

than in France, but the wage rate of the former country is far in advance of the wage rate of the latter. There is more poverty to-day in England than there was 200 years ago, and yet the wage rate today is quadruple what it was then. It is a curious fact, and one worthy the attention of the greatest minds, that the increase in the daily stipend of labor has not diminished, nay, nor even checked, the growth of poverty.

For above 200 years the authorities of Greenwich Hospital, England, have kept a careful record of the wages of the several crafts employed in manual labor. This record is quoted by Lord McCauley, and it shows that in England the wage rate has persistently forged forward until, in many cases, it is now five times what it was, while in every instance it has more than doubled during the space covered by the record. At the same time there has been a marked decrease in the hours of labor while a seeming paradox appears in the fact that every shortening of the labor day is followed by an increase of the daily stipend.

Labor has made its greatest advance within the past forty years. Commencing in England, under the leadership of Ernest Jones, Capt. Mason and George Odger, it has won governmental recognition and secured the establishment of boards of arbitration.

The spirit of labor organization, education and agitation, did not reach America until after the war between the States, since which time, however, the laboring men of the United States have allowed no grass to grow beneath their feet.

The workingmen of America are in advance of the workers of the world. They are better educated and better organized. And, barring some serious mistakes, into which they have been led by cranks and irreconcilables, who from time to time drifted to the front as leaders, their propaganda have been conducted decently, intelligently and successfully. Hours have been shortened and wages have been raised, and that, too, without disturbing seriously the business machinery of the country.

Today the first-class American mechanic receives better wages than can be commanded by the great majority of professional men, and the labor day of the mechanic contains fewer hours than does the labor day of the professional man. Los Angeles mechanics receive from \$3.50 to \$6 per diem, generally nine hours—a larger rate of compensation than can be obtained by the average professional man.

The progress made by labor, and the vast possibilities that lie before the laborer, and within his grasp, ought to teach him moderation, conservatism and a sense of justice toward his two partners, Capital and Brains. Acts of despotism, arbitrary combinations for the enforcement of excessive demands, strikes—all these measures are blots upon the record of Labor. They are weaknesses that tend to undermine the solid foundation upon which the cause should rest. Injustice, oppression and despotism are always weak in the long run. Only Right is really strong. We congratulate labor upon its onward and upward march, and recommend it to hold fast to the policy of intelligent conservatism, to which it is indebted for the position it now occupies and the blessings it now enjoys.

Upward March of Manual Labor.

The progress made in the direction of elevating and ennobling labor—manual labor—is far greater than is generally known even to the average labor reformer. The advance made in bettering the material being of those who work with their hands and arms, within the past fifty years, is one of the wonders of the nineteenth century.

It must be remembered that poverty cannot always be applied as a true measure or gauge of the condition of labor. In this State, during the palmy days of '49 and '50, when no man who labored received less than \$5 per day, poverty still reigned, and the tramp and the chap "dead broke" were as familiar then—perhaps more so—than now.

The rigors of poverty may be alleviated, but it is difficult to see how they can be wholly rubbed out. Poverty is a comparative condition, and its aggravation can nearly always be attributed to the acts, or the moral, mental and physical make-up, of those who represent the state of chronic or hopeless pauperism. Therefore, we repeat, the measure of labor cannot always be measured by the depth or quality of existing poverty. Wages is the true rule by which the material condition of those who labor must be measured.

There is more poverty in England