

THE CHARACTER OF OUR IMMIGRATION.

From the last report of the commissioner of immigration in New York it appears that the character of immigration to this port has been undergoing considerable change. During the year ending June 30 there was a large increase in immigrants from Southern Europe, Italy contributing nearly 100,000 and Austro-Hungary 90,000 more. The number of Poles, Slavs and Lithuanians also shows an increase, while immigrants from England, Ireland, Scandinavia and Germany are fewer than in previous years.

Says the New York Herald (Ind.):

"The swelling tide of immigrants from Southern Europe and the Orient who can neither read nor write their own language, and not even speak ours, who bring with them only money enough to stave off starvation but a few days, is a startling national menace that cannot be disregarded with safety. * * * The percentage of illiteracy, especially among the Italians, runs very high, and the average amount of money brought by each immigrant correspondingly low. Hundreds, if not thousands, of lawless characters have come in from Italy with the knowledge and encouragement of the public authorities there, if not their aid. * * *

"This is a serious matter that may well arrest public attention and demand consideration from congress."

The New York Evening Post (Ind.) also believes that the danger is a real one, and that many of these immigrants from Southern Europe are likely to fill American prisons and almshouses. It calls upon the sober-minded men of New York City, who have so much at stake, to approach the problem in a scientific spirit, and expresses the opinion that wise and careful legislation may be necessary. "The reformation of dangers and abuses of this kind," it says, "is a matter which must engage the attention of our philanthropists and public men more and more in the years to come." * * *

The total number of immigrants landing in New York last year was 400,000. "This is a larger number than has been reported for seven years," says the Kansas City Star (Rep.), and it adds:

"During the '70s the number varied from 138,000 to 404,000. The time of the largest immigration was the decade from 1880 to 1890, during which five and a quarter million aliens entered the United States at an average rate of 525,000 a year. The high-water mark was reached with 789,000 in 1882. After 1892 there was a steady decline to 229,000 in 1898, the year of the Spanish war. This year has marked a gain of nearly 100,000 over the figures of the year before."—Literary Digest.

This is getting to be a fearful menace to our country. With the undesirable thousands landing on the Atlantic coast from Europe and the possibility of opening the floodgates of Asiatic heathendom on the Pacific, we are in a fair way to become the most desirable country to get out of in the civilized world.

AN IMPOSITION.

There is a clause in the law relating to barbers that ought to be stricken out, so many of the best posted barbers say. It is the clause relating to permits. If the intention of the law was carried out, there would be no objection to it; but advantage is taken of this weak spot to impose on the state board and get permission to work by men, especially Japs, who could not pass an examination if they tried. The permit clause, as we understand it, is to give reputable barbers a chance to work until the next meeting of the state board of examiners, when the applicant will be examined and get his certificate, if he is qualified. Imposters get this permit by stating that they are barbers and paying the ne-

cessary fee of \$5. When the time comes to be examined, the man who got the permit fails to show up for examination. After the meeting of the board he sends an apprentice to get a permit, who secures it, and the man who originally got the permit takes the place of the apprentice, and the latter is the "boss." Thus they work the little game, and a large number of incompetent men by this hocus-pocus manage to keep a temporary permit all the time. This is peculiarly a trick of the Japs, who run 5-cent shops. The coming legislature will doubtless put a stop to the imposition.

THE STRIKERS LOST.

The great strike of cotton-mill operatives in North Carolina is lost. For two months some 5,000 men, women and children in Burlington battled against a heartless, cruel combine of capitalists on the one side and the misery of idleness, starvation and eviction on the other. They stood at bay like hunted beasts, says the Cleveland Citizen. Now they are crushed, their unions destroyed, their spokesmen blacklisted, their organizers banished from the country of "red shirts" as autocratically as if it had all happened in Russia. Why did the operatives strike? The press dispatches vaguely state that they wanted "recognition of the union," that they demanded the discharge of an overseer. The whole truth is not told. The operatives struck because a reign of terror existed. The men were bullied and cowed; the women were abused, driven like cattle and even robbed of their virtue; the children were flogged and overworked. It would require columns to relate the horrible outrages that were perpetrated in the slave stockades of North Carolina, but it would have little effect. The authorities were cognizant of the conditions that existed. They refused to act, except in the interest of the employers, just as the capitalistic tools of Pennsylvania and every other state—whether they be labeled republican or democratic—act when the class struggle becomes intensified.

PORTLAND SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

All lovers of good music will be glad to learn that the Portland Symphony Orchestra, composed of about 35 of the best musicians in the city, will on next Wednesday evening inaugurate at the Marquam Grand a series of symphony concerts, in which a programme of the most popular music of the day will be given. The prices of admission will be \$1 for all of the parquette; 50 cents for the first six rows of the balcony, and 25 cents for the last six rows. The gallery will not be opened unless circumstances require it. This arrangement is such that for 25 or 50 cents one can get, so far as hearing is concerned, as good a seat as there is in the house. The quality of the music and the prices of admission are such that these concerts cannot help being popular.

Two hundred girls employed in the Paragon shirt-waist factory at Fort Wayne, Ind., struck, owing to refusal of the company to increase their wages. Rumors of similar trouble are pending in two other large shirt-waist factories.

The Allis Engine Company, of Milwaukee, has agreed with the 2,700 employees upon a 57-hour week until May 18, 1901, when 54 hours will be a week's work, with time and one-half for overtime.

The person who demands union wages and has his washing done by a Chinaman is devoid of union principles.

Nobody can "lead" labor; the men at the front are put there by the rank and file.

BATTLE-GROUND OF LABOR.

Wardner, Idaho, has been the battle-ground between labor and capital for a good many years. Here the Standard Oil Company owns the great Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines; here it reduced the wages from \$3.50 to \$2 and \$3, and maintained the latter scale for years, and fought, planned and plotted the downfall of organized labor. In no part of America have union men been subjected to such unlawful treatment. Every scheme of corrupt capital and political trickery has been practiced against union men, or him who sympathizes with unionism; but men could always be found to stand for right, and Wardner has a good union at present, in a fairly good condition, but we are under circumstances which would make the average man cry with shame. Persecuted by every hireling thug and state official that comes along, we are denied the right to seek employment for ourselves and families; if by some hook or crook we get a permit to work, along comes a deputy and we are told that we can't work any longer or we must go to jail if caught working with a permit that doesn't belong to us. The state officials have made the permits a little harder to get. They have the description of the person wanting one on the back. It tells your height, weight, color of eyes, hair, if clean shaven or mustache; they ask where you worked last, why you left last employment, what country you were born in, and if you are a member of the Miners' Union. The officers have taken a good many permits away in the last month; they were not all taken from union men, but most of them had been members. As the election drew closer it seemed to be the desire of mineowners and state officials to get out of the country all union men who are eligible to vote, so as to carry things their way. You see, the new men were in the state long enough to be entitled to vote.—Leon McMullen, in Western Miners' Magazine.

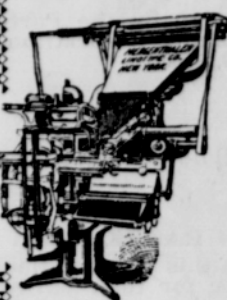
SUNDAY CLOSING.

Certain members of the Barbers' Union are agitating the compulsory opening of all union barber shops on Sundays. At present it is optional with bosses whether they keep open shop or not on the Sabbath. It transpires that those shops closing Sundays, but remaining open late Saturday nights, are making more money than the Sunday shops. This fact is behind the Sunday-opening agitation. It also proves the union contention that Sunday shaving is not necessary or profitable. Why a union barber should contend for it is hard to understand. Every union barber belongs to the American Federation of Labor, and one of the basic principles of that organization is to fight for as few days a week and as few hours a day as can be obtained from employers. Any one opposing that principle puts himself in the attitude of defending his employer at the expense of his union.—Union Record.

Observance of the rule "abide by the decision of the majority" proves unionism.

The true union man talks principles and smothers personalities

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