

WAGES IN CHINA.

Recently the extraordinarily low wages paid in Japan for labor and the large share which woman have in all industries in that county were mentioned in The Tribune. A report is now at hand showing the pay given for a variety of work in China, a far more populous empire. Chinese immigration to the United States is checked by law, but thoughtful people cannot avoid considering the possibilities of an expansion of the manufacturing trades in those Oriental countries to a point where an overflow of production will occur. Reassuring statements come from China about its cotton mills. We are told that the latter are not likely to be able to make cloth enough even for the home market for several years. All the same, there is a distinct danger in that quarter, from which protection will some time become necessary. No intelligent American workman can look at the following figures without some serious thoughts.

The United States Consul General at Shanghai sends to Washington a report in which he says that in addition to fool the average pay given to craftsmen is as follows: Blacksmiths, 13 cents a day; boot-makers, 10; bricklayers 10; carpenters, 11; cabinetmakers, 13; compositors, 20 to 50; tailors for natives, 10; tailors for foreigners, 22; coachmen, 12 to 23; mills hands in cotton factories, 18; and merchantists in the same, 11 to 22. The last two class of workers do not receive food in addition to money. It is interesting to compare these figures regarding the cotton industry with those contained in a recent statement regarding the same business in Rhode Island for the panic year of 1893 and 1894. The 11,000 men, women and children then employed in cotton mills averaged a little over \$1 a day.

The low wages which the Chinese accept are made possible by three things: They live on a vegetable diet almost exclusively, and this is very cheap; the crowd together like vermin, several families (!), it is said, occupying one large room divided off by partitions; and their clothing is exceedingly simple. But what American would ever submit to such privations and indecencies?

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