

unable to reduce the rate of wages. Many a farmer complains that labor costs too much and that the prices he receives for his produce do not warrant him in paying the rates demanded. Yet he requires and employs the labor. The report notes this fact as an indication of general employment and a fair degree of prosperity. It might have added that the amount of labor per acre has been much reduced by the employment of machinery on the farm.

The report notes that in most of the States there are complaints of the scarcity of farm labor even at the higher wages now offered. Many workers prefer the more highly paid and more congenial occupations of the cities. It states that the returns give a true explanation of the apparent anomaly of low prices and high wages. There is a difference in employers. Some are progressive, increase the fertility of their lands, use the best methods and implements, employ labor, pay good wages, and make money. Others are less enterprising and progressive, making small net profit or none at all. As margins grow narrow skill is at a premium, wastes are ruinous, the skillful succeed, and the careless go to the wall. "The returns are full of indications that the present is a crucial test of the individual farmer. They teach the necessity of progress in agriculture, and especially a facility for prompt adaptation of current effort to changing condition." The present rate can only be maintained by keeping up the fertility of the soil, utilizing the best results of invention and skill in implements and machinery, advancing the status of practical agriculture, supplying all domestic demands for all required products, and seeking foreign markets for the surplus. The reported scarcity of farm labor over a large portion of the country, owing to the increasing demand for workers in the diversified industries of the cities, must be regarded as showing that the industrial situation generally is far from being the gloomy one that some labor orators represent it to be, and the recent steady rise in the rate of wages, in the face of lower prices for most of the things the worker has to buy, is additional proof of increasing industrial prosperity.

"The antagonism of the administration to silver has brought on a crisis in the affairs of Colorado," said Mr. E. S. Brown of that State at Thursday's session of free silver men in Washington, and he was followed by Senator Colquitt, who professed to be in hearty accord with every effort for the remonetization of silver. These people cannot mean what they say. They know that silver is already being used as money in the United States, or as the basis of a note circulation, to nearly the extent of its home production, and that it is so used because the government buys each month 4,500,000 ounces of the metal at its full value. What these men want is the free coinage of silver, not at its real value, which would permit gold to circulate alongside with it, but on the basis of 16 to 1, which cannot be conceded without lowering by one-third the value of the monetary unit of the country and driving all the gold out of use. And for what? To prevent a crisis in the affairs of Colorado, or rather in the affairs of a few men there who want to grow rich by impoverishing all the rest of the people. They have held inflated views of the matter, prepared for a debasement of the dollar, laid all their plans in accordance with that expectation, and now ask to be saved from the consequences of their own folly. The administration has not antagonized silver. On the contrary, it has carried out to the letter the provisions of the law of 1890 in the purchase of 4,500,000 ounces of the metal each month, and done its best towards helping the holder of a silver dollar to obtain for it a gold dollar's worth of property when he undertook to spend it. Senator Stewart, the holder of twenty-four mortgages, each of which is contracted to be redeemed in gold, had the audacity at the same meeting to say they would compel the President to signify to the people of this country whether or not he is in sympathy with "the gold trust." Stewart has defined his own position in the matter as being decidedly in favor of "a gold trust" for himself and a debased dollar for the people. What do they think of his wretched want of consistency?

The Louisiana Planter takes the position that though the jetty system at the mouth of the Mississippi is an unquestionable success and a great commercial benefit yet it has increased the danger and extent of floods in the Mississippi Valley. It says the question how to safely dispose of the surplus waters of the mighty river has become as important in the interest of agriculture and the protection of life and property as in affording a channel adequate to the requirements of commercial navigation. It intimates a conviction that the outlets of the river have been so far reduced in the effort to deepen the channel that greater floods are threatened than ever before without anything in the natural conditions to account for this increased danger, which opens up "an issue between the agricultural and commercial interests of the State." This is a grave problem, if correctly stated, and may well engage the attention of the most acute minds in the effort to solve it. But the investigation ought not to be conducted without a full recognition of the changes introduced by railroad construction within the last quarter of a century. Reasonings on the subject of interior navigation are not necessarily applicable to conditions of the present because they seemed to fit accurately those of the past, and the jetty question cannot be properly argued without taking into the account the levees which line the banks for many miles. Is it worth while to go to an enormous expense in the enlargement of those already dangerously artificial levees in order to protect adjacent bottom lands while keeping the river open to competition with railroads as a commercial route from the interior to the gulf seaboard? The question becomes a very important one when it is remembered that the action of the levees is akin to what that of the jetties is alleged to be. It is a remedy every application of which increases the danger from the evil it is meant to stave off without hope of curing it.

An English member of Parliament asked the Home Secretary this week whether, when the United States sent immigrants from any part of Europe back on the ground that they were paupers or lunatics, the steamship companies turned them loose on the Liverpool docks, "leaving English ratepayers to maintain pauper aliens."

This question would be an eminently proper one were it not for the fact that for more than a century English poor-unions and work-houses have been unostentatiously shipping vapors, lunatics, and criminals to the United States. Only the other day one disreputable young Englishman who had become a local nuisance was sent across the ocean by the Mayor of his town. For one case which is discovered a hundred are never found out. There are today in the Cook County Insane Asylum men and women who should be cared for in English institutions, but who were smuggled over here. They ought to be returned, but the patient and good-natured people on this side of the ocean have consented to pay taxes for their support.

It is quite likely that paupers and lunatics sent here from the continent and refused ad-

mittance are sometimes dumped by the steamship companies on the Liverpool docks, but for every one of them England has surreptitiously shoved ten of her own dependents off on the United States. That practice ought to be stopped before complaint is made of the misdeeds of others. A bill is now before Congress for the stricter enforcement of the immigration laws and to provide for a better system of ascertaining the standing of immigrants. That bill, or some one like it, ought to pass and be enforced. Otherwise there never will be an end to the building of poor-houses and insane asylums to accommodate the refuse material sent here from England and the continent.

It appears that during the present fiscal year the bounty of 2 cents a pound has been paid to the producers of 12,000,000 pounds of beet sugar and 11,100,000 pounds of sorghum sugar. The making of sugar from sorghum has been carried on for many years and has been encouraged in Kansas by a State bounty. It is not reported that any of the manufacturers have failed to take advantage of the act of Congress. It is a little surprising, therefore, that the yield of beet sugar should prove to be the larger of the two. It shows that that industry has taken a sudden jump. If the returns for the next two years show a decided increase in the yield there will be reason to expect that the bounty will do good work and may result in the United States producing its own sugar. If the quantity manufactured does not grow larger, however, the bounty should be withdrawn. Of the sum of seven and a quarter millions paid out to all the sugar-producers the cane sugar men got \$6,900,000 for a yield of 346,000,000 pounds. The money paid them was thrown away, for a century's experience has settled it that the country cannot raise the cane sugar it needs. During the last fiscal year the United States imported over three thousand million pounds of cane and beet sugar. Louisiana cannot supply the sugar needed by the people of the State of New York, no matter how great the bounty paid may be. Yet the Democrats do not pass a bill to do away with the gratuity of 2 cents a pound because the Louisianians are staunch supporters of that party.

There are 9,000 places in New York City where liquors are sold. And the sum raised in New York for foreign missions will be larger this year, it is said, than ever before.

The King of Denmark is not a mighty monarch himself, but by the divine right of Kings and Emperors present and prospective he is the father-in-law of half of Europe, a large slice of Asia, and of an empire on which the sun never sets. Don't turn up your nose at King Christian of Denmark.

Senator Peffer's bill to make everybody rich has been introduced at last and the Senator, we dare say, feels like a bantam hen that has laid a goose-egg.

There was a sharp frost in Florida one day this week, and orange-growers are alarmed. Check. Now let us have the regular spring report from Delaware.

The Prophet of Koresh still holds the fort. The Normal-Parkers appear to have a tedious job on hand.

From the esteemed New York Sun we gather the interesting item of news that Colorado is enthusiastically for Hill. This news is protected by the Sun's copyright and is exclusive.

It would have been in accord with the fitness of things if the Chicago pioneers had held their reunion last Thursday evening in the Government Building. It is the most conspicuous of all the old "settlers."

At its best the Hill candidacy was never anything but bombast. It is now a boom burst.

The Norwegians have about the right idea. Chicago is at the head of navigation.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat has undertaken the job of reflecting Vice-President Morton. In this task it will have the bitter opposition of the Louisville Courier-Journal, and there is blood on the moon.

FARM WAGES.

The statistician of the Agricultural Department has issued a report on farm wages in the United States for half a century. It is an interesting document and has the rare advantage of being brought down nearly to date, but it appears to be lacking in one important respect. Its tabulations of wages from 1860 to 1892 are represented graphically on page 14. They show a general decline from 1866 to 1879, then a steady rise from 1879 to 1882, and from that time on a slight rise except in the Pacific and Mountain States. For all the rest the figures representing the average wages in the first five-year period are stated in a currency \$141 of which was required in 1866 to buy what could have been purchased with \$100 in gold, and from that date till the close of 1878 the gold premium was gradually reduced till it became zero. Reckoned on the gold basis the wages of 1866 were but 19 per cent higher than those given for 1879, instead of being some 67 per cent higher, as indicated in the diagram.

This fact should be borne in mind in reading the following synopsis of facts as given by the statistician: The rate of farm wages, with board, fifty years ago may be fairly represented as averaging \$3.50 per month. In 1860 the general average was about \$11, a range of \$10 to \$15 being common in the East, while in exclusively agricultural districts it was \$9 to \$10. A rapid rise followed when 3,000,000 soldiers of two armies were withdrawn from constructive and commercial industries of the fields of war. In 1866 the average (with board) had risen to \$17.45. It sank gradually to \$10.43 for 1879, rose to \$12.41 in 1882, was \$12.34 three years ago, and \$12.54 for the beginning of the present year. The average rate of wages on the farm is thus 20 per cent higher now than at the beginning of 1879, when specie payments were resumed. It is nearly double that of fifty years ago. In recent years the farmers have suffered from low prices for their produce, but have been