected and passed favorably upon, while each held in her hand a wisp of coarse tail and wing feathers discovered in so handling the (obnoxious and dusty) mass. Each girl, by the way, wore a hairkerchief over her head to protect her hair from the dust and flying fragments.

In Springfield a Negro's tobacco factory
the women and only a few inches above the
floor, but they are not injured by the
material. Neither do they have to bandage
their heads. Two or three of these feath-
ered lopers were young in years but worn
and old, and one was past life's prime.
From her sad eye, fringed with feathers
that gave her a fantastic look, all hope had
fled. She was looking only to the end.
And yet she and her companions were re-
ceiving from \$3 to \$3.50 each a week for
this light and airy labor. Women are very
hard to please!

Into a revolving cylinder called a rem-
ovator, heated by steam, the feathers next
go and are cleansed of impurities, such as
animal matter. In a fan or blower they are
given a cold air blast and the dust removed.
Then comes the separator, through the slats
of which all fine and perfect feathers are

Storms for Illinois.
Local rains, storms in the northern portion cooler, except nearly stationary temperature in southern portion, and winds generally southerly, is the weather predicted for Illinois today.

Why Labor Is Pauperized.

Read The Times Daily.

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TY SLAVE GIRLS.

a Trip with a "Times" Reporter through a Mattress and Pillow Manufactory

You Will Learn What Becomes of the Loathsome Rags Picked Up by the Italian Scavengers.

Will Also Find Gaunt, Emaciated, Silent Women Tolling Away for \$3 a Week.

Go Into the Box Factories and Look at the Scores of Boys Who Work for 3 Cents an Hour.

Which Walk Through the Sash and Door Making Concerns and Pity Chicago's Child Slaves.

and want to see a snow-storm in summer, go to the counterpane in appearance, go to the separating-room of the mattress and pillow manufactory of Fern & Menzie, 333 E. Twentieth street. If you have any pity to know how it feels to be feathered, go to the inside of the same room. You will do the work satisfactorily. The above suggestions are for people of a temperamental or who think they are, the practical masses must enter the "picking" and "dusting" rooms to get an actual idea of what a factory of that kind is.

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blown to the roof while the heavy ones remain in the bottom of the trap and are subsequently run through a mill and ground to the proper consistency for a cheap grade of goods. It is in this separating room that the summer snow-storm is to be seen. The joists are festooned with the feather-fakes, the air is filled with them, and ten seconds suffices to transform a business suit into swan's-down. And in exactly that time one becomes feather-lined inwardly, as he inhales at least three equivalents of down to one of air and instantly begins to feel like a pillow-slip.

"Don't you find this everlasting stuffing exceedingly disagreeable?" the foreman was asked.

"Well, we do at first, but we get used to it after a time and don't mind it then."

Any woman connected with the Woman's Protective association who would in the line of duty spend half an hour in the dusting and a like time in the separating room should be entitled to a life pension.

All work is done by the piece except in the feather-room, where, as previously stated, the girls get from \$3 to \$3.50 a week. In a light and airy apartment on the main floor, shut off from the noise and dust of the factory, a dozen or more women make ticks and slips on machines, their pay ranging from \$1 to \$1.50 a day when work is plenty. The youngest girl employed in the establishment is but 13. Formerly boys were employed, but a fire or two resulting from their carelessness in permitting metal buttons to be run through the picking-machines satisfied the proprietors that it was best to employ older hands.

At Maxwell Brothers' box manufactory, corner of Twenty-first and Loomis streets, out of 320 employees fully 100 are boys.

"We ask them their ages when they make application for work," said Maj. Maxwell, one of the proprietors, "in case we have any doubt of their being 15, but of course most of them know the provisions of the ordinance and claim to be old enough. Should we refuse to take their word in most cases they can obtain certificates from their parents. It is quite likely we may have a number under 15, but of my own knowledge I do not know that we have a single one."

Most of these little fellows feed the nailing machines. Perched up eight feet above the floor they sit for ten hours a day dropping nails into the tubes that convey them to the hammering point. While the work is light it is very exacting, any carelessness resulting in damage and consequently being quickly detected.

The manufactory occupies three-fourths of an entire block and is composed of three separate buildings. One battery of boilers runs two engines on a single shaft, the combined power being 500 horse. It is claimed that a great gain in power can be had by this plan of division, but that has no direct bearing upon the subject of "white slaves." Indirectly, however, this fact may be at least collateral. The shavings from all the machines are carried in pipes to a brick building 40 feet and 45 feet high and having a chimney of its own, which is useless except in case the shavings should catch fire. In that event it would act as a conduit for flame and smoke and the remainder of the plant would be unharmed. It is a protection against loss of property and loss of life. It may be interesting to the trade to say that large packing-boxes 36x22x24 inches cost from 67 to 70 cents each, and housekeepers may like to know that the load of kindling-wood for which they pay \$2.50 is bought at the factory for \$1 by the peddlers who hawk it about the streets.

The boys who feed the nailing-machines have to feed themselves on \$2 a week, the net proceeds of their toil. Groyn men at the machines make from \$2.50 to \$2.75 a day, and machinists get \$3 a week. In the mill the employees are mostly Bohemians, and in the box-factory proper they are a mixture of Irish and Germans.

At Palmer, Fuller & Co.'s big sash, door, and blind factory, corner of Twenty-second and Union streets, some four hundred men and boys work ten hours a day, the latter beginning at \$2 a week and slowly working up to \$5. Formerly the proportion of boys employed was much greater than now. The persistent efforts of the city health department have had a salutary effect in this, as in many other large manufacturing establishments. Skilled workmen receive \$2 and \$3 a day, and in some exceptional cases \$3.50. Perhaps they can afford to work for that, but the average boy under 15 can't afford to work ten hours a day for \$1 an hour, for the labor is too hard and will blight his young life.

The Contract System.

TO THE EDITOR: Seeing the many communications that you have printed I would like to add one upon my observations in St. Louis, New Orleans, Washington, and Philadelphia. The condition of the working classes is no worse or better here or there. Wages will average about the same. The causes of all evil in our labor system are, in my opinion, due to contracts and piece-work. The reader will no doubt have noticed that nine-tenths of the places which Nell Nelson visited are out of work by the piece. Our manufacturers give their work out to contractors, who, naturally, grind down the poor piece-workers as much as possible. If the contractors had to pay by the week or day he would hardly have the cheek to offer any one 5 cents a day, and yet that is all many of the girls appear to make by the piece.

The contract system has produced a set of men who call themselves boss contractors and sub-contractors. These contractors are responsible for much of our labor troubles. What is a contractor? He is a middleman who squeezes at both ends by getting the work done as quickly and poorly as his contract will allow. If the profits

ILLINOIS MEN SECEDE.

New Yorkers Captured the American Convention, but Most of the Other Fellows Withdrew.

Minnesota Democrats Nominate E. M. Wilson for Governor Over Ames, and Adjourn During a Rumpus.

President Cleveland Criticizes the National Committee--Harrison Talks About Pauper Immigrants.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—The first national convention of the American party is not a very large assemblage, but it found this afternoon that one half was not large enough for it and it divided. The Illinois delegation led in the secession and was followed by nearly all the delegates except the New York contingent. The resolution offered by Mr. Sharp of this city, who composes the entire Kansas delegation, that the convention nominate candidates for president and vice president, was opposed in debate, but was carried on the vote, most of the delegates opposed to putting a ticket in the field refraining from voting. Then the convention took up a substitute for Gen. Hawley's resolution, the substitute providing that the New York delegates should cast half a vote each, and the delegates from other states should cast a whole vote each. This was wrangled over at considerable length and voted down—yeas 21, nays 47. The question then occurred on Gen. Hawley's motion that the delegation from each state should cast the whole vote for that state. This would have enabled Mr. Lee Crandall of Washington to cast the votes of a full delegation from Alabama, and so on. One New Yorker, amid tumultuous applause from the other side, voted for this and three or four Californians against it, and it was lost by a vote of 43 yeas to 49 nays. The result showed that New York had entire control of the convention and could fix the platform and name the candidates and do anything else it liked, and all the other delegations together were not strong enough to affect the result.

The delegates from other states did not believe in the good faith of the New York delegation. They had never heard of the American party being so well organized in New York that it could be expected to send a full delegation here.

Judge Church of New York, who appears to be the spokesman of his delegation, read a long prepared speech today, much of which was a tirade against the Catholic church. The delegates are all in favor of the public-school system and against the interference with it by any ecclesiastical organization or the support of parochial schools outside of the public funds, but they are equally opposed to antagonizing any church or introducing religion into politics, and they suspected that the speech of Judge Church was a part of a program designed to injure the American party with the public and deprive it of the support it seeks from naturalized citizens.

The distribution of proxies by a democratic politician in the district excited a belief that the convention was to be manipulated in the interest of the democratic party. The delegates from other states felt generally that they would be compromised by remaining in a convention of which the New York delegation constituted a compact majority. Therefore, when the result of the vote on the resolution of Gen. A. C. Hawley of Illinois was announced, Mr. Robert C. Taylor of Chicago arose and said he wished to speak to a question of privilege. He said: "The Illinois delegation came to Washington to attend a national convention of the American party. It was chosen at a state convention and it brought credentials to a national convention. This appears to be a New York state or city convention. We are not accredited to any such convention. We have no place in a New York state or city convention. Therefore we beg leave to withdraw."

Mr. Taylor and the other delegates from Illinois then marched out of the hall and were followed by delegates from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and some others, including all the editors of papers advocating the principles of the American party who were present.

This evening the New York, California, and other delegations which remained in possession of the convention hall adopted the plan of representation, New York is to have thirty-eight votes, or one for every two delegates present, and the other delegates present one each.

The majority report of the committee on platform and resolutions was adopted. It favors the abolition of the naturalization laws, demands that no emigrants, paupers, or insane persons shall be allowed to immigrate, and that in order to become an immigrant to the United States a man must satisfy the consul at the port from which he wishes to sail that he does not come under the prohibited classes and must pay a per capita tax to the consul before sailing. It declares in favor of prohibiting immigration of all persons not in sympathy with the government of the United States, against alien ownership of land, in favor of free technical schools for American children, and in favor of the expenditure of the surplus for the building of fortifications and naval vessels.

Ex-Gov. Sharp in a brief speech placed in nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania for 1900.

working of the convention. The question of the large Chicago count (some 10,000) did not elicit the south most emphatically in Indiana, this contest the last large many delegates to the meeting especially regarding the and abroad, been said to be a general direction, my judgment throughout harmonious, our nation rely upon which we to get out of additions in the prime of the here more that many port our triumph option in the our first post-days of the

DEMOCRATS.

Mr. Cleveland, New York, somewhat democratic, the direct reduction between the quarters is the activity hence given to tariff reduction. The committee on platform and resolutions was democratic, and the delegates were of a high order of intellect. The arrangement of the delegates was not a success. The delegates from the various states were not in sympathy with the government of the United States, and they were not in sympathy with the government of the United States.

THE CONVENTION.

The convention was a success. The delegates from the various states were not in sympathy with the government of the United States, and they were not in sympathy with the government of the United States. The delegates from the various states were not in sympathy with the government of the United States, and they were not in sympathy with the government of the United States.

THE PLATFORM.

The platform was adopted. It favors the abolition of the naturalization laws, demands that no emigrants, paupers, or insane persons shall be allowed to immigrate, and that in order to become an immigrant to the United States a man must satisfy the consul at the port from which he wishes to sail that he does not come under the prohibited classes and must pay a per capita tax to the consul before sailing. It declares in favor of prohibiting immigration of all persons not in sympathy with the government of the United States, against alien ownership of land, in favor of free technical schools for American children, and in favor of the expenditure of the surplus for the building of fortifications and naval vessels.

