Mecessary Inequalities and Points in Which Legislation Will Prove To Be Powerless.

What the Result Will Be of Adopting the Eight-Hour Plan-Its Effect on Taxation.

A Nation's Progress.

The following article upon the eight-hour question from the pen of Edward Atkinson, the great economist, appeared in Bradstreet's April 24:

The late President Garfield once told me that he dated his intellectual life from the day on which he listened to a lecture by Ralph Waldo Emmerson, which seemed to him to have set his brain on fire; yet, when he tried to recall what had been said he could only remember one sentence, "Mankind is as lazy as it dares to be." It was a very true saying, and one which all persons who attempt to shorten the hours of labor by statute may well consider.

The hours of labor during which men and women must work in order to obtain subsistence are controlled by conditions which are wholly beyond the reach of statutes. This will become apparent if the occupations of all who work for gain, or for a payment in money, are sorted and considered, each class by itself.

Given land, labor,-mental, mechanical, and manual,-and capital, applied to the production and distribution of food, fuel, shelter, and clothing, and we attain at a given time, or in a certain average number of hours a day, a certain product, in each series of four seasons constituting one year. This product is exchanged by the measure of money among the whole population, each person obtaining a share, mainly by exchange. Very few persons, except farmers and farm laborers, consume any part of their own product.

WE ARE ALL INTERDEPENDENT. Now, if we consider Uncle Sam as a concrete individual, or as a person who is working his own farm and his own factory, we may readily conceive certain propositions, and we may reason upon them.

His land is of unbounded capacity with respect to his present wants. It is his knowledge how to work it which is limited. His number of hours a day is just twenty-four. His necessity is to produce a certain number of pounds of food a day, a certain number of vards of cloth a year, a certain number of tons of fuel, and a certain amount of shelter. He

ns lazy as he dares to be. The question is, What proportion of his time must be given to work! how much may be given to rest? In reply to the question it does not suffice to measure the time of those only who are engaged in gainful occupations or in workshop. Such work Uncle Sam does mainly for himself, but little assisted by his wife and daughters. According to the census of 1880 one person in each 2.90, or for convenience we may say that one person in three, of the whole population was engaged in gainful work for the purpose of earning money, but only a very small proportion of the force working for that other women were not engaged in most arduous household work? Are not many eight and ten bour husbands sustained by fourteen-hour wives, who toll almost night and day in the work of the household?

Where is THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW

for them? Who represents them in the legislature! So far as the hours of labor of those who work for money can be measured, the average hours seem to be between ten and eleven hours per day. The statistics upon the subject are not very complete, and the hours of labor vary greatly in different sections of the country at the present time and in the same place at different periods within the last forty years. Suffice it that at the present moment the present product of labor and capital working together between ten and eleven hours of each working day yields more food, more fuel, more material for clothing, more material for shelter, and more of all the necessities of life than the present population would consume at the present average standard of consumption, if it were evenly divided. Why not then shorten the hours of labor! someone asks. The reply is, They are shortening by consent rather than by statute. The general work of life is easier and the hours are shorter than they ever have been in any previous generation, for all persons who possess such a measure of personal intelligence as may enable them to grasp the opportunity offered them. In the absence of slavery or of statute compulsion each man makes his own hours of labor.

THE DIFFERENCE IN THE CONSUMPTION of oue man compared to another, be he rich or poor, is much more in quality than in quantity with respect to food measured by weight, to textile fabrics measured by yards, or to fuel for heating and cooking measured by tons.

In respect to the use of the materials which are converted into shelter, the present distribution is very uneven, as well as in respect to the distribution of small comforts and of luxuries. There is more inequality in dwelling places than in food and raiment. The disparity in the dwelling places is almost as great between different classes and conditions of working people as it is between the average of all the so-called working classes and of all the well-to-do of employing classes. The problem of clothing is almost solved. The food problem is in a fair way of solution. The problem of housing working people in comfort is still

Steam and water power have tended to great and unwholesome concentration. If light, heat, and power can hereafter be widely diffused through pipes or over wires the area of cities may be greatly widened, while an intensive system of agriculture may at the same time overcome

THE PRESENT ISOLATION OF THE PARMERS.

On the other hand, the proportion which strictly inxurious consumption bears to the total consumption, either in dwellings or in food and raiment, is very small. There are no data by which what may be called luxurious consumption can be accurately measured, but an approximate idea can be attained by an analysis of foreign imports.

The year 1880 was a very prosperous year. There was no compulsory idleness, no lack of employment for all who were willing to work. There was a quick foreign demand for the excess of our agricultural product, which would have rotted on the field except it had exported, because all who were willing to work were well nourished with export at over \$700,000,000. It represented of small salaries not much above

the year's labor of 1,300,000 to 1,350,000 persons who were engaged in agriculture and of 150,000 to 200,000 who were engaged in the mechanical arts or in manufactures. On the whole, it may be computed that between 9 and 10 per cent, of all those who were engaged in gainful occupation in this prosperous year found their market in a foreign country, without drawing from home consumption a single bushel of grain, pound of cotton, gallon of oil, or anything else that was

NEEDED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION. It is often assumed that the returns received in exchange for this export of our excess con-

sist of foreign luxuries, and if luxurious consumption may be approximately measured anywhere it would be in the proportion of luxuries in our foreign imports. But what are the In the classification of imports lately made

in the bureau of statistics of the treasury department we find that the imports of 1880 consisted of: Articles of food and live animals, \$199,165,963

Articles in a crude condition necessary to domestic industry...... 160,055,876 Articles partly or wholly manufac-

tured, also made use of in the processes of domestic industry.. 73,186,963

Manufactured articles ready for consumption......\$130,004,643

Articles of voluntary use, or lux-Total.....\$195,147,469

Total of all imports......8627,555,271 Even if the whole sum of the last two classes be charged to luxurious consumption, which would be very much beyond a true estimate, the whole expenditure for foreign luxuries did not exceed \$3 in each \$100 of the whole consumption of the United States. By far the larger portion of the manufactured articles ready for consumption consisted of machinery, chemicals, chinaware, rallway bars, and other articles of common and not of luxurious consumption. The actual foreign lux-

uries imported did NOT EXCEED \$100,000,000 IN VALUE.

If we add to this sum an equal sum for the expenditure of domestic products upon palatial residences and other strictly luxurious purposes, other than the common waste upon liquor, which is shared by rich and poor alike, we have not over 2 per cent, of the national consumption which can in any sense be called luxurious. Rum costs the people of this country three or four times as much as all other

Now, assuming that Uncle Sam works for gain at this time, aside from household work, an average of ten hours and a half a day, which is not far from the fact, then it follows that if all luxurious consumption were stopped, except the use of liquor, the saving of time would be less than the odd half bour. More than 25 per cent. of all our present work is necessary to meet our present standard of common welfare.

It therefore follows that with our present capital, skill, and intelligence ten hours or more of gainful work are absolutely required stated work in a factory, upon a farm, or in a in each working day in order to meet the pres ent standard of necessity or of common comfort. But it will not remain so.

Measuring time by generations of thirty-five years, we may be assured that in 1920 Uncle Sam will be able to save as much time and effort in the work of gaining a subsistance as he has saved since 1850, 1860, or 1865. It must be remembered that Uncle Sam has been subjectmoney consisted of women. Does it follow ed to the destructive influences of civil war during the generation ending in 1885. The last twenty years will serve better to

MEASURE HIS PROGRESS

than the whole period. For this purpose a few tween 1865 and 1885, and a part between earlier

Estimated gain in the population of the States, 1865 to 1885...... 63 Actual increase in the railway mileage, 1865 to 1885...... 270

Actual increase in the grain crops, 1865 to 1885...... 164 Actual increase in the cotton crop, 1865-Increase in the product of pig-iron, 1865-

Increase in the amount of insurance against loss by fire, 1865-6-7, as compared with 1883-4-5..... 241

Deposits in savings banks in Massachusetts, 1865, per head, 47 29 100; 1885, per head, 141 64-100; increase per capita.. 200 Wages of average mechanics in Massachusetts in 1860, \$1.68 per day; in 1885,

\$2 04 per day; increase..................21.43 Wages of specially skilled mechanics in Massachusetts in 1865, paper, \$2 75, in gold, \$1 25; in 1885, gold, \$3; increase,

The prices of 200 commodities, as computed by W. M. Grosvenor, were higher in 1865, than in 1885-In currency..... 95 In gold.....

The wages of cotton-mill operatives in New England were higher in 1885 than The tons moved one mile on the New

York Central and Hudson River railroad increased, 1865 to 1885, by...... 570 The charge per ton per mile on this line was 408 per cent higher in 1865 than in

The profit for moving one ton of freight on this line was 552 per cent greater in 1865 than in 1885 559 The debt of the United States per capita

was greater on Aug. 1, 1865, than Aug. 1, 1885, in the ratio of \$84 to \$24 250 THESE PACTS PROVE

that while wealth has greatly increased in the period under consideration the annual product has increased in yet greater measure. The necessary result has been a great decrease in the rate of interest upon capital, in the profits of railways, and in the share of profits which capital has been able to secure to itself from the general pruduct. In the same period prices have decreased while the wages have increased. Mechanics and factory operatives in the castern states earn in gold coin, on the average, 25 per cent more than they earned in 1865, if the rates then paid in paper currency be reduced to a gold standard, while the prices of two hundred principal commodities which they consume are 50 per cent less than at that date at a gold standard. The figures on which these computations are based are the agricultural reports and the census, "Poor's Railway Manual," the reports of the Iron and Steel association, the report of the commissioner of savings banks, the pay-rolls of several manufacturing establishments where constant employment has been given, the reports of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics and labor, the compilation of the prices of all the prin-

venor, and other authentic sources. No one questions the hoge significance of the last twenty years. Who has consumed it? what was left. This excess of product which Ninety per cent at least of the population of the same as the payments of ten bours outside we could not use was valued at the ports of the United states are wage-earners, receivers the government works, the only result can be

cipal articles of common use by W. M. Gros-

or small farmers who work as hard as their hired men. These classes constitute the great body of consumers. If they have not enjoyed the increased abundance what has become

It may be said that a comparison with 1865 is unfair because the searcity of war had not been surmounted. Let this be admitted, and make the comparison on any intermediate date, and it will be found that the same rule holds, subject to temporary fluctuations such as those caused by the alternate boom and depression in railway construction. The rule is prices has been steadily downward, while the tendency of earnings and wages has been steadily upward, until it can be affirmed that in this year (1886) the wages of labor as 2 whole were never so high and the cost of subsistence was never so low, due regard being given to the kind and quality of the dwelling place, food, and clothing as compared with the conditions of any previous generation

If, then, it be admitted that the present average standard of comfort or welfare, after setting aside less than half an bour a day to meet the demands of luxury other than rum, calls for an an average of ten hours' work on the part of those who work for gain, supplemented by yet longer hours on the part of the

DO THE HOUSEHOLD WORK, the question arises, how can we shorten the hours to the standard of eight, as is now so peremptorily demanded by a great many hon-

The method usually attempted in this as in

many other so-called reforms is by legislationthat is to say, by compulsion. The law says to certain owners of capital: "If you permit your machinery to be operated beyond a certain number of hours a day the state constable shall stop you, and the court shall fine you. The effect of the law is to limit a certain large class of working people and a certain small class of capitalists in the use of the one dement in life which we all have in common. rich and poor alike, and that is in the use of their time. The law says, both to the capital: ists and the laborer, you may use each twenty four hours which you cajoy to common just as you please, provided you stop that water-wheel or that steam engine, that leam or that spindle, that particular sewing machine in a clothing factory, that special planing-machine in a wood-working factory, that kind of saw which is operated by water, etc., at the end of a certain number of hours, say ten, which is now about the average where there are any such

meh twenty-four. THIS CLASS OF STATUTES. s very different from those which are, unfortuuntely, necessary to prevent parents from overworking their children. The guardianship of children can be accomplished without stopping the wheels of industry, and such laws for the protection of children are unfortunately necessary. Ought they to be extended to

statutes. The demand is now being made that

steam-engines at the end of eight hours in

adults? The laws of Massachusetts and of some other states now practically forbid capitalists and adult workmen from making free contracts, and they impose fines upon the owners of capital who use it beyond ten hours a day. The demand now being made is that the limit of such use shall be eight hours, subject to a similar fine. The law does not forbid men and women from operating hand-looms or sewingmachines or fabricating anything in their own houses, or doing any other kind of work in their own way, night or day. It merely stops that factory by a fine upon the owner if be of failure of nutrition of the hair, and

employs men or women in it. This is class legislation, as the facts will prove. It must be justified as such if justified at all. In 1880 the collective work of the factory gave employment to less than one huncomparisons may be made, a part of them be- dred persons in each one thousand of all who ware engaged in all gainful occupations. If it be assumed that not only all persons who were engaged in the textile arts, including printing and dyeing, about 500,000 in number, but also that all who were engaged in

> WORKING IN METAL WORK or upon metals, as machinists, molders, and the like, or all tailors, tailoresses, and seamstresses; all boot and shoe makers, and all persons in the lesser arts which can be caried on in any factory to which such laws can or could be applied, were actually gathered together in such factories, even then the whole number was and is less than one hundred in each one thousand workers.

Whom else in the nature of things can the law restrict? It may establish a legal measure of what number of hours constitute a day's work when no specific number is named in a contract, just as the law prescribes what the legal rate of interest shall be when no specific rate is named in a promise to pay, but beyond that the law is powerless. It can not compel the carpenter to lay down his hammer, the cook to put out the fire, the blast-furnace man to let the charge of iron cool off, the washerwoman to cease scrubbing, the editor to drop his pen, or the printer to cease setting up type, or the farmer to stop driving the plow. It can stop the cotton mill, but it can not stop the paper-mill, where the work must be continuous. It may stop the rolling mill, but it can not stop the iron furnace, where the necessity of the work is also continuous. It can stop the clothler who operates sewing machines with steam power, but it can not stop the woman who runs the sewing-machine with her foot. It can not stop the baker whose oven must be kept hot by means of the same fuel

WHICH RUNS THE CLOTHER'S ENGINE. In short, no law limiting or restricting the hours of labor can possibly reach two, probably not more than one, in each ten of those who must work in order that all may subsist, Therefore, in just the measure that the smaller number are restricted in the use of their time, their tools, or their capital, must the larger number work longer in order to attain their present standard of comfort and welfare.

The law may limit the hours of work which may be applied in a particular way, but it can not limit the aggregate of work without limiting the product. It can only promote searcity by means of obstruction; it can not produce

abundance. Men and women may be made slaves, or may be deprived of a part of their liberty, by restrictive statutes, backed by force. They can only be restored to liberty by the annulent of such statutes. But it does not follow that the law must be repealed in order that it may be annulled. If the advocates of an eighthour law should get it passed, the first efforts of the same men who had promoted it would be to find out how to work overtime to the best advantage in order to gain a better subsistence. The logical result of all such acts by which the free contract of adults is restricted in certain specific cases is to limit the full use and benefit of labor-saving machinery, and thus to lengthen the necessary hours of work of the great mass of the people. If the hours

of labor of ROVERNMENT EMPLOYED. are reduced to eight, while the payments are that the outside working people who pay the | Perley Poore in Boston Budget.

taxes will be called upon to pay the increased tax which must of necessity be imposed.

Then, it may be asked, in what manner and on what authority can we predict easier work and shorter hours of labor in 1920 than we enjoy in 1886? Only upon this: The progress of a free nation may be retarded by war, by paper money, by excessive and 'll-adjusted taxation, by obstructions to commerce, by meddlesome statutes depriving a small part of the population of the privilege of free contract which are inoperative as to all the rest, or by the forced circulation of undervalued coin made of depreciated silver, but it can not be that the tendency of profits, interest, and stopped. The nation is greater than the government; the people are wiser than their legislators. They sustain such laws as are just and righteous, while they adjust their works as well as they may to obstructive statutes or else ignore them and render them inoperative only working a little harder and a little longer when they can not avoid restrictions, than would be necessary except for such legal obstructions to their onward march.

Concerning Baldness.

It has been estimated that one-half the adult men of American birth living in our cities are bald-headed. The estimate is not exaggerated if it is applied to persons above the age of 30, and it may be rather under that mark. If, now, it be conceded that one-half of our American business and professional men are bald at the present time, it would be interesting to speculate as to the condition of their descendants some hundreds of years from now. The probabilities point toward a race of hairless Americans, for baldness is especially liable to be propagated in the male line, and to appear a little earlier in each generation. The American nation is threatened with the catastrophe of a universal alopecia. It appears to be worth while, therefore, to consider the subject of prevention, since no means have yet been found for the cure. Why are so many men bald before their

The answer has always been that it s due to the excessive strain and ceaseless mental and physical activity to which American methods of business and modes of living conduce. From the law shall stop all these water-wheels and the visitor's gallery of the stock exchange, for example, one views a mob of shining plates belonging, as a rule, to rather young men.

Any reformer, however, who expects to prevent baldness by changing American habits may as well stop at once for he will surely fail. Now, there may be perhaps, help in some other quarter. The sons of prematurely bald fathers should bear in mind that if they wish to save their hair it will only be through industrious attention to their scalp. This much neglected surface should be thoroughly cleansed at certain intervals. It should be carefully and regularly examined, and if it be unbealthy, dry and skurvy, the proper applications should be made to it. The wearing of unventilated hats is one of the greatest sources these must be avoided. The beard never falls out, because it gets plenty of sunlight and air. These are what the hair of the scalp needs, also. Women are less bald than men, because, for one reason, their scalps are better ventilated. In fine, civilization has made the hair-producing organs of the scalp delicate and feeble. They have to be nursed and cared for, or they atrophy and disappear. Young Americans who do not wish to lose their hair before they are 40 must begin to look after their scalps before they are 20. - Medical Record.

A Man To Be Feared.

Ward H. Lamon, Mr. Lincoln's Illinois partner, who was appointed by him United States Marshal for the Distriet of Columbia, was a man of gigantic size and herculean strength. Among the many anecdotes related about him was that of his contest with Secretary Stanton for the jail at Washington. Marshal Lamon had in custody there a number of colored prisoners, legally committed, and he refused to liberate them. One afternoon he went to dine with old Mr. Blair out at Silver Springs, and when he returned his deputy informed him that the military Governor had taken possession of the jail, and put there a guard composed of a sergeant and about a dozen men. Lamon consulted Mr. Carlisle, his regular counsel, and, ascertaining that this intrusion was utterly without warrant of law, announced his intention of retaking the place, which he proceeded to do at once. Alone, and with his own hands, he disarmed the entire party, took the keys from the sergeant, locked up him and his men, stacked their arms, and then reported to Mr. Lincoln the state of affairs. He was sustained, as he always was, by the President, and in due time a ponderous opinion from Father Bates put an end to the military siege of the jail, which Lanron meanwhile had put into a posture of defense, and determined to hold at any cost. About the same time Mr. Stanton had made up his mind to seize a house that Lamon had bought and was titting up for the reception of his family. "If you do that," said Lamon, at the conclusion of the interview in which the Secretary had been very offensive, "I'll kill you." Stanton went immediately to the President, and informed him that the Marshal had threatened to murder him. "Well, Stanton," said Lincoln, "if he really said it, "I'd advise you to prepare for your end, for he's a man of his word. But I'll see him, and try if I can't get him to spare your life on my account. He's a great friend of mine, you know." But Mr. Stanton did not take the house .- Bene

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