

BETTER TIMES IN CANADA

LARSEN GIVES SOME IDEA OF EMPLOYMENT IN BOSTON.

And Tells Some Touching Stories of What Some of the Unemployed are Suffering—The Relation Between Capital and Labor, and How the Depression Affects It.

BOSTON, Oct. 2.—Business has improved in Massachusetts during the last few weeks. That is to say, thousands of people who have been idle two months or more have gone back to work. How long they will continue to labor is a question that cannot be answered. Nevertheless they are glad to get anything, and although a resumption of work means a reduction in the wages formerly paid, there are no strikes, a little grumbling and that is all.

The wage workers of New England—of the United States might be better—are in a pretty bad condition and the coming winter promises to be one of the hardest in the history of the country.

It is not pleasant to write this, but PROGRESS readers being largely on the other side of the line cannot call it calamity talk, as it would be termed were I writing for a paper here, but it is something dissatisfied provincialists ought to know. During the last few weeks I have met a number of them who are here in Boston, but would much rather exchange their present condition for old times in St. John.

The extent of the depression here cannot be realized by anyone whose business does not take him among the people, around public institutions and come in contact with men who have to do with the wage earners, and know them in all kinds of weather; but once in a while little incidents come to the notice of even the most secluded, which bring them to a realization of the true state of affairs.

A St. John lady related an incident the other day which shows the force of this.

A short time ago she answered the door bell and was confronted by a young man, well dressed with a good honest face, and the department of one who had always had a good home and careful parents. He wanted bread. His appearance was as good as a government bond and he got it. While he sat at the table eating, enquiry led him to talk of himself. He had formerly lived in St. John, and as one fact followed another it came out that the young man who had asked for bread had been some years before a school mate, in St. John, of the son of the lady who gave him his dinner. Two months of idleness had compelled him to beg.

A person who heard this story happened to look out at the window. Across the street was another young man, well dressed and with a look of respectability which would have passed him anywhere. He was looking at the houses on both sides of the street apparently to see if any lady was watching him. Then he drew a parcel from his pocket, and began to eat the contents of it, always looking about him.

Common occurrences? Well, perhaps, but how many people could tell more startling stories in this country to-day?

It only happens once in a great many years that the newspapers of big cities give out loaves of bread, yet that is being done in a number of cities to-day, and in many places the advisability of starting soup kitchens has been considered. Here in Boston very little of this suffering has been published, but it exists to as large an extent here as elsewhere.

In some other places the unemployed are making demands on the municipalities, and schemes are afloat for beginning extensive work on sewers and such public improvements, in order to help matters out.

But like the United States senate, city governments move slowly, and the wants of the people are as nothing compared with the necessity of conforming to rules and forms of procedure, which a political boss can break any day in the week if he chooses to do so to further his personal ends.

And so things go on, the people living in hopes, and their representatives in the government talking themselves hoarse for the sake of seeing their speeches in print, and gratifying their personal vanity. The Republican papers tell of what might have been had their man been elected, and the candidates for the fall elections are viewing the situation with the deepest interest.

The mighty power wielded by the trusts and corporations of the country is given credit for the present condition of affairs in some quarters. Mr. Cleveland is a democrat, but what a democrat is is perhaps not apparent to any except the best read political writers in the provinces.

To a great extent a democrat is like a Canadian liberal except that a liberal may have a little better defined policy than the other. Every other Democrat you meet believes in protection and the Republican party has the advantage of being the father of that policy. But a democrat is a democrat in nine cases out of ten because he is a democrat, and a mugwump is a mugwump in nine cases out of ten because he is an independent Democrat, a class of people so large that in the present time they control the destiny of the country.

Cleveland is a mugwump. Straight Democrats say he is the representative of the importers who will endeavor to make him fix the tariff to suit their purposes. Straight Democrats do not like Cleveland. Mugwumps think he is a little tin god on wheels. The importers furnish the money for the campaign, and it is exact that if any benefits are to be derived from a Democratic administration they will get them.

The manufacturers, on the other hand, furnish the money for the republicans, and at present they are in the soup. They cannot control the government. People who realize the mighty power of these trusts, however, know that they will not lose an opportunity to regain control of the government three years hence. So these people take it, that the shut downs and depressions are not altogether the work for chance; but that to a large extent the trusts instead of manufacturing

their usual lines of goods are manufacturing materials for the next presidential campaign. And the great corporations are heartless enough to do it.

Meanwhile the wage earners of the country will follow their capitalistic leaders as of yore, and exchange a vote for a smile, or a kiss for the baby.

Year after year thinking people—not in politics—begin to realize the manner in which the wage earners of the country are bantered about by capital and politicians, and now and again, a man of prominence, a man popular with the people and one who must be recognized gives voice to pent up sentiments and the country is astonished.

A week or so ago, James A. Herne gave this kind of a surprise party.

St. John theatre goers remember Mr. Herne when he played his remarkable play "Hearts of Oak" in the Institute a number of years ago. This year he has made even greater success with "Shore Acres," a picture of New England life, and up to recently he has been at the museum.

Well, the scene shifters of the Boston theatres have a union, and a short time they struck. There was considerable of a bustle for one night only.

Mr. Herne took the part of the scene shifters, and among other things he said, that as a wage earner any one of their members who joined the state militia would be doing a very unwise act, as he might be called upon at any time to shoot down his brother workmen in case trouble should arise out of a strike. I think he also suggested that it would be the proper thing for the labor unions to organize military companies.

This created a sensation, and the papers who ventured to say anything at all condemned Mr. Herne's ideas with one accord. It is interesting, however, to learn how many people agree with him, and what an amount of evidence they can offer to prove that they have reasons for their belief.

Not a great while ago, there was a strike among the employees of the Brookline gas company, and when the strikers gathered in gangs about the street where pipes were being laid, the police were called and several cracked heads was the result. It is claimed that the strikers were making no trouble, but were on the contrary very peaceably inclined. The captain of the police division was transferred not long after, and there is some speculation as to the cause.

There are a number of strong labor organizations in this State, but in the majority of cases they lack leaders, and even when men of ability do come to the front, the politicians soon get a hold on them, and keep them in line with the two big political parties. Nevertheless these leaders do a vast amount for the wage earners who support them, and in the cities where they hold sway, wages are higher than anywhere else.

In Fall River, for instance, it is not very many years ago, when during a strike the operatives crowded around a mill gate, and the chief of the fire department called out his men. They played water on the crowd till it dispersed.

At the present time the chief of the Fall River fire department would as soon think of jumping over the wharf as sending in an alarm in such an event. The wages of operatives in Fall River are higher than anywhere in the State, and since the present panic one of the labor unions there loaned a sum of money running up into the tens of thousands to one of the big corporations which was somewhat embarrassed. The Fall River workers have representatives in the legislature.

A few more panics like the present one would make things decidedly interesting in the United States, for the working classes take a broad view of the relations between capital and labor, and do not think they should be compelled to bear all the burdens in times like the present. It is all right until cut downs are suggested, and they realize that the employer is going to make up his losses out of them. Then they kick, or try to but find that they haven't got the power after a week of idleness to raise a lot.

When thousands of people were out of work and the officers of labor organizations were being besieged with members wanting relief, I was one of a gang talking about the times. Some one with intense earnestness said "it is a wonder the people do not do something desperate, when they think of how these men are going to reduce their wages to make up their loss."

One of the party a labor leader, and one who is noted for his conservative views in the settlement of difficulties, turned and said: "My dear man you must not think it is religion that keeps us down—it is the public."

This was before Mr. Herne, the actor, opened his mouth. H. G. LARSEN.

Wire Shafts For Steamships.

Experiments have been made with the new plan of wire shafts for steamships, the result showing that when the shaft is in position and rotating stress is applied, a tensile force is exerted upon the individual wires and their several fastenings—each is a unit of strength sustaining its part of the total amount of stress. The strength of the individual wires and of the fastening being known, it is practicable to ascertain the strength of the shaft as a whole. Thus, if made, for instance, in five sections, its total length one hundred feet, and its diameter fifteen inches, the shaft will have twenty-five thousand No 7 steel wires, each twenty-feet long with their fifty thousand fastenings; each wire and each fastening will sustain a load of five hundred pounds without rupture or injury, making a total inherent strength of 37,500,000 pounds, or twenty five times greater in amount than the continuous force of an engine of five thousand horse power. A stress of twenty-five pounds only upon each unit of strength—each point of resistance existing in a wire shaft as named—will more than equal the force of such an engine. The details of this plan, as suggested by Mr. Jerome, a well known engineer, are given at length in the technical journals.

As a Woman Thinketh So is She.

Amelie Rives Chanler is happy in the serene conviction that she is beautiful. She "is devoted to her own beauty and to beautiful women in general." At least she is quoted. Furthermore, like Marie Bashkirtseff, she revels in admiration of her own face and figure, and she says that she thanks God daily for his gift of loveliness. It will be seen that Amelie has no lingering doubts on the matter.

CHICAGO'S UNEMPLOYED.

Men and Women Struggle to be the First to Scan the Newspaper "Want Ads."

There is one sight in Chicago that few of the World's Fair visitors see or know about. It is the daily rush of the unemployed for the first copies of those newspapers which publish the so-called "want ads." A visitor who may stroll down fifth avenue in Chicago of any afternoon about 2 o'clock will see an alley near Washington street choked with men. The alley adjoins the business office of one of the evening newspapers, and leads to the rear of the establishment where the presses are situated and where the newsboys get the papers from the distributing department. Across the street from the newspaper office every stoop, hallway, and other place of retreat from the traffic of the street will be occupied. The men, in the main, are neatly dressed, with polished shoes and clothes brushed, but their faces invariably show a much worried look. Probably two-thirds are of foreign parentage. They are peaceable and well-behaved.

A Sun man who was waiting for a train one day last week strolled by this part of Chicago's newspaper row. When he saw the choked alley his first thought was that there must have been a fight or an accident, and he stepped up to a waiting man and said: "What seems to be the matter over there? What is that crowd doing?" "It's the newspaper office they're waiting to get papers."

"Do you mean to say that they are unemployed men, and are waiting to get newspapers to sell so as to get bread?" The man addressed had evidently been in the country only a year or two, and did not comprehend the question fully, but he said yes.

The Sun man decided to wait and see what would be the result of the crowding. Soon he saw that something had happened. The men in the alley had begun to elbow and shoulder each other. There was a subdued roar among them. Quickly they were shoving and pushing roughly. Each man had his right hand gripped tightly. Now they began reaching over one another's heads and to shout. Soon they were a twisting, struggling, mass, and as they whirled about a boy was seen head and shoulders above the rest. He was tossed from one man to another. As he went over the shoulders and heads each man thrust his right fist into the boy's hands, dropped a penny into them and grabbed a paper. The boy was tossed ten feet toward the street before his papers were gone and he disappeared. A second boy came flying over the heads and got a few feet further. The third went further still, and the fourth got as far as the edge of the crowd. After that the boys were able to reach the street. Without asking questions they ran up to every man standing near, and thrust a paper into his hands. One of the papers was pushed into THE SUN man's hands, and the boy didn't stop for his penny. He came back after it when his papers were all gone.

After getting their papers most of the men ran to a place where they could open them, holding them widespread with both hands. Not one of the readers looked at the news of the day, or even scanned the headlines. Their attention was riveted to two inside pages, where the small advertisements were. Eyes raced down the columns, reading every word where there seemed a chance to secure employment. Four or five out of every hundred folded their papers hurriedly and darted off. The rest walked away with a more forlorn look than when they began to read.

But the most pitiful sight of it all was on the corners, a block from the rush. There nearly a score of women, some of them with children, were seen. They, too, were racing through the advertisements, and in the eyes of several as they turned away there were tears.

It is said, but THE SUN man did not see it, that this rush of the unemployed is not confined to the afternoon newspapers, and that soon after midnight, in the darkness of the early hours of the morning, a similar crowd gathers and waits for the morning papers. The men are eager to be first, when daylight breaks, at the door of the man who has general work to give or advertises for "hands."

Personal Experience of James Kennedy.

Esq., of the Well Known North Wharf Merchant.

"The proof of the pudding's the preening o't."

This old adage contains a great truth and applicable to all ages. In plain English it simply means, that before we can reach a definite conclusion on anything we should subject it to a practical test. About a fortnight ago I contracted a severe cold, which almost prostrated me. The symptoms were head aching with a buzzing sound, nose stuffed up and running, with breathing difficult, heaviness in chest accompanied by a cough that racked the whole frame. In this condition I was prevailed upon to try a bottle of your "Tolu" and a box of your liver pills and use according to directions which I did with the following results:

First day—Felt considerably relieved, with headache partly gone.

Second day—Headache about gone and cough not so severe and only at long intervals.

Third day—Head as clear as a bell and the whole machinery running smoothly, and am glad to say that "Richard is himself again."

I therefore heartily recommend your medicine to others similarly affected, and would ask them to test it and be convinced. Yours very truly,

JAMES KENNEDY, To the Hawker Medicine Co., Limited, St. John.

Her Proficiency is Patent.

Mrs. Frances R. Lybrand of Ohio occupies a position which is no sinecure. For ten years she has been on the examiner's corps in the civil engineering department of the Patent Office at Washington. Railways are her specialty, and she has the annual task of passing upon about 8,000 alleged inventions, of which perhaps a dozen may be practicable.

This is the Season

For New Buckwheat Meal, Green Tomatoes, Green Peppers, Pickling Spices, Crab Apples, Gravenstine Apples, California Apples, Spiced Bacon, New Hams, etc. Enquire of J. S. Armstrong & Bro., 32 Charlotte St., next Y. M. C. A.

FRED. A. DYKEMAN & CO., 97 King Street. Last week we wrote of Chevron Cloth. Only a few days and we will never have the same thing to write about again. Many have been wise; others will be if they take a look at our dress goods, or ask us to send samples, if they wish to buy a dress. Ask your neighbor about us if you are not acquainted already.

A Farmer's Heart's Desire: Desire Wilcox of North Lyme, Conn., is a woman of unusual accomplishments. She is a constant smoker, the penny clay pipe being her favorite medium. For seven years she has worked a farm without help, except in the busiest seasons. She ploughs, harrows, and plants, harvests her crops, pitches hay, chops down trees, and cuts them into firewood and railroad ties; she yokes and drives cattle, shears sheep, and drives a string of from three to five yokes of oxen with a skill which is positively artistic. Desire who is now 50, was married when she was 19, but her husband drank too much hard cider to celebrate the ceremony so his new bride took him out and chastised him severely, then flung him into a corner with the injunction to remain till he was sober. He concluded, however, that discretion was the better part of valor, so stole away during the night and has never been seen since.

He Meant to Say Utterance. S. S. Teacher.—"I am very glad to hear that you always ask a blessing before eating, but do you ever say grace after meals, Tommy?" Tommy.—"No, ma'am, I'm generally too full for reverence."

It Must Seem Like Old Times. Dumley.—"I'm not keeping house now. My wife's mother boards me." Bradley.—"I can remember the time when your own mother used to shingle you."

ONE WEEK FREE will give you a chance to see why many want to learn Simple Shorthand, and why the leading literary and business schools are adopting our methods. Simple Shorthand can be learned in three months. Lessons by mail.

Snell's Business College, - - Truro, N. S.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

IN ORDER that our Combined Linen Marker and Card Printer may be used as generally in the Home as our Business Stamps are in the Office or Stores, we intend having a Holiday Competition to introduce samples of our work in a number of Homes in every Town in the three Provinces.

Our plan is: For a certain number of orders we present a Watch, not a cheap, trashy affair, but a reliable Time Keeper. To the boy or girl who in most orders between Nov. 1st and Dec. 20, we will present a Solid Gold Watch. In small towns we allow only one competitor, first come first served. Parents should allow their children an opportunity to compete. For full information send a Postal Card at once. Address: ROBERTSON'S PRINTING STAMP WORKS, established 1878, 94 Germain street, St. John, N. B.

THOROUGHbred POULTRY, Houdans, Partridge Cochins, Blue Andalusians, best. Prices for good breeding birds \$1.00 and upwards. CHARLES G. J. ROBERTSON, King's College, Windsor, N. S.

WANTED. A NUMBER of Students to take a good position in Railway or Commercial offices when competent. For terms apply to Principal. CURRIE'S BUSINESS SCHOOL, 85 Germain St., St. John, N. B.

WANTED. A live man in every town and village in the Maritime Provinces to take orders for FUR-GUM EXTRACT—the greatest pair of \$3.00 trousers made in Canada. Liberal terms. Address at once to The Pilgrim Pants Co., P. O. Box 250, St. John, N. B.

WANTED—Three experienced sales' Ladies. Apply to B. MEYERS, 708 Main St., North End. 19-5-11.

REMINGTON BICYCLES have every improvement up to date. Learn about them before ordering your new wheel by sending postal or a catalogue to HAROLD GILBERT, 54 King Street, St. John. 17-6-11.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS. Printing, Developing, Toning and fixing solutions for sale. LIGGIN PHOTO STUDIO, 38 Charlotte St., St. John, N. B. 11-9-11.

A COTTAGE in centre of Rothesay, seven minutes' walk from station; newly furnished and painted; suitable for large or small families. Rent moderate. Apply D. RUSSELL, Hawker Medicine Co., 104 Prince Wm. street. 13-5-11.

VISITORS to the World's Fair at Chicago requiring rooms only, will find ample accommodation and within a block of the Fairgrounds, address Rooms 757 5th court, Englewood, Chicago, Ill. For references apply at PROGRESS Office. 20-5-11.

FRAZEE'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, 119 Hollis St., Halifax is in session day and evening. Best place to learn Bookkeeping, Business, etc., also Stenography and Typewriting. Send for our circular. J. C. P. FRAZEE, Principal. 11-9-11.

BOARDING. A FEW PERMANENT or Transient Boarders can be accommodated with large and pleasant rooms, in that very centrally located house, 75 Sidney street. Mrs. McLENNAN. May 2

RESIDENCE at Rothesay for sale or to rent for the Summer months. That pleasantly situated house known as the Titus property about one and a half miles from Rothesay Station and within two minutes walk of the Kennebec Falls. Rent reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fenety Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley Building. 24-6-11

SCHULTZE SMOKELESS POWDER. Has greater penetration, With closer and more even pattern. Less recoil, less report. Less smoke, less fouling than any other explosive. SILVER MEDAL, INTERNATIONAL INVENTORS EXHIBITION. Highest award to any GUNPOWDER. Must be used only with special shell. Made by Union Metal Cartridge Co.

W. H. THORNE & CO., MARKET SQUARE, ST. JOHN. "OUR NEW HEATER." The Burlington Revertable Flue Hall Stove, is the latest in this line. There are Three Sizes. Quick in Heating, AND Economical in Fuel. If you need a new STOVE this season call and get our prices. EMERSON & FISHER. P. S. Our full line of Heaters now on the floor.

FIRE! FIRE! \$5,000 WORTH OF DRY GOODS DAMAGED BY FIRE AND WATER. Great Bargains. 50 and 75 per cent Discount on Goods to Clear. MUST BE SOLD TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW STOCK. Sale Commences WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13th, AND CONTINUES UNTIL ALL DAMAGED GOODS ARE SOLD. CALL EARLY AND GET YOUR BARGAINS. B. MYERS, 708 Main St.

GUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS. Shells, Shot, Wads, Powder, Loading Tools, Gun Covers, Ammunition for all kinds of Arms. T. McAVITY & SONS, 13 & 15 King Street, St. John, N. B.

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