

ARMY OF LABORERS

RAILROAD WORK DEMANDS 25,000 MEN.

Impossible to Meet the Demand for Labor—Idle Men Brought From Chicago by Trains to the Northwest—Immense Railroad Building Projects Will Distribute Millions in Wages.

The vanguard of what is to soon become a great army of men have commenced migration to Oregon and Washington to enter railroad service as laborers in the construction of the thousands of miles of new railroads to be built in these states during the next two or three years.

From the best estimates obtainable there are today fully 19,000 men employed in railroad construction in the two states. This number is divided between the Northern Pacific's north bank road, which gives employment to nearly 5,000 men; the Canadian Pacific's extension to Spokane, the Hill line being built into British Columbia, the North Yakima & Valley line, which is supposed to be a Hill enterprise, and various smaller extensions and interurban trolley lines including the Joseph extension of the O. R. & N. The Sanders electric line, which is being constructed between Seattle and Everett as rapidly as possible, has been trying to secure 700 additional men to place on the construction of the road.

When to this number is added the brigades that will be called into service to build the Milwaukee through to the Sound and to take the Union Pacific up from Portland, allowing a possible addition for the North Coast and for the trolley projects certain to be carried out in the vicinity of Portland, together with the Riparia extension of the Northern Pacific, it is found that the railroads are face to face with the problem of giving employment to an army of at least 25,000 or perhaps 30,000 laborers.

These figures, casually spoken, may not seem significant to some persons, but analysis of the proposition gives figures that seem astonishing. At \$23 per day for the wages of each man, the payroll of this army will amount to \$1,500,000 per month, or \$18,000,000 in a year.

However, unless the railroads seek high and low throughout the country, workmen's wages will not remain at so low a figure. Should the men succeed in getting an additional 50 cents per day it will mean \$425,000 monthly added to the payroll.

The effect of the employment of this vast multitude within the boundaries of Oregon and Washington, will be far reaching. It will affect the wages of labor throughout the central west, as well as the northwest. The railroads will be placed in competition with other lines of industry with the services of the day laborer as the stake, for it is nearly impossible to suppose that there will ever be more than enough laborers to supply the demand.

This fact is illustrated by the difficulty met by all western roads in construction work, their most difficult problem being to secure enough men to keep the work advancing during all seasons of the year.

Men who are arriving in Portland and Tacoma now have been attracted west by the advertisement of the Northern Pacific for work on the north bank line being built along the Columbia river. St. Louis and Chicago have been principal recruiting points for this work.

First points nearer home were tried but the supply of idle men who desired to work in the northwest at attractive wages soon dwindled until it became so small that the railroads had to search for men farther east.

They first offered regular home-seekers' rates to workmen during the early part of the winter. Then, as the demand for laborers became more pressing, they advertised free fare, or a rate of \$3 between Chicago and

Puget sound, which is practically nothing. It has been necessary in many instances to even advance men money to buy rations en route to secure their services for work on railroad construction in the northwest.

Cormorants.

Cormorants are far the largest and most striking in appearance of our common English sea fowl. A male cormorant is a yard long and very strong and heavy, and, though more quaint than beautiful, whether flying, diving or sitting on the rocks or buoys, it is a far more interesting creature than the sea gull—a wonderful instance of adaptation of form to special needs and of permanence of type enduring from remote ages, for the fossil cormorant hardly differs from those which are now fishing from the cliffs in which their petrified ancestors are imbedded. Our common "great black cormorant" is not only the most representative type of his family, but a link with the inhabitants of the shallow seas of both the old and new worlds. He is found throughout Europe, in north Africa, Egypt and the greater part of Asia, in eastern North America and, a little changed by distance, in New Zealand and Australia. Lastly he is the only bird except the hawk and falcon which is trained to assist man in the capture of living prey, and in this vocation he is of all birds, by sense, memory and affection, incomparably the best.—London Spectator.

The Wiles of Beasts of Prey.

The panther on the plains of Patagonia gets as near a herd of guanacos as it can, then lies down behind a bush on its back. It puts one paw up in the air, then another, then the third and fourth and after a bit all four at once. That seems curious to the guanacos, and they come close to investigate. Up jumps the panther and lights on the nearest one's back and breaks its neck. A fox up in Nova Scotia comes down to the bay of Fundy and goes jumping along the beach a couple of rods and back again, rising on its hind legs at each about face and waving its big tail in the air. The little flock of four or five Canada geese out on the water begin to wonder what can be the matter with the fox. They swim up into the shallow water to investigate, when in dashes the fox and grabs one by the neck. The men have taken advantage of this trick and have trained dogs to do as the fox does. For lack of a dog men themselves have ambled about on their hands and knees to attract the birds.

The Wonders of Transposition.

The word "time" admits of a very peculiar arrangement of its letters. The four letters of the word transposed and read backward and forward and up and down give four perfect English and Latin words. It is said to be the only word in our language that will admit of so many transpositions and arrangements. Note the oddity of the square below:

T I M E
I T E M
M E T I
E M I T

The above words in English as well as in Latin are all complete, and the curious part of it is that reading them backward and forward and up and down gives the same result that transposing the letters in the original word does. Their significance as Latin words is as follows: Time, fear thou; item, likewise; meti, to be measured; emit, he buys.

Curious Facts About the Eye.

A very curious fact is the impossibility of moving your eye while examining the reflection of that organ in a mirror. It is really the most movable part of the face. Yet if you hold your head fixed and try to move your eye while watching it you cannot do it—even the one-thousandth of an inch. Of course if you look at the reflection of the nose or any other part of your face your eye must move to see it. But the strange thing is that the moment your endeavor to perceive the motion the eye is fixed. This is one of the reasons why a person's expression as seen by himself in a glass is quite different from what it is when seen by others.

Advice From Her Lawyer.

Timothy Coffin, who was prominent at the Bristol county bar in the last century, once secured the acquittal of an old Irishwoman accused of stealing a piece of pork. As she was leaving the courtroom she put her hand to her mouth and in an audible whisper said: "Mr. Coffin, what'll I do with the por-uk?" Quickly came the retort: "Eat it, you fool. The judge says you didn't steal it."—Boston Herald.

Oil Upon the Troubled Waters.

Lady—All your marine pictures represent the sea as calm. Why don't you paint a storm once in a while? Artist—We painters in oil can't paint a storm. I have often outlined a storm on the canvas, but as soon as I begin to spread on the oil colors the waves subside and the sea becomes as calm as a duck pond.—Punch.

Wholly Unnecessary.

"You don't even know how to make a lemon tart," remarked the cooking school girl, with the scorn. "It isn't necessary to make a lemon tart," replied the other. All the lemons I've ever seen were pretty tart already."

A Dodger.

"What started old Pinchappny to studying occult science?" "He wants to cultivate a new sense so he can see a bill collector through a brick wall."—Detroit Free Press.

Where to Get It.

"A simple look is all I crave," said the sentimental young man to the belle. "Then you'd better consult your mirror," she replied tartly.

Arrow Shields.

The other day I saw a little, modern book, in a green cover, on a table in a drawing room. I picked it up. It was about the early French in Canada, and my eye fell on a copy of a drawing by their leader, Champlain, or Champlain. The scene represented was an attack by the native allies of the French, the Algonquins, on a fort held by the Iroquois. The Algonquins advanced through showers of arrows under shields nearly as tall as themselves, like doors with rounded tops. Now, you may see exactly the same sort of shields in a picture of a lion hunt, in-laid in gold and silver, on the bronze blade of a dagger found by Dr. Schliemann in "the grave of Agamemnon." These monstrous Mycenaean shields cause much discussion among the learned. Why were they so huge? The Algonquins used the very same shields, hung from their necks, and the reason was the same—their battles were battles of archers, and nobody can parry a shower of arrows with a smaller shield. Shields grew small in Greece as bow and arrow went out and sword and spear came in.—London Illustrated News.

The Fiddle Drill.

The "fiddle drill" is one of the oldest ancient tools in existence. It is said to antedate Greek sculpture and is in use today in about the same form as it was 2,000 years ago. As its name implies, its action resembles a fiddle. The drill is of two pieces. In one hand a carver holds the drill stock, which is like a carpenter's brace, except that it is straight instead of having a crank. In the other hand he holds the "bow," which is strung with a brass wire and which is given a turn around the drill stock. To use the drill the carver places the drill stock against his breast, holding it with his left hand, and with his right he draws the bow back and forth, fiddle fashion. This imparts a rotary motion to the drill stock, and the drill is ground to cut in either way it turns. The fiddle drill is used in the finest work, in crevices where the sculptor could not reach with his chisel and hammer without endangering the carving.

The Worrying Habit.

I asked a physician what cure he would suggest for the worrying habit. "I would prescribe common sense," he said. "And if a man or woman hasn't got a stock on hand and can't cultivate one no doctor can give it to him or her. This worrying nonsense grows. The best means to cure it lies in the hands of the woman herself. If she will just call a little common sense to her aid, resolve not to borrow trouble, to be cheerful and think upon the best side of things, she will live longer and retain her beauty longer. Every woman wants to keep beautiful to the last. Why does she take the course which is sure to make her yellow skinned, dull eyed and thoroughly unlovely?" "Why, indeed?"—New York Globe.

Vanilla.

It is curious to read that vanilla was employed by the Aztecs of Mexico as an ingredient in the manufacture of chocolate prior to the discovery of America by the Spaniards and that it was brought to Europe as a perfume with indigo, cochineal and cacao ten years before the arrival of tobacco on our shores. The name vanilla is derived from the Spanish *vanilla*, a pod or capsule. Dampier described it as a little pod full of small black seeds and like the stem of a tobacco leaf, so much so that his men when they found the dried pods at first threw them away, "wondering why the Spaniards should lay up tobacco stems."—Chambers' Journal.

The Canadian Line.

The boundary line between Canada and the United States is marked with iron posts at mile intervals for a great part of its length. Cairns, earth mounds and timber posts are also used, and through the forests and swamps a line a rod wide, clear of trees and underwood, has been cut. Across the lakes artificial islands have been made to support the cairns, which rise about eight feet above the high water mark.—Exchange.

A Miser's Wish.

Greedylot, who is rather miserly, was recovering from a long illness. "How was it, doctor," he asked one day, "that I was able to live so many weeks without eating?" "Why, you were fed by the fever." "Are you sure?" Then after a moment's reflection, "I wish I could give it to my servants."

Speaking Their Minds.

The queer thing about the people who boast of always speaking their minds is that they nearly always have such disagreeable minds to speak. Did you ever hear any one preface a compliment, a commendation or anything gracious or pleasant by saying, "I always must speak my mind?"—Woman's Life.

On the Common Highway.

We are learning that a standard of social ethics is not attained by traveling a sequestered pathway, but by walking on the thronged and common road where all must turn out for one another, and at least see the size of one another's burdens.—Jane Addams.

Football.

By six causes a fool may be known: Anger without cause; speech without profit; change without motive; inquiry without an object; putting trust in a stranger; and wanting capacity to distinguish between friend and foe.

Passed.

Johnnie—What does that notice say over there, mother? Mother—It says, "No dogs admitted." Johnnie—But the dogs can't read, can they? How are they to know?

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ANOTHER STEP TOWARD HUMAN LIBERTY

The following excellent article has been prepared for the East Oregonian by Judge Stephen A. Lowell:

The same law, the same government and the same opportunity for all constitutes the sentiment upon which most rest all governments of the people. Until that high mark is reached republics are still in danger of reversion to government which shall be popular in name and monarchical in fact.

In this land two important classes are still beyond the purview of the ideal of equality presented by the fathers as the ultimate end of a system begun with the declaration of independence. The vast corporations, money combinations, styled the vested interests, appear to reckon themselves above it. Women are compelled by existing conditions to be subordinate to it—over them the shadow of the dark ages seems still to rest.

To the former, the interests, the most vital political question of the day, this occasion does not direct attention. This movement for the emancipation of sex, however, may if resulting in triumph, begin the correct solution of the greater problem.

The demand of women for equality of franchise appeals to me not on the grounds of ethics or gallantry—those are matters of taste and opinion—but upon the higher ground of common justice. Whether the right to vote, if granted, is ever exercised by them is not the issue. They are entitled to the privilege of every right and every phase of the moral law, and the real demand is not for some new right, but for the restoration of one taken from them, and to which they are entitled by all the authority of the common law, and the early precedents of the race.

Except by the intervention of the peculiar prejudices of the canon law, the civil equality of women with men as originally recognized would have continued. I believe in all the essentials of Christianity, in its eternal uplift upon civilization, in its truth, its divinity, but I gravely question the inspiration of the Apostle Paul. He has been the source of too many creeds and of too much prejudice, to impress his labors with unquestioned approval, either sacred or secular. The Master left no utterance which can be considered as doubting the equality of men and women, and the canon law finds its interpretation in the peculiar views of the brilliant yet eccentric apostle to the gentiles.

Woman Once Had Rights. Under William the Conqueror, in the beginning of the common law, women who were householders enjoyed the franchise equally with men, and as late as the 17th century they voted in England for members of parliament.

When this republic inherited the common law, and upon it founded the jurisprudence of the new nation, the word male was not used in the constitutions of any of the original states. Living indoors so much during the winter months creates a sort of a stuffy, want-of-ozone condition in the blood and system generally. Clean up and get ready for spring. Take a few Early Risers. These famous little pills cleanse the liver, stomach and bowels and give the blood a chance to purify itself. They relieve headache, sallow complexion, etc. Sold by Tallman & Co.


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