

many cases the shrinkage in its productive power has been fully 50 per cent. and in some it is going on at a very rapid rate. This is certainly alarming. But what is true of this State is true of many others. President Adams, of Cornell, says: In New York the crop of wheat went down in twenty years from 13 bushels per acre to 10.3 bushels per acre; of corn from 29.3 to 23. Going to the South we find that in N. Carolina during the last ten years—for there were no figures during the war—the crop of wheat has declined from 8 bushels to 5.9 per acre; corn from 16.4 to 11.5; oats from 12.9 to 8.7. In Georgia wheat fell from 7.3 to 5.1; corn from 11.1 to 8.7; oats from 10.2 to 9. In Mississippi wheat from 9.2 to 5; corn from 13.8 to 13.5; oats from 14.5 to 11.5. In Texas wheat fell from 12.5 to 8.5; corn from 19 to 13.5; oats from 27.2 to 22.8. Coming back to north and north-west, in Kentucky from 1864 to 1884 the product of wheat declined from 10.2 to 7.7 bushels per acre; corn from 28.5 to 24; oats from 24.2 to 16.3. In Indiana wheat from 14.3 to 10.4. In Illinois wheat went down from 14.3 to 10; corn from 33 to 25.”

And so on, and so on—a great and unmistakable reduction per acre; and it is the merest trifling with an important topic to try and dodge the proper conclusion by urging that the deficit can be made up by extra acres.

Then the paper takes a turn which should delight the supporters of the Arts and Crafts Society. The boys who, half-battered, enter factories and shops to get a living by “picking up” a trade “become restless, tired, and discouraged, and leave the business to possibly try another, and thus become the good-for-nothing jack-of-all-trades, or to join the ranks of the non-productives and possibly the ranks of the destructives.” “The picking-up process has a moral aspect which has wastage in it. Every handicraft carried to a high degree of excellence may become a fine art, and with no loss of time. There is no dignity in labour, but dignity may be put into labour.” This is a point on which some of our leaders have been most urgent, and it surely may be taken as good that Socialist teaching and doctrine is backed up by such a different school.

If President Smart can be relied upon, the state of affairs which is coming among craftsmen is as alarming in the direction of manufactures as are the other figures given in the matter of food. Returns were gathered from a number of persons able to give reliable information, and particulars procured as to carpenters and joiners, pattern-makers, moulders, blacksmiths, and machinists, and it was reported:

“That out of every ten who enter a carpenter’s shop with the intention of learning the trade, 4 abandon the business; of ten pattern-makers, 2; of ten blacksmiths, 6; of ten moulders, 5; of ten machinists, 6. Of those who pursue the business and become professed journeymen, but 3 become first-class workmen; of ten pattern-makers but 2; of ten blacksmiths but 2½; of ten machinists, 3½. And in form of a table the result is as follows, which shows the number of boys out of every hundred who enter each trade mentioned who become first-class workmen: Carpenters, 18; pattern-makers, 16; blacksmiths, 10; moulders, 17; machinists, 14. Being an average of fifteen to each hundred.”

We see by facts such as these the pretty pass to which our hundred-year-old competitive-factory-manufacture agriculture-don’t-pay system of society has brought us to the verge of; for the experience of America is also the experience of England.

The constantly increasing employment of automatic machinery, doing skilled work by the aid of unskilled labour, has also to be taken into consideration; but as the last paper printed in the report is an exceedingly interesting one on “Some Moral and Economic Consequences of Using Labour-Saving Machinery,” which is worth detailed treatment not now possible, it only remains to conclude with the charming view of future possibilities which is suggested by a passage from a paper by T. V. Powderly of Scranton, who urged the “Settlement of the Apprenticeship Question by Inaugurating Industrial Schools”:

“At the rate at which science is advancing, there will soon be no shoveling of earth, no levelling of hills by hand, no digging of trenches, no cutting of earth, or wood, or iron by hand; all of these things, and all else that enters into the industry of the world, will be done by the aid of science. There will be no trades or tradesmen of any special callings or crafts. In the world’s production nothing should be missing, nor should one man have an advantage over another which nature does not give him.”

As a final note of defiance I fling that one passage in the teeth of the abstraction to whom I referred at the opening of this notice, and claim that that one sentence is warrant and proof that good Socialistic doctrine can be found in most unpromising quarters when one knows how to dig for it.

THOMAS SHORE, JUL.

[NOTE.—If any readers of above can forward any other years’ reports of the Convention, or a copy of the 20th vol. U.S. Census, or of any special labour bureau report, the Editor will probably be able to make use of them to good effect.]

**PROFIT AND LOSS OF THE LONDON STRIKE.**—Up till now no clever figurer has demonstrated to the London dock labourers that really, after all, the result of the late strike was of no real advantage to them, for “don’t you see that it will be years before the slight advance in wages will aggregate as much as the time and money lost by the strike?” The clever figurer will appear in due time, however. In the meantime it may be worth noting that the Rotterdam dockers’ strike was won in a week. Perhaps the clever figurer will take this into his calculation when cyphering up the profit and loss of the London strike? Figures can’t lie, if you have all the figures and if you have seen carefully to their arrangement; but if you allow fools to mix figures with their foolish imaginings, none but fools will trust the story they will tell. That’s what makes so much of the statistical information on which the world’s economic legislation is based so valueless, and the legislation so mischievous. One of the good results of the late London strike which can never be put down in figures, is the discovery which the dockers have made that they have a capacity for organisation, self-control, and consequently self-help, which has been hitherto unsuspected. A movement which evidences considerable vitality for the organisation of London working-women is another outcome of the strike which cannot be reckoned in figures.—*Journal of United Labour.*

**A DEATH SONG.**

(Written to be sung at the funeral of Linnell, first victim of Bloody Sunday; reprinted by request.)

WHAT cometh here from west to east a-wending?  
And who are these, the marchers stern and slow?  
We bear the message that the rich are sending  
Aback to those who bade them wake and know.  
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,  
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

We asked them for a life of toilsome earning,  
They bade us bide their leisure for our bread,  
We craved to speak to tell our woeful learning,  
We come back speechless, bearing back our dead.  
Not one, etc.

They will not learn; they have no ears to hearken,  
They turn their faces from the eyes of fate;  
Their gay-lit halls shut out the skies that darken,  
But, lo! this dead man knocking at the gate.  
Not one, etc.

Here lies the sign that we shall break our prison;  
Amidst the storm he won a prisoner’s rest;  
But in the cloudy dawn the sun arisen  
Brings us our day of work to win the best.  
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,  
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

**REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.**

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1889.

24	Sun.	1848. Flight of the Pope to Gaeta. 1867. Fenian funeral demonstration in London. 1872. Escape of Col. Sokoloff from banishment as author of a dangerous work, ‘Otshepentzi,’ the truth of which he had the courage to defend in court. 1887. Deer raids by crofters in the Lewis.
25	Mon.	1632. Baruch Spinoza born. 1830. Peasant revolt in Wiltshire. 1881. Sankovsky attempted the life of Cherevin, Assistant Minister of the Interior, who afterwards became Chief of Gendarmes. 1886. Great demonstration of the unemployed in Hyde Park.
26	Tues.	1811. John Gale Jones convicted of “seditious and blasphemous libel.”
27	Wed.	1382. Philip van Artevelde slain. 1793. Rev. Winterbotham fined £200 and imprisoned for four years for two seditious sermons (see July 25 and 26); and Daniel Holt for “seditious libel” in pamphlets intitled ‘An address to the Addressers’ and ‘An Address to the Tradesmen, etc., of the Town of Newark on a Parliamentary Reform.’ 1799. Trial of John Devereux, at Cork, for taking part in the ‘98 rebellion. 1879. Trial of Mirsky, for attempt on Drenteln, Governor General of St. Petersburg, and others for different offences. Sentences: hard labour, 2; acquitted by the court but banished by administrative order, 6. 1837. Monument to Manchester martyrs unveiled at Limerick; sharp encounters between police and people.
28	Thur.	1838. Conference at Birmingham between “physical” and “moral” force Chartists. 1839. Explosion of an “infernal machine” in the Rue de Montpensier, Paris. 1871. Murder of Rossel, Ferré, and Bougeois. 1883. Execution of Sudeikin and Sadovsky at St. Petersburg.
29	Fri.	1803. Proclamation issued at San Domingo by the three military chiefs, Dessalines, Christophe, and Clervieux, declaring the independence of the island and renouncing for ever the dominion of the French. 1811. Wendell Phillips born. 1872. Horace Greeley died. 1874. James Watson died. 1887. Trial of John Most at New York for “inciting to violence” by protesting against the Chicago murder.
30	Sat.	1789. Dr. Guillotin proposes his invention (afterwards called <i>La Guillotine</i> ) in his report on the Penal Code to the States General. 1847. Communist (and first really international) Conference held; Marx and Engels instructed to draw up Communist Manifesto. 1871. Murder of Gaston Cremieux. 1878. G. H. Lewes died. 1879. J. A. Roebuck died. 1879. Great demonstration in Hyde Park against the arrest of Killan, Daly, and Davitt. 1879. Unsuccessful attempt to blow up imperial train on the Crimea railway.

**LITERARY NOTES.**

*Great Thoughts* (1d., 132, Fleet Street) is of the *Tit-Bits* order, but of a higher species than that most successful flat-catcher. In the current number is a portrait and criticism of comrade Morris; the portrait none too like and the criticism none too adequate. However, they are both passable of their kind, and are “better than nothing” as the saying goes.

The *Bridgeton Single-Tax Review* (3d. weekly) seems to be an enterprising attempt on the part of some Glasgow members of the Scottish Land Restoration League. It has 16 pp., mostly filled with advertisements, and so much reading matter as it gives is passably written and to the point.

The *Political World* (3d. Bouverie Street, 1d. weekly) came out last week in all the glory of its Walter Crane cover, and had a strong leader on the Indian scandal, spoken of in our front-page “Notes.” The week before it had a striking cartoon on the law-n-order juggle as worked by the Tories—with changed names it would have done for the Whigs.

The *Illustrated Weekly News* (1d., 297, Strand), of which we have just received the ninth number, is apparently an attempt at reconciling labour politics with ordinary newspaper methods. With the exception of Mr. Morrison Davidson, the labour expositors have not yet been of the most hopeful kind, but all the same we shall watch with much interest for the result of the experiment.