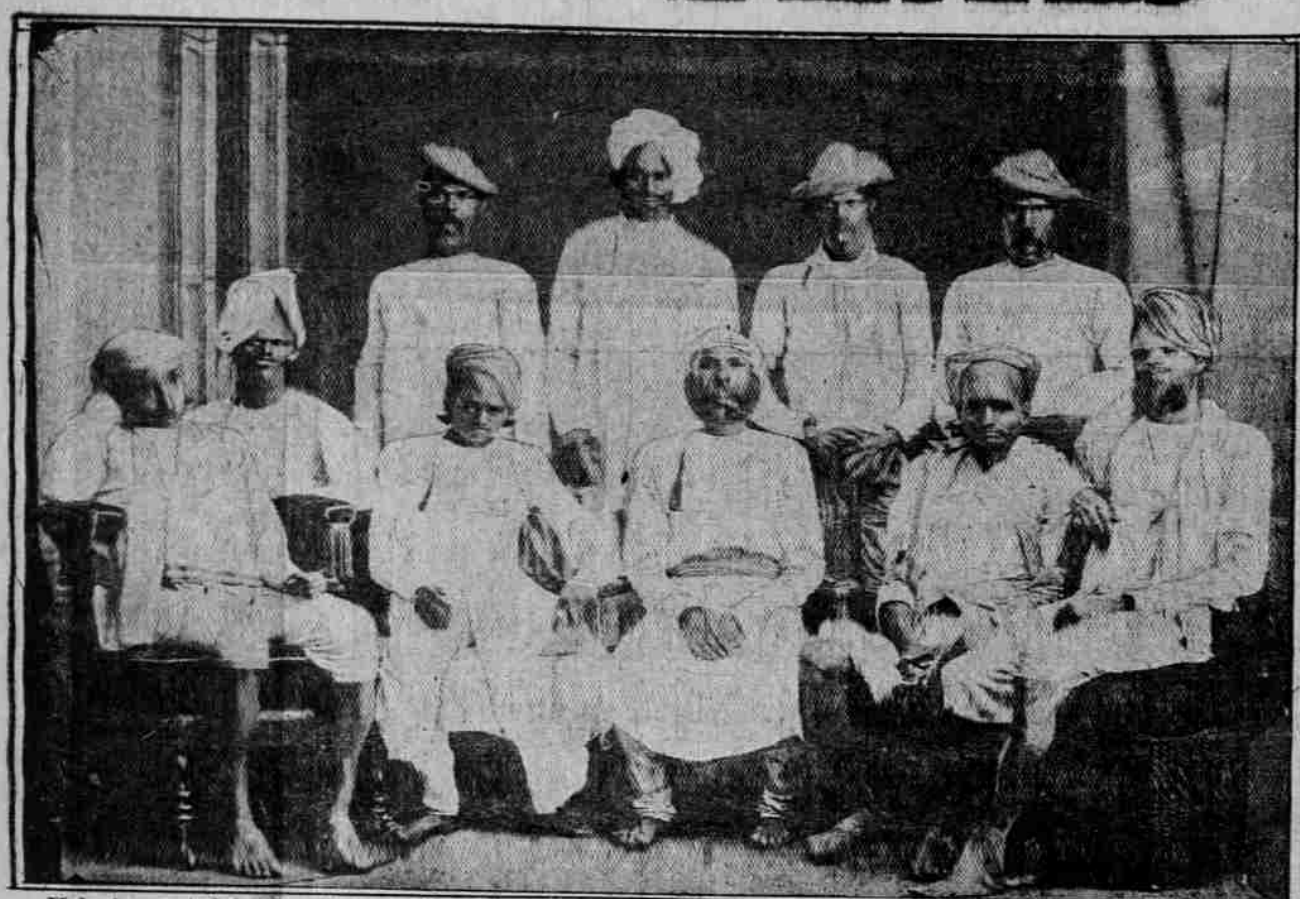


"HELP WANTED"

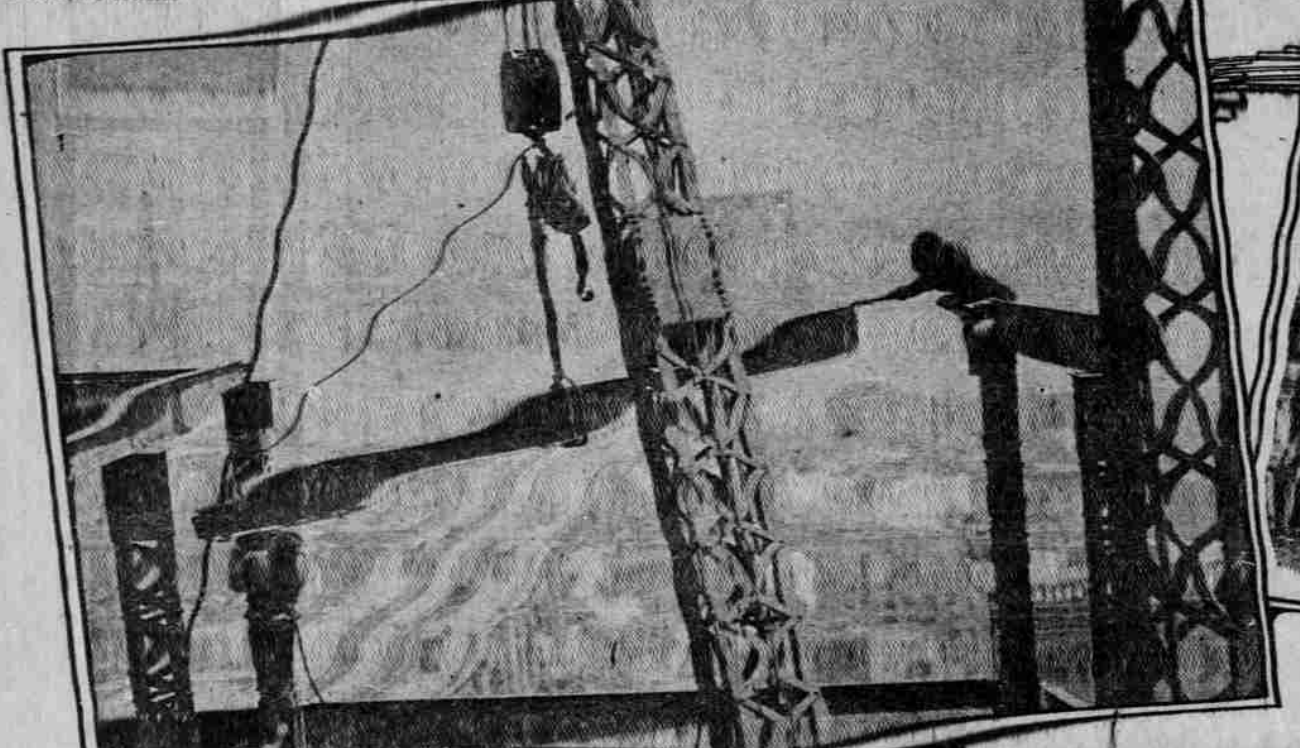
AMERICA'S CRY

While Other Nations Face Political Disturbance,
Uncle Sam's Greatest Difficulty is to Get Men to Do the
Necessary Work.

Some Official Figures on Savings by
the Wage Earners of the United States Since the Era of
Prosperity Began.



Help is wanted in Canada as well as the United States. Types of Hindoos now being brought from Asia to work on the Canadian Pacific's tracks.



Help is wanted to build steel skyscrapers. Photograph of a construction gang at work 200 feet above the ground in New York.

THE present youthful century is the liveliest the world has known, and its seventh year is going to be its most interesting one, so far. This is especially true of the United States, the busiest land in the world.

But while the interest in most other countries centers mainly in prospective troubles, foreign and domestic, here the chief interest is concentrated upon the chief interest of the world, the Pacific, where its waves wash the eastern edge of far-away Japan, there is only one thing for the American people to worry about and that is where and how to get the workers to do the work that is waiting for them to do.

All Asia is in a ferment. Even China and Persia are talking about constitutional government and that may mean trouble on a colossal scale.

Russia, torn and bleeding and uncertain of the morrow, is falling into a worse state of anarchy than ever.

France is in the throes of her struggle with the Vatican. Great Britain is wrought up over the quarrel between the Lords and Commons and wondering whether the movement of crops was on, despite the heroic efforts which have been going on the past few years to get tracks laid for the movement of crops.

It was the great cry for help from the railroads that made it a physical impossibility for unaccounted farmers, North, East, South and West, to harvest all their corn and cotton, their wheat and potatoes and hay last fall. The tight money market, largely due to the enormous sums of currency which the railroads have had to use, and are still using, to pay wages with, though certain men in the United States, though a paragraph did go the rounds not long ago telling of the death from cold of some of these sons of India's sunny clime, who had been

transported to Canada's bleak shores. I have no complete figures by me, but the first shipment of Hindoos to Vancouver to be set at work on the railroad numbered 200 or 300. Many of them had been in some sort of Indian military service. Canada's exclusion laws were not enforced so rigorously against the Hindoos as they have been against the Americans imported into the Dominion to do a higher grade of railroad work; less than 10 per cent of the Hindoos were turned back, and they were rejected because of insufficient physique, or poor health—not because of the contract labor laws.

An official of the Canadian Pacific Railroad told me the other day that these men are slender, tall, without fat and good workers, although lacking somewhat in stamina as compared with white men. They get \$1.50 a day. Their lodging, in bunk cars or in shacks built by the railroad, is thrown in. They have to buy their own food, which is cooked by their own cooks. There are Brahmins, and Moslems among them. Compared with what they can earn in India, their pay is enormous. The deaths from the Canadian cold, he said, had been caused mainly by the lack of warm clothing. This, he added, is not the fault of the railroad company, however; it has been its policy to furnish them with heavy, warm clothing immediately on their landing at Vancouver, but not being accustomed to the cumbersome garb necessary in this climate, many refuse to wear it to their own undoing.

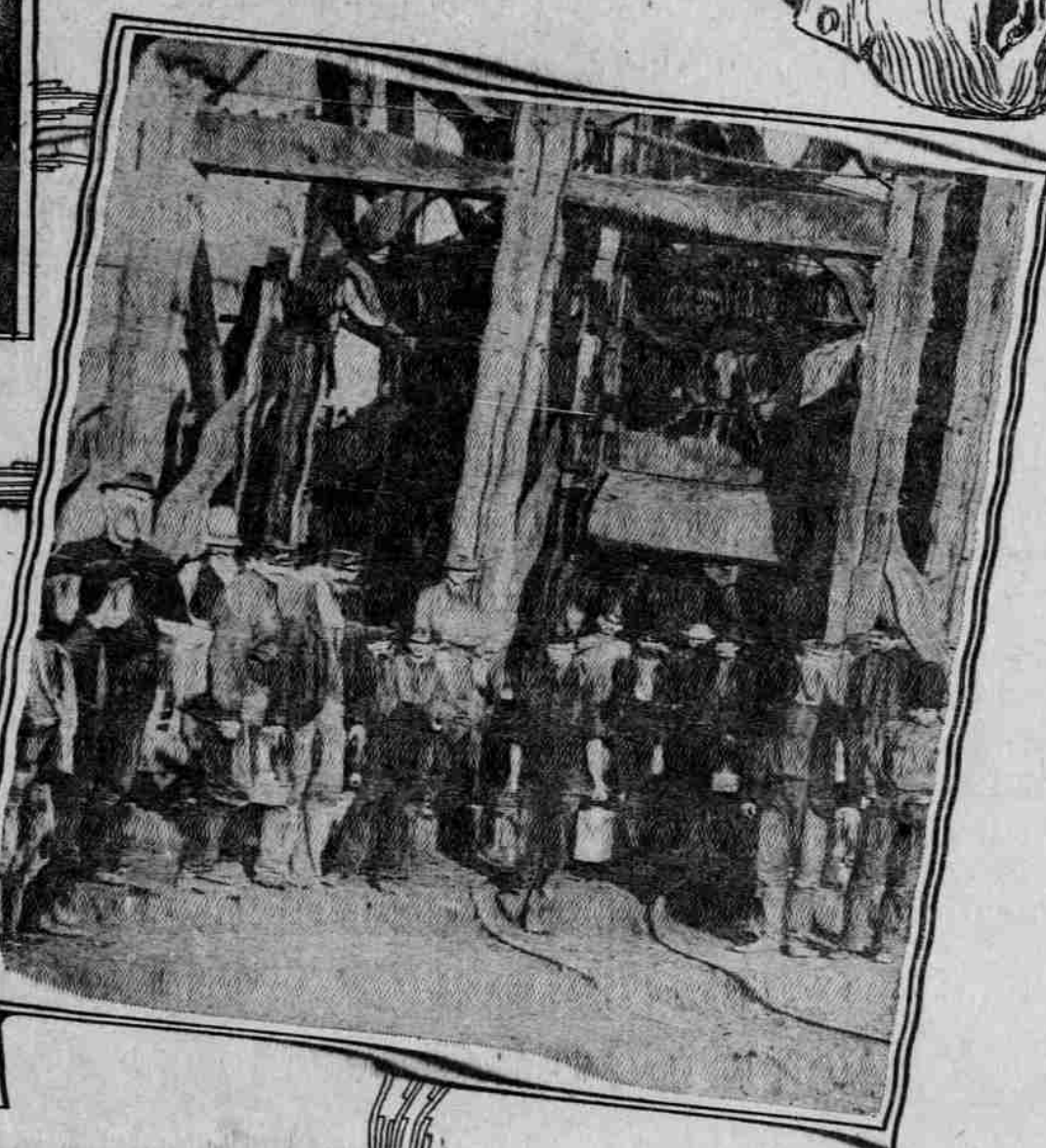
Women Workers Scarce, Too. The oldest employment story in America is about the scarcity of women servants. Today there is an unprecedented shortage of women workers of every grade. There is a certain concern, too, about one of the larger cities whose

Help is wanted to grade the new railroads. From a photograph taken in December.

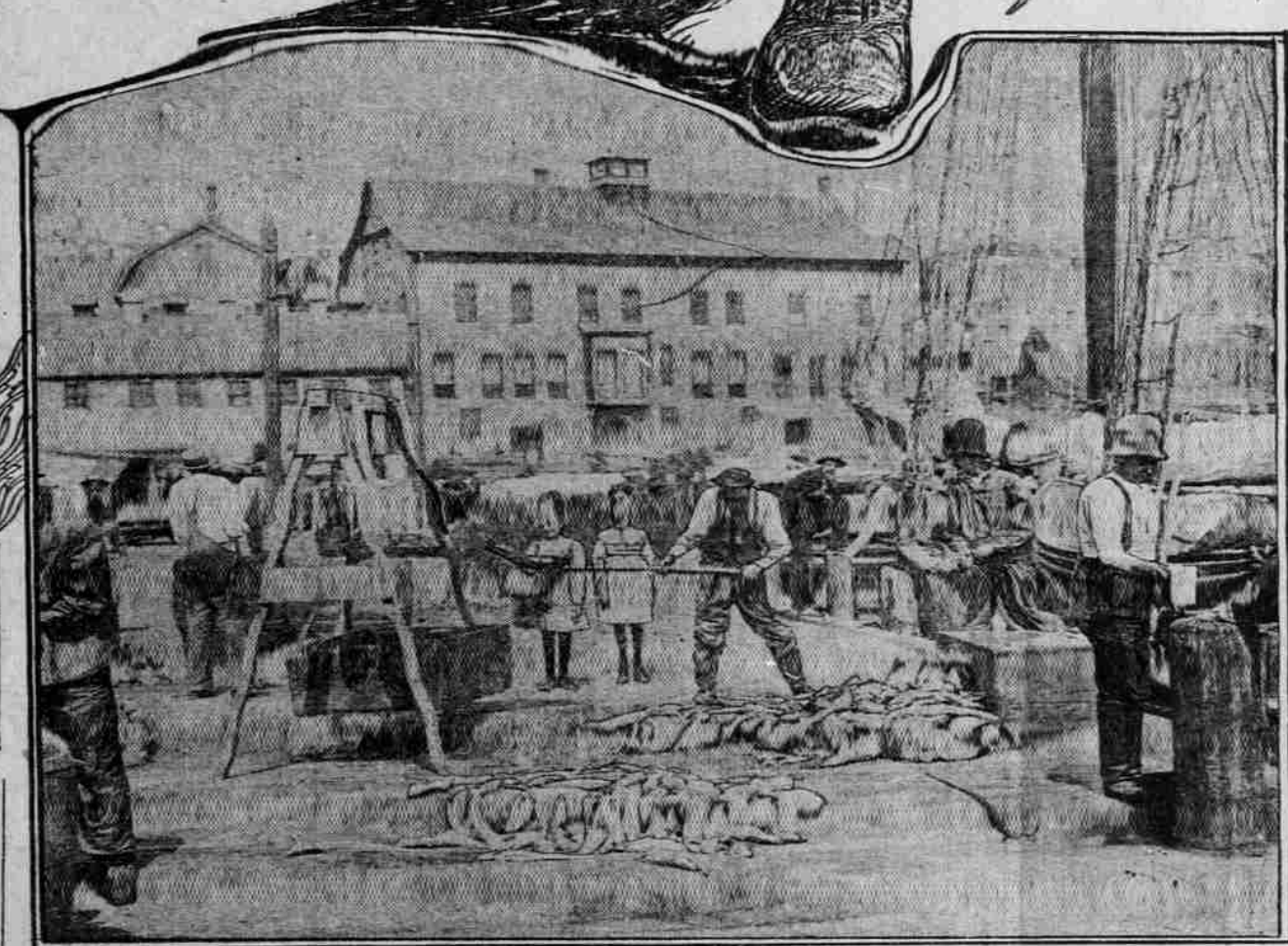
manager recently found this out to his great inconvenience. Late every Fall he needs to add some 20 women to the clerical force, their duties being mainly to address envelopes for the mailing of circulars. In past years he has been able to get all the address writers desired by inserting a four-line advertisement one time in a single local newspaper. The first day after the insertion of the "ad" there would be from 200 to 300 applicants. Twelve of these days the list would be satisfactorily filled. This season the advertisement was inserted. How many replies do you suppose the firm received? Six.

Next day the advertisement was inserted in three or four other papers. The result? From all the advertisements of the situation was the inefficiency of the extra list, and all sorts of means had to be employed. Women acquaintances of the regular clerks had to be imported to come in and help out. Let- ters had to be written to friends in the suburbs, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the extra work was got out of all. Another unprecedented feature of the situation was the inefficiency of the applicants. Not more than half a dozen of the 21 who answered the advertisement could write a word that the head of the firm was willing to see on its envelopes.

At first he thought this meant deterioration. Later he concluded that most of the competent workers of the class he wished to draw from were already employed regularly, and that none who wanted work were left except those who could not do it satisfactorily. Another reason, undoubtedly, is that in these days of work at good wages for every man who is able and willing to do it, many are unwilling to allow wives, sisters and daughters to work for themselves. This is often as true of the man who works for day's wages as it is of any other man, and today, in



Help is wanted to mine the coal. Miners leaving a shaft in the anthracite region.



Help is wanted to man the fisheries. From a recent photograph at Gloucester, Mass.

American with calloused hands and blackened finger nails to send his son to college. Consequently more professional men here than anywhere else are springing from shoemakers and stonemasons and the like. If the son is a shoemaker, of course, it's the high wages, largely, that make the high prices. Not altogether, though; the high prices are partly due to the American workman's desire to eat as good food as that which goes upon the rich man's table.

If the workman didn't continue to buy steak in spite of the rise in the price of meat, it would sell in New York at from 20 cents to 25 cents a pound as now, no matter what the beef trust did. Would eggs be 25 cents a dozen, as they were in New York in mid-December, and higher, as they have been since?

You may not fully comprehend the increase that has taken place in wages in a few years ago. Nobody does, in fact. You could get some idea by studying "Bulletin 65," issued by the Department of Labor, but Mr. H. C. Watson of New York, a member of the Civic Federation, who has given the subject much attention, puts the case vividly when he says: "When the army of the unemployed was greatest a prominent labor leader estimated it at 3,000,000. Practically all the men making up this vast number are now at work. To get at the true advance

in wages you must figure in their wages, which have grown from nothing to from \$2 to a day. Prices have gone up, but they are still lower than they were in 1880, and really the purchasing power of the workers has grown much faster than prices have advanced.

There are plenty to say, when they talk about the American workman's high living, when they compare his custom of eating meat every day in the year, his good clothes and his cigars with the cheaper food, the poorer clothes and the pipe that must content his European brother, that the American worker is wasteful and extravagant. Well, perhaps; but have you looked into the savings banks' figures lately?

Not to dive deeply into statistics here, doesn't it strike you that the American workman is doing pretty well, in spite of the high prices when you understand, as Mr. Watson pointed out to me, that in the past ten years the number of savings bank depositors here has grown from 5,065,404 to 8,027,192, or about 60 per cent? And that, in the same time, the deposits have increased in amount from \$1,977,166,677 to \$3,882,177,128, or about 99 per cent? This means, counting five to the family, that about half the families in this country have bank accounts averaging \$400.76 each.

Not in this all, the savings invested by 1,000,000 individuals in the building and loan associations count up more than \$600,000,000. It is all right to admire the great savings of the French, accumulated by dint of economy and self-denial that

(Continued on Page 51.)