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### WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT.

A few democrats have had the hardihood to talk of "depression" and "low wages" as consequences of eight years of republican administration of the affairs of the government. Figures taken from the report of the bureau of labor made July, 1904, fail to agree with these statements.

For every 100 blacksmiths employed in 1896 there were 149 in 1903. For every 100 boiler-makers working in 1896 there were 137 in 1903. For every 100 bricklayers in 1896 there were 127 in 1903; 100 carpenters in 1896, 122 in 1903; 100 iron moulders in 1896, 145 in 1903; for every 100 day laborers in 1896 there were 126 in 1903; for every 100 machinists in 1896 there were 166 in 1903, and for every 100 stone masons working in 1893 there were 130 employed in 1903.

As to wages, there is shown a marked advance. For every dollar paid a blacksmith in 1896 there was paid \$1.12 in 1903 for identically the same amount of labor. The boilermaker got \$1.08 1-2 in 1903 for every dollar he got in 1896; the bricklayer, \$1.26; the carpenter \$1.31; the iron molder got \$1.21; the day laborer, \$1.18 1-2; the machinist, \$1.13, and the stone mason received \$1.26 1-2 in 1903 for every dollar he was paid in 1893.

But this isn't all. The aggregate increase must be reckoned from the increased number of employed, as well as the increased wage. The summing up shows that in the occupations named there was an average of thirty-eight more persons in every hundred employed in 1903 than in 1896, and that for every \$100 paid each and every member of those trades in 1896 there was paid in 1903 an average of \$122.

Do these results indicate prosperity of depression? If they are not produced by the application of the principle of protection to American industry, why have democratic low-tariff periods never been accompanied by similar incidents?

### WHY NOT A PERMANENT WORLD'S FAIR?

It is estimated that the world's fair at St. Louis has cost \$50,000,000. Six months hence there will be nothing to show for that outlay except a modest art gallery and a devastated park. It is hardly surprising that many people are asking whether it would not be possible to lay out the money to better advantage, says the Saturday Evening Post.

The great white marble public library of New

York is to cost less than \$3,000,000. Sixteen such buildings could be put up for \$59,000,000. Suppose a city desirous of spending that amount of money on a world's fair should pay \$5,000,000 for a site and for landscape effects to beautify it, and then should group in the most imposing way a dozen marble palaces, each equal to the New York public library, at a cost of \$35,000,000 more; leaving \$10,000,000 for installing and maintaining exhibits; would not that city have a possession that would attract the admiration of the world?

Such an exhibition would be small compared with the wilderness of staff at Chicago and St. Louis, but would it not be large enough? Who ever sees everything at a world's fair? The marble exposition would be permanent, and it could be made more perfect from year to year. Everything could be excluded but the very cream of the world's achievements. All the vulgar advertising features, the miles of canned goods, the flaunting Pikes and Midways, the slot machines, popcorn and frankfurters could be eliminated. There would be a vision of pure beauty and the sublimation of instruction.

No city on earth would have a spectacle to match such a university of human progress.

The next time it is proposed to spend \$50,000,000 on a summer's riot of glass and plaster, to fade away like a dream, would it not be worth while to consider the possibility of putting the money into a form that would be a permanent enrichment of the community and the world?

### SOME EVILS FROM DIVORCES.

In spite of Owen Meredith's announcement that in the course of time marriages would be made or contracted only for certain periods, many of the ministers of this country do not seem to be discouraged in their crusade against the growth of the divorce evil. A number of them, of different denominations and from all parts of the United States, have made an agreement to not marry divorced persons, unless it be shown that such divorcees were obtained for causes sanctioned by the churches.

While it is true that even if this position were taken all the churches they could not prohibit divorcees or stop the marriage of divorcees, still it plainly indicates the attitude and disfavor of these churches in regard to the question. Their action may also help to turn public sentiment against the growing evil, and perhaps influence indirectly those who are prompted more or less in their actions by public opinion. While being actuated by no better motives would not be of great credit to the people themselves, an enforced regard for marriage laws would be better than a growing laxity with respect to them, it ultimately lessening the number of divorcees, and thus remedying or preventing the evils that follow.

The enthusiasm with which the hotel proposition has been taken up is gratifying for many reasons. It indicates that the Astoria spirit is even more pronounced now than heretofore, and that to undertake the proposal is in itself a guarantee of success. The hotel is now practically assured, and when the question of site is settled work may be commenced. To get anything, from a railroad to a \$100 bonus, Astoria has but to ask her progressive citizens for it. This is the sentiment that builds cities and insures the future greatness of this locality.

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