

IN THE UNITED STATES.

INSPECTOR BONFIELD, Captain Schaack, and detective Jenkob Loewenstein, of the Chicago police, the three officials who did all the dirty work of the Chicago Citizens' Association to get our martyrs convicted, were on the 6th of February suspended by mayor Roche, pending the investigation to be made into their character. Suspension in this case is but a milder word for dismissal. The trio have brought libel suits against the Chicago Times for damages aggregating a million and a half dollars.

In Chicago a movement has been set on foot to secure the "pardon" of our imprisoned comrade Oscar W. Neebe. A petition to the new Governor of Illinois, Fifer, is now being circulated by his friends.

The Standard Oil Trust has gobbled up the Amazon Oil Company, and is now sole owner of the Ohio oil field.

The latest in the formation of trusts is—a trust of justices. On the 7th inst. the Justices of the Peace of Hudson County, New Jersey, met and formed a trust. They at once resolved to raise their fees.

Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of the National Department of Labour, has submitted to the Secretary of the Interior his fourth annual report, which deals exclusively with "working women in great cities." In his preface the commissioner says:

"A quarter of a century ago women were allowed to enter but few occupations. Now there are hundreds of vocations in which they can find employment. The present report names 342 of them. Whenever any industrial operations are simplified to such an extent that the weaker person can perform what was done of old by the stronger one the cheaper labour comes in and wages must of necessity be lowered"

whether to the one formerly performing the labour or to the new comer.

"So, as the adult man in light occupations has given place to the woman or to the young person, wages in specific employments have decreased as compared with the former wages of the man."

Bradstreet's Weekly has published a statement of the failures of the last years in the United States. According to this paper, 10,587 failures were announced in 1883, against 9,740 in 1887, 10,568 in 1886, 11,116 in 1885, 11,620 in 1884, 10,299 in 1883, 7,635 in 1882, and 5,929 in 1881.

The same publication gives some interesting figures which it has collected in reference to capital and labour disputes. During 1888 there were reported

"679 strikes and lock-outs, an average of more than two each working day, involving 211,841 industrial employes, as against 884 strikes and lock-outs, an average of nearly three each working day, involving 345,854 employes, in 1887, and 350 strikes and lock-outs, involving 448,000 employes, in 1886. The decline in the number of men involved in strikes in 1888 from the totals of 1886 was 236,359, or over 52 per cent., while the decline last year from the figures of 1887 was 134,013, or 38 per cent. Comparing the number of strikes reported in 1888 with those of 1886, 679 against 350, there is apparently an increase of 94 per cent. in two years. There were 29 lock-outs in 1888, affecting 74,837 employes, against 20 lock-outs, involving 46,000 employes, in 1887, and 10 lock-outs, involving 80,000 employes, in 1886. Of those in 1888, 11, including 61,325 employes, failed, and 18, involving 13,512 employes, succeeded. Thus the employers won 62 per cent. of the lock-outs, but succeeded in carrying their point with only 18 per cent. of the men locked out. Nearly 38 per cent. of the strikes in 1888 were successful, while 50 per cent. of the workers involved gained their demands. In 1888 7,562,480 days' labour were lost in successful and unsuccessful strikes. The days lost in successful strikes in 1888 numbered 1,972,902, while those in unsuccessful strikes 5,589,578. The grand total loss of wages in successful strikes in 1888 is estimated at 2,959,353, and in unsuccessful strikes is said to aggregate 3,334,367 dollars."

The big car strikes in New York city and Brooklyn are ended. On February 5th a meeting of the local assemblies belonging to national district assembly No. 226 Knights of Labour was called to decide as to whether the strike should be continued or not. The vote was in favour of ending the strike. The Executive Committee of the district therefore declared the strike "off." Much the same course was gone through in Brooklyn, in national district assembly No. 75 Knights of Labour. Just the very day the strike was declared off a collision happened in New York between the strikers and the police, which resulted in the loss of a life—a striker's. The brutal way in which the police tried to force a way for a car through a crowd in Sixty-first third so infuriated the people that they threw stones and other missiles at the car. Without any other provocation, the policeman Snyder, standing on the front platform of the car, and the "scab" conductor, drew their revolvers and fired at the crowd. Striker James McGown fell and was killed almost instantaneously. A dispute arose as to who had killed the unfortunate man, but at last the authorities agreed, the why I know not, to fix the charge on Snyder. He and the conductor and the driver were brought before a coroner's jury consisting mainly of small shopkeepers and suchlike bourgeois rabble. The jury, of course, dutifully brought in a verdict that McGown was shot by Snyder while in the discharge of his duty, and that Snyder, the conductor and the driver of the car deserve every commendation and credit for the heroic (!) manner in which they acted in defence of the property intrusted to their care. The jury also found that McGown was a rioter at the time he was shot. Snyder was discharged by the court. Who after this will yet maintain that cowboyism does not reign supreme in "the land of the free and the home of the brave"?

As soon as the strike was declared off the men applied for re-employment; but in New York as well as in Brooklyn all those who were taken back had to sign an iron-bound "agreement" swearing off allegiance to all labour organisations, and re-entering the employ of the different companies as individuals only. They had to promise they would resign from every labour organisation they belonged to. Yet in spite of all these humbling and degrading conditions, which the unfortunate men, in order to escape starvation, were compelled to accept, but 3,000 found re-employment; 3,500 more had to join the great and ever-increasing army of the homeless, friendless, penniless.

It is calculated that the strike has cost New York city about half a million dollars. The calculation is made up this way: The strikers lost in wages 6,500 men at 1 dol. 50 c. a-day, 8 days, 78,000 dols.; loss of the companies, 203,100. From stoppage of traffic, fear of the public: theatres lost in patronage, 60,000; shopkeepers lost, 150,000; minor houses (brothels?), restaurants, etc., 10,000; total, 501,100 dollars.

It is interesting to note how the capitalistic press calculates the loss of the companies. Let us, for instance, take the account of the Fourth Avenue road, the property belonging to the Vanderbilts, as given by the Herald:

"The Fourth Avenue road has seventeen miles of track. Its usual receipts from fares is over 2,600 dols. a day. The loss of this for eight days means a deficit of 20,800 dols. This company fought the strike from the first, hiring new

men, giving them three good meals a day and buying coats and blankets by the hundred. These expenses, with good dinners for 150 policemen at the Park Avenue Hotel every day, and breakages of property, must have made the outlay of the company about 900 dols. a day. Multiply this by eight and you have 7,200 dols., which, added to the 20,800 dols. loss of income, makes the big total of 28,000 dols."

In the same manner the accounts of the other companies are made up. It must have been quite an item for capital to feed about 3,000 policemen, to quench their thirst and to satisfy their desire for aromatic conchas. But New York capitalists know well how to treat their "blue boys." In Brooklyn the police have been made disgusted over the niggardly treatment of the railroad people, who tried to feed them on weak coffee and stale bread and treacle.

The loss of Brooklyn is calculated to be: railroad company, 7,100 dollars; strikers, 14,000; business men, 30,000; benefits, subscriptions, 4,500; total, 56,600 dollars.

The Philadelphia Ledger says: "It is stated that out of 30,000 mine labourers in the Luzerne district of Pennsylvania, only 9,000 obtained steady work during January. The falling off in wages, as compared with the same month last year, is 97,235 dollars. The outlook for February is still worse. Business of all kinds is greatly depressed."

There were 71 strikes, involving 18,926 men, reported to Bradstreet's in January this year, against 68 strikes, involving 40,436 men, in January 1888, and 92 strikes, involving 76,971 men, in January 1887.

Newark, N.J., February 12, 1889.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

MINE AND THINE.

The following lines are literally translated from a poem written in Flanders in the 14th century, and show how the men of that day longed for the simplest Communism, probably with nearly as much reason amidst the high-handed open violence of "kings and scoundrels," as we have for our longing amidst the fraudulent veiled violence of capitalists and scoundrels:—

Two words about the world we see
And nought but *Mine* and *Thine* they be.
Ah! might we drive them forth and wide
With us should rest and peace abide;
All free, nought owned of goods and gear
By men and women though it were.
Common to all all wheat and wine
Over the seas and up the Rhine.
No manslayer then the wide world o'er
When *Mine* and *Thine* are known no more.

Yea, God, well counselled for our health,
Gave all this fleeting earthly wealth
A common heritage to all,
That men might feed them therewithal
And clothe their limbs and shoe their feet
And live a simple life and sweet.
But now so rageth greediness
That each desireth nothing less
Than all the world, and all his own;
And all for him and him alone.

Translated by WILLIAM MORRIS.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 9, 1889.

3	Sun.	1756. W. Godwin born. 1794. Trial of Joseph Gerrald for sedition. 1848. Louis Philippe, as "Mr. Smith," lands in England. 1861. Serfdom abolished in Russia. 1879. W. K. Clifford died.
4	Mon.	1799. Trial of John Vint and two others for libelling the Czar. 1866. Fenian mass-meeting in New York. 1877. George Odger died. 1880. Karl Sladkowsky died. 1880. S. O. Molodietzky attempts the life of General Loris Melikoff, Governor-General of St. Petersburg.
5	Tues.	1817. Trial of Alexander McLaren and Thomas Baird for sedition. 1867. Fenian risings in Ireland. 1877. Trial of 50 Russian Socialists for working in factories under false names and carrying on secret propaganda: sentences—mines, 6; Siberia, 11; banishment, 19; prison, 6. 1880. Molodietzky hanged. 1882. Edwin James died.
6	Wed.	1812. Trial of D. I. Eaton for blasphemous libel. 1815. Riots in London on account of a bill prohibiting importation of corn, lasted three days. 1848. Riots in Trafalgar Square and West-end. 1867. Proclamation of the Irish Republic sent to the Times and other papers. 1868. First prosecution of the International at Paris; five prisoners. 1880. S. O. Molodietzky hanged. 1881. Land Nationalisation Society formed.
7	Thur.	1896. The Press, organ of the United Irishmen, seized by Government, and office wrecked. 1867. Fenian rising near Dublin: Fenians hold market-place at Drogheda against police and soldiers, but at length beaten off. 1878. Osinsky makes attempt on Procurer Kotlierevsky at Kieff.
8	Fri.	1831. Riots in South of England to prevent shipment of corn.
9	Sat.	1762. William Cobbett born. 1867. P. L. Lavroff banished by administrative order to Kadnikoff; whence he escaped same day three years later.

LEICESTER.—A course of lectures on "Socialism, its Aims and Principles" is being delivered in Leicester Secular Hall. The seventh and concluding lecture will be delivered on Sunday March 3rd by Hubert Bland—"The Outlook."