

## THE LABOR SITUATION.

The Great Movement of Wage-Workers for Shorter Hours of Labor.

The Situation Just on the Eve of the Great Battle—History of the Eight-Hour Agitation.

From the mass of telegraphic dispatches to the metropolitan press on the morning of the 1st of May we glean the following summary of the industrial and labor situation at that date: At Chicago the eight-hour agitation had resulted in closing all the furniture and box factories and in the suspension of work at most of the iron and brass shops. The great army of meat-packers threatened to strike for shorter hours. Workmen in the lumber yards demanded the eight-hour concession and double pay for extra work. Freight-handlers at the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and Chicago and Alton freight houses struck work in consequence of a refusal of the companies to adopt the eight-hour system. The workmen in different manufacturing establishments had either struck or were threatening strikes on the same ground. The demands made by laborers were not uniform, nor were the answers of employers to the propositions of the employees. The Furniture Manufacturers' Association at Grand Rapids, Mich., decided to refuse the demand for a reduction of hours of labor to eight accompanied by a 10 per cent. advance in wages. It was decided to treat with employees only as individuals. The Woodburn-Sarken Wheel Company, of Indianapolis, the largest establishment of the kind in the country, refuses to pay ten hours' wages for eight hours' work. The 6,000 miners and laborers in the Clearfield (Pa.) region were ordered to stop work if the scale adopted by the Columbus (Ohio) convention was not signed. The army of idle men at Milwaukee has created apprehensions lest an outbreak should result, and arrangements had been made to swear in several hundred special policemen. A New York dispatch of the 1st inst. says:

An extended inquiry by *Bradstreet's* as to the details of the agitation by labor unions generally to secure the adoption of the eight-hour day shows that the unions have already gained some ground and that the members will strike if necessary in large numbers to enforce the desired rule. The 33,000 anthracite miners in Eastern Pennsylvania demand the eight-hour rule and threaten to strike. They would do so to-day were they sure of the Lurline and Lackawanna region men, where the organization is not as perfect as elsewhere. Missionary work is being done at the north to the end that the demand may be enforced. From Chicago word comes that a careful canvas reveals 62,000 members of various trades who will strike if the demand for eight hours is not granted, including 35,000 packing-yards employees. Associated foundrymen and metal-workers in New York and vicinity to the number of 20,000 promise trouble if nine hours are not granted them as a full day's work. At Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Detroit there is promised a very general demand for the eight-hour day in the event of its refusal strikes will follow. It is noticeable that the furniture, wood-workers, and building trades unions are those most prominent, as a class, in the demand for fewer hours of work per day. At St. Louis, Louisville, and Philadelphia concessions have been made by manufacturers, and in a number of instances compromises have been made at nine hours daily at ten hours' wages. In most all directions it is reported that many manufacturers will make concessions if it comes to the question of a strike. There were to-day over six thousand men striking for eight hours per day, two-thirds of whom were at Chicago and Milwaukee. There were over one thousand to-day having been granted to at least thirty-two thousand workmen, two-thirds of the total being at Chicago, and one-half of the remainder at Louisville and Philadelphia. There are also twenty-five thousand workmen at Chicago who have asked for eight hours per day, without as yet threatening a strike, fifteen thousand by Mr. Gladstone, who, with the exception of a very brief interval, has been Premier ever since.

### IN HONOR OF JEFF DAVIS.

Crowds Flock Into Montgomery to See and Hear the President of the Confederacy.

Wednesday, the 28th of April, says a dispatch from Montgomery, will ever be memorable in the history of Alabama, in that, while calling out ringing oratorical plead for the erection of a monument to the Confederate dead, the occasion has served for a grand demonstration in commemoration of the secession of Alabama, the establishment of the Confederacy, and the inauguration of Jefferson Davis as its President. Every locality was represented, and many adjacent towns and villages poured their entire population into the streets.

The entire city was gayly decorated, and the City Hall had United States flags fluttering out of every window. More Federal flags floated in Montgomery than at any time since 1860. The private houses and business houses all had a liberal supply of decorations and devices and words of welcome to Mr. Davis. The ex-President of the Confederacy was driven in a carriage drawn by four milk-white horses to the State Capitol, which was followed by an immense procession. Arriving at the State House, Mayor Reese introduced the guest to the vast audience.

Mr. Davis, leaning on his cane, with the Federal flag over him and Confederate veterans before him, spoke in a clear, ringing voice, showing the deep intensity of his feelings, but without a tremor or pause, except when interrupted by the shouts of his hearers. He said:

My friends, it would be vain if I should attempt to express to you the deep gratification which I feel at this demonstration. But I know that it is not personal, and therefore I feel deeply gratified, because it is a sentiment dear to me than myself. You have passed through the terrible ordeal of war which Alabama did not share. When she felt her wrongs too grievous for further toleration she sought the express solution. That being denied her thunders of war came ringing over the land. Then her people rose in their manhood; gray-haired seers and beardless boys eagerly rushed to the front. It was that war which Christianity alone approved—a holy war for defense. Well do I remember seeing your gentle boys, so small—to use a farmer's phrase—that they might have been called seed-corn, moving on with eager step and fearless brow to the carnival of death; and I have also looked upon them when their knapsacks and muskets seemed heavier than the boys, and my eyes, partaking of a mother's weakness, filled with tears.

These days have passed. Many of them have found nameless graves; but they are not dead. They live in memory and their spirits stand out, the grand reserve of that column which is marching on with unfaltering steps toward the goal of constitutional liberty. [Applause.]

It were in vain if I should attempt, as I have already said, to express my gratitude to you. I am standing now very nearly on the spot where I stood when I took the oath of office in 1861.

Your demonstration now exceeds that which welcomed me then. This shows that the spirit of Southern liberty is not dead. [Long and continued applause.]

Then you were full of joyous hopes. You had every prospect of achieving all you desired; and now you are wrapped in the mantle of regret, and yet the regret is only a lesser, more profound, and does not obtrude the expression of your sentiments. I felt last night as I approached the Exchange Hotel, from the gallery of which your peerless orator, William L. Yancey, introduced me to the citizens of Montgomery, and commended me in language which only his eloquence could yield, and which far exceeded my merit—I felt, I say again, that I was coming to my home—coming to a land where liberty dies not, and serious sentiments will live forever. [Applause.]

I have been promised, my friends, that I

should not be called upon to make a speech;

and therefore I will only extend to you my heartfelt thanks. God bless you, one and all, old men and boys, and the ladies above all others, who never faltered in our direst need. [Loud and long-continued applause.]

History of the Eight-Hour Movement.

It is difficult to fix an exact time at which the eight-hour movement can be said to have begun. Previous to 1856 twelve hours constituted a day's work. In that year the working hours were decreased to ten, and, generally speaking, have remained unchanged up to the present.

The eight-hour day was established in Australia thirty years ago, and one day in each year—April 21—is celebrated in commemoration of the event—just as it is proposed to celebrate May 1 in this country hereafter for a like reason. The eight-hour movement in this country received its first noticeable impetus just after the war of the rebellion, and a million and a half of men, mustered out of the army, were thrown upon the labor market, overstocking it to a distressful degree. Eight-hour leagues were formed throughout the country with the avowed purpose of securing a decrease of working hours, in order that there might be a corresponding increase in the number of laborers, thus affording the idle soldiers an opportunity of earning a living.

In 1866 a labor convention was held in Baltimore, at which delegates were present from all parts of the United States. It pronounced in favor of an eight-hour working day. Very little was said concerning any change in current wages. The stone-cutters' craft was the only one which, at that time, secured the eight-hour day.

The agitation of the movement has continued more or less actively ever since.

## GLADSTONE.

A Portrait and Brief Sketch of the Greatest of Living Statesmen.

William Ewart Gladstone was born at Liverpool Dec. 29, 1809, and is therefore in the 77th year of his age. His father was a wealthy merchant, and acquired a large fortune in the West India trade. Mr. Gladstone was educated at Eton and Oxford, and entered Parliament in 1832 as a member for Newark, which borough he continued to represent until 1840. During this period he was a constant contributor to the *Quarterly Review*, chiefly on literary and ecclesiastical subjects. In 1834 he was made Junior Lord of the Treasury, and in 1835 Under Secretary for Colonial Affairs. In 1841 he was sworn in a member of the Privy Council and appointed Vice President of the Board of Trade and Master of the Mint. In 1843 he was made President of the Board of Trade. In 1845



he entered the Cabinet as Secretary of the Colonies, under the Premiership of Sir Robert Peel. In 1852 he became Chancellor of the Exchequer under the Earl of Aberdeen, and retained the office for a short period under the Premiership of Lord Palmerston. In 1858 Mr. Gladstone declined a position in the Cabinet, but accepted an appointment as Lord High Commissioner Extraordinary to the Ionian Islands. On Lord Palmerston's return to power, in 1858, Mr. Gladstone again became Chancellor of the Exchequer. After the death of Lord Palmerston, in 1865, he became the leader of his party in the House of Commons. In 1868 Mr. Disraeli's Ministry resigned, and Mr. Gladstone succeeded him as Premier. He continued at the head of the Cabinet until 1874, when the Liberals being defeated in the Parliamentary elections, Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues resigned, and Mr. Disraeli again took the helm. In 1879 Mr. Disraeli again retired, and was second time succeeded by Mr. Gladstone, who, with the exception of a very brief interval, has been Premier ever since.

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## SHORTER WORKING HOURS.

Progress of the Great Movement in the Cities Looking Toward That End.

Some Manufacturers Accede to the Demand, Others Refuse, and Others Are Waiting.

Outside of the city of Chicago the movement by the trades-unions for the adoption of a rule making eight hours a day's labor was not as general as had been expected. There appeared to be no concert of action among the workingmen, and in only one city—Milwaukee—did the movement reach any magnitude. In that city the demands of the present employees were refused, and 3,000 of them struck. This number included the drivers, and the breweries can deliver no beer. The men in E. P. Allis & Co.'s machine shops went out, and enough men in various other trades to swell the number of strikers in the Cream City to nearly 5,000. It is reported that an equal number of men are forced into idleness in consequence. In St. Louis, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Akron, O., Boston, Pittsburgh, and a number of smaller cities demands were made by but few of the trades. In some cases the reduced hours were granted by the employers, in many more was deferred, and in others strikes ensued. There is no report of any strike being made by railroad employees. In New York the movement was confined to the carpenters and joiners. There was a monster demonstration in Union Square, at which 20,000 people listened to addresses by friends of the short-time movement. It was free from disorder or Communism. In Chicago thousands of men from the lumber-yards and planing mills paraded the streets with red flags and listened to incendiary speeches in foreign tongues. The most notable strike at Chicago was with the railroads, all of the twenty-five in Chicago being affected, with the lone exception of the Baltimore and Ohio.

### The Situation in Chicago.

The labor and industrial situation at Chicago on Monday, the 3d inst., was thus outlined by special dispatches from that city of that date: It was estimated last night that 40,000 of the 225,000 wage-workers of Chicago have already profited by the eight-hour movement. About 65,000 are supposed to be out on strike this morning. In many instances, where large industries are centralized under one management, long strikes are threatened if the present attitude of the employers is maintained. The movement has not yet been attended by any violence, though in some quarters the socialist element has caused seeming bickering and disquiet. This is particularly true of the lumber region and North Side furniture district.

The report received that the Milwaukee & St. Paul Company was sending 400 men into the city to take the places of the striking freight-handlers caused no little uneasiness in railroad quarters. The strikers decided to resist any attempt to import men to handle the freight. Dividing into two, 1,000 brewers, as many bakers, 800 furniture workers, 1,000 clothing cutters, and 100 tool pointers had secured a reduction of their working hours.

According to the reports received up to midnight by Mr. George A. Schilling, chairman of the eight-hour committee, the demands of the following have been satisfied: Eight hundred tobacco-handlers, 700 street-car employees, all the members of the Cigar-Makers' Union, 300 beer-barrel makers, 950 dry-goods and notion store employees, 8,500 packers, and a large number of workmen employed in smaller industries. Besides, the following unions have adopted the eight-hour standard: Brick-Layers', Stone-Masons', Hod-Carriers', Plasterers', and Lathers'. One of the three severest strikes still existing where iron-molders are employed, twenty-three shops have won, five of the firms are resisting the movement, and the remainder are negotiating. The Machinists and Blacksmiths' Assembly, which is striking for eight hours, with the ten-hours' wages scaled, reports general success. The upholsterers are being resisted in nearly every instance. Thirty-three hundred brickmakers are striking for eight hours' work at ten hours' pay. About one-half of the 650 butchers in the city have secured reductions from sixteen to ten hours. The Shoemakers' Assembly has modified its demands to eight hours' work for eight hours' work, and expects to gain this concession. The Clerks' Union has been satisfied with ten hours. Four hundred wagonmakers have won a reduction for the eight-hour reform. The marble-workers have also won under the eight-hours' pay agreement. The Coopers' Assembly is still standing out for nine hours' pay.

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### The Situation Elsewhere.

The most of the furniture factories at Grand Rapids, Mich., were closed on the 3d inst., preparatory to the inauguration of the eight-hour movement. At Cincinnati the factories, employing about twelve thousand men, were closed, and will so remain until terms can be made. With the other trades there was considerable comotion, but in many instances the troubled were compromised. At St. Louis great many workmen in the various branches of trade quit because the employers refused to grant their demands for an increase of pay. At Pittsburgh the trouble was confined to the building trades, and in most instances where the demands were not granted a strike was ordered, in which the carpenters and furniture-workers will lead. At Buffalo there was no trouble worth mentioning, though the socialists were trying to foment strife. In Washington there was no trouble, but, on the other hand, rejoicing among the street-car men, whose working time was, in accordance with an agreement made some months ago, reduced to twelve hours. The trades, however, were expected to strike for eight hours. In New York the planing-mills demanded eight hours' work, and threatened to strike if they did not get it. From Ohio, where the eight-hour law went into effect, great depression of business was reported. Where employers were unable to get their men to work ten hours, they either dismissed them or hired them by the hour. At Indianapolis all demands were refused and a few of the factories closed. At Boston the trades united in a demand for eight hours' work, and will strike if their demands are not conceded to. At Milwaukee the employers in the breweries quit work because their demand for an increase of wages was not granted. The other workmen joined in a street demonstration, and along the docks there was considerable trouble on account of the interference of the strikers with the men at work. At Detroit, the employers of most of the breweries quit work because the employers refused to discharge non-union men, increase wages, and decrease the house of work. The coal operators at Pittsburgh granted an increase to the miners, and everything was quiet, but in the Monongahela district the advance was refused, and the men were at work. The advance was also refused at Youngstown, Ohio. The strikers at the New York sugar refineries were paid off, and most of them asked to return to work at the old scale of wages. The stone-cutters of Pittsburgh have generally secured nine hours, but nearly every furniture factory is closed. Two hundred plumbers quit work in St. Louis, and five hundred furniture men in Cincinnati. Five thousand carpenters in Boston threatened to strike for eight hours. About two thousand journeymen carpenters of Baltimore struck for eight hours' work and pay. The bosses were ready to concede ten hours' wages for nine hours' labor. The proprietors of all the planing-mills at Evansville, Indiana, agreed to open their doors to employees at eight hours' work and pay, or close for an indefinite period.

### Louisville.

The refusal of the furniture manufacturers to concede ten hours' pay for eight hours' work caused a general lock-out of furniture workers at Louisville, Ky., which is the second largest furniture market in America. About 3,000 men are idle as a consequence.

### The Gould Strike at an End.

The great strike on the Gould system of railroads has been declared off, and the idle employees of the road will endeavor to regain their old situations. This result, says St. Louis dispatch, has been brought about by the efforts of the citizens' committee, appointed about three weeks ago, which has been in constant communication with the Executive Board of the Knights of Labor and the Curtin Congressional Investigating Committee, which recently made a formal request to the Knights to bring the strike to a conclusion.

## FIRST BLOOD.

A Blatant Socialist Incites a Mob to Deeds of Violence in Chicago.

Battle Between Police and Strikers—Several Wounded—The Gould Strike Ended—Labor Notes.

### Serious Riot in Chicago.

A very serious outbreak in connection with the labor troubles in Chicago occurred at the great McCormick Reaper Factory on the afternoon of the 3d inst. About 7,000 strikers gathered in some open lots near the works. They consisted largely of employees of lumber yards and planing mills. Most of the men were Germans, Bohemians, and Poles. A rather "tough" looking individual addressed the crowd from an empty beer keg in German, and other speakers delivered harangues in Bohemian and Polish. All speeches were of an inflammatory character, such as the Anarchists delight to indulge in. Their words did not fail to have an effect upon the ignorant, excitable audience, many of whom were under the influence of beer. When the Anarchist leaders had wrought up to a sufficiently high pitch, one fellow exclaimed, pointing to the buildings of the McCormick works: "Do you see that bastile of monopoly? Now is the time for you to wrest it from the hands of your oppressors!" The crowd set up an approving howl and immediately began moving toward the factory, arming themselves on the way with bricks and clubs. When they reached the big gate, the workingmen were just emerging from it. They were greeted with yells of "Scab" and "Rats," and bombarded with stones.

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