- Nathaniel McKay Tells of His Tour Through British Manufacturing Centera.

PEEP AT POVERTY IN LONDON.

Working Women at Masculine Labor -Stern Facts for Our Wage Earners.

Free-trade slavery still exists in the British empire notwithstanding the reduction of the American tariff, which benefits the English manufacturer, but does not reach the British workman. Eight years ago I visited England for the purpose of studying the condition of its kind, containing 305 beds. On the

This "court" was horseshoe pattern and contained 9 houses-18 dwellings -5 on one side and 4 on the other, and these three closets were all there was for this whole "court."

Board and Lodging. These hovels are inspected by the police. I found a certificate in the hall of one of them dated March 22, 1803, and signed "A. T. Wood, chief police super-intendent." These certificates are signed at his office, and probably he never visits the places,

One man told me he had for his breakfast bread and butter and tea-no meat -and for his dinner bread and bacon, but meat was a luxury he could not afford. The tenants flocked around me by the dozen in Miller's court. I would have been glad to have taken some photographs of these scenes and "courts, but the weather was too cloudy for any satisfactory results.

passed from this court to another, and, going to a door, I asked, "What do you do for a living?" The man there answered. "I take in lodgers."

"What do, you charge?" "Fourpence (8 cents) per night or sevenpence (14 cents) a couple." (The man saw there were two of us.)

l'assing on, we came to the largest of



Chainmakers of Cradley Heath earning from \$1.29-1.50 per week, working ten hours per day. Taken August 26, 1896, by N. McKay.

began my investigation, where I found more destitution than I had ever seen in any other city.

The "Cosspool" of Manchester.

Standing, looking up Angel meadow, a graveyard on the left and behind one of the worst "courts" in Great Britain, public houses of course, and all around a population struggling in the ocean of morns and social degradation, it has been called the "cesspool of Manches-Its history is a history of dirt. vile crime, drunkenness, riot, cruelty and robbery. The houses are low and dilapidated, and many are villainous holes, unventilated, undrained, corrupt, recking with smells, utterly infamous and sickening both to body and mindall this within a few minutes' walk of the Queen's hotel, the Exchange and railway stations.

There are scores of rooms furnished

the working people and comparing their | ground floor of this lodginghouse is a wages with those of Americans. Four large room for the men to sit in. The years ago I made a second visit for the kitchen below contained a large closed same purpose and on August 12, 1890, I cooking range, which was red hot, and left New York, for the third time, to the odor of the cooking going on made it make another investigation. I arrived anything but enviable to be in. The lodgin Manchester on August 20 and there ers all cook for themselves and have a variety of things to cook and they are not very particular as to how many different things are cooked together in the same pot. We went upstairs and saw 305 beds, which are let at three different prices-6, 5 and 12 cents per night. The 12-cent lodger has a place boarded off to himself-no water, no towel,

Wealth and Poverty Mixed.

Manchester, with her 500,000 population, boasts of her wealth and manufacturing resources and one would suppose that all of the people alike lived in palaces; but to examine into the exact condition I find quite the reverse, Thousands of these people live on alcohol. When they earn any money, it goes for alcohol chiefly.

Coming back to my hotel, the Queen's, facing one of the finest streets in Manchester, is the Royal infirmary, all along the front of which there are seats which



Mrs. Eliza Head, age 29, a chainmaker of Cradley Heath. The background shows on the left the blacksmith shop and on the right the home. She makes \$2.16 a week. Taken August 26, 1806, by N. McKay.

to the hovels I saw-and in one I asked of a woman:

"Do you rent this?" "Yes," was the "What do you pay for it?" "Four and

six (\$1.08) a week. "Have you the whole house?" "No, sir; only this room." (Size 12 by 10.) "Do you sleep in here?" "Yes, sir; we sleeps, eats, cooks and everything

"You have a room above-up the stairs?" "No, sir; that's another par-"Can I go up?" "Yes, I dare say be

What do you do for a living?" "My they cannot sell their goods at all to husband sells sandstone, sand and blue America. Yet they despise McKinley mole, or he gives the stone and gets for, as the London Times stated a few bottles, bones or old iron for days ago, "his infamous tariff bill."

"What does he earn in a week?" "Well, it depends sometimes more, ford, which is the largest woolen and sometimes less. One day perhaps a shil- shoddy manufatcuring district in the ling (24 cents), another day 1 and 6

cents) and so on." I should say here that the agent finds the pots, pans, bed and fire, such as they are, for I will not attempt to describe them. This I will say-no dog of mine should ever be allowed to sleep on what is called a bed in those places. The whole outfit was not worth 10

"Have you a back yard?" "No, sir." "Where is your closet, "There, sir," pointing to three closets

in the street.

with a table, a chair, a thing called a [are occupied by poor people from the bed and a few pots. These rooms are slums. I was informed that many sat subjet for 18 cents a night for two- there the whole night, so I arose early size 12 by 10-where people eat, cook | the next morning and went across to the and sleep. I entered some of these seats and found that 30, 12 of whom houses-if such a name could be given were women, one with a child, had sat there all night because they had not the necessary 6 cents for a bed.

The trade of Manchester is very much depressed at present-awaiting the presidential election in the United States. The merchants of the United States are making very small purchases now, because they fear a new tariff bill and because American consumption is lessened through the idleness of the people and their inability to buy. The manufacturers and shippers here do not want any change in the present American tariff. But they say they would rather have McKinley for President than Bryan, for if Bryan is elected and a silver "Before I go up I would like to ask, standard declared in the United States,

Trade Paralysis in Bradford.

At this question the woman smiled. Leaving Manchester, I visited Bradworld. Trade is paralyzed there as far as United States shipments are concerned at present. The manufacturers are awaiting the election of the President of the United States, to know tectionist. The merchants are very much agitated on this account—for they can little space for a washroom where there if the poor people at Wigan, and there is room for only one person. In the front is room all the cooking is done and it is room all the cooking is done and it is room also used for a living room and dining also used for a living room. Upstains, is a room of the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women at weak, wheeling coal in the middle. Eack of this was a of the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women at weak, wheeling coal in the middle. Eack of this was a little space for a washroom where there are no women at weak, wheeling coal in the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women at weak, wheeling coal in the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women at weak, wheeling coal in the middle. Eack of this was a little space for a washroom where there are no women are no women at weak, wheeling coal in the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are no women at the little space for a washroom where there are no women are no women at the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are no women at the little space for a washroom where there are no women are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are no women are not the poor people at Wigan, and there are not the poor people at wash. whether he will be a free trader or a pro-

to manufacture your goods and supply your own people? His answer was: "We want the American market. It is the greatest market in the world and during the time the McKinley bill was a law our manufac-

turers were quite paralyzed."

There was exported from Bradford during the last nine months of the existence of the McKinley law \$4,478,000 worth of goods. This was from January . 1894, to September 30, 1894. Durius the corresponding period of the following year (from January 1, 1895, to September 30, 1895,), under the Wilson bill, the exports from Bradford amounted to \$21,171,000. Five times as much under the Wilson bill as under the McKinley bill. The total exports for the year 1895 from Bradford amounted to \$27,745,000. These exports include thirty-seven items, but consist chiefly of card clothing, cotton goods, iron and steel, machinery, hosiery, stuffed goods, worsted goods, yarns, silks, etc.

Mr. Meeker, United States consul at Bradford, furnished me these statistics, which were taken from his reports to the state department.

We manufacture similar goods in America, but on account of the Wilson tariff bill we have been deprived of the chance to manufacture them, and the money which should have been paid to our own working people has been paid to the laboring people of Great Britain. Our chimneys have ceased smoking, while theirs are in full blast. Our working people are idle and deprived of a living on account of this iniquitous, free trade, Wilson tariff.

Business Thrives in Birmingham. I left Bradford on August 24 for Birmingham, passing through Leeds and Sheffield, whose iron and steel works are in full blast. Not only in these places, but all over England, this line of industry is prospering. And the factories are running full time, and the greater and live in the same room all huddled part of their product is shipped to the together. The girls are very smart at United States. And while their works the forge. I set five girls to work in

two) and he told me it was his wife, who was very sick. All around were signs of poverty. It was not fit for hu-man beings. It made me chill with pity as I looked on this terrible scene. Going through a little court about 10x 10 feet, in the rear of this house, I came to the shop where one of his daughters makes chain with another woman, asked her name and she told me Clara

Boxley. Her age is 22 years, She has been making chain for five years and receives from \$1.75 to \$2.16 a week for her work. She makes threeeighths inch chain and is paid \$1.02 for 112 pounds. For breakfast she has bread and butter and tea and sometimes a piece of bacon. She told me she worked from 7 o'clock in the morning until 7 in the evening; that the only reason she staid there was because she could not save enough money to pay her

fare away from the town. The buildings kock as if they but stood for centuries, and as I passed through the little court leading into the house and which is walled on every side by houses I counted fifteen little children from 2 to 6 years of age playing to-gether in all the fifth that could surround a blacksmith shop in this district. Across the alley was another shop where another daughter was making chain. She is married, has one child and maker

\$2.16 per weck. She has been making chain for twenty years, having commenced when she was 12 years old. Her husband, a chainmaker also, carns from \$3 to \$4.50 a

week. Mrs. Polly Fowkes has four daughters making chain. She is 54 years old and has made chain since she was 7 years of age, but is now too old to work at it any more. Each of the daughters makes from \$1.20 to \$1.50 per week. They live in a little old house, with stone flooring. Here they cook and est



Emily Parsons, age 22, Cradley Heath, Eng., 20 years a chalumaker. Works ten hours per day and earns \$2.16 a week. The building is her blacksmith shop. Taken Aug. 26, 1806, by N. McKay.

are running full time our people are idle. I the blacksmith shop. They worked 30 Today the goods that are being made in Leeds and in Sheffield would, were it not for the Wilson bill, be made in the

United States. I spent a day in Birmingham, which is another thriving and prosperous manufacturing center. Here also the people are very desirous that no change be made in the present American tariff schedule which would result in depriving them of our market for their goods.

The British Chain Gang.

After leaving here I went to Cradley Heath among the women chainmakers and women blacksmiths to witness the misery there which I had visited in



Shee Worn by Wigan Women.

1898 and in 1802. There are women there by the thousands who make chain for a living in old, low buildings adjoining their houses.

One man, William Boxley, said be was 56 years old and carned 90 cents a day as a laborer, when he could work. lower floor was a room with a stone and can earn from \$3 to \$4 daily. There

minutes and made me 14 pounds of three-eighths chain. Each piece was over two feet long, and they worked like beavers to see who could make the longest piece. They work ten hours a day I gave them a shilling spice when they all came into the room, and I asked them how long it would take to varn that amount. They replied, "It would take more than a day" (to carn 25 cents). I thought, "Miscrable England!"

Women Coal Miners.

I did not visit Wigan this time (as I have done twice before), but there is no chauge in labor there; the poorhouses which I described and reproduced in 1992 still stand. It is a pitiful sight to witness the poor women there, half starved and half clad, wheeling coal on the top of the pits for the small pittance o 40 to 50 cents for ten hours' work. reproduce here a cut of the shees that tricts, heavy clogs with big nails in the

The situation has not changed yet. As long as there is coal in the pit there will be women to wheel it. At one time this class lived and had their families in the cont mines, but l'arliament prohibited this, and now they do the wheeling on the top of the pits. With this cheap labor no wonder coal is cheap in this country. This coal is used on the very steamers and vessels which carry England's free trade labor product to America to compete with our labor and manu-

factures. Pa., writes me: "We pay our miners 70 the floor. The applicants are admitted Charles L. Snowden of Brownsville, Three of this daughters are chainmakers cents per ton, or \$2.60 per 100 bushels after 6 p. m. in the summer time and and one works in a brickyard, carrying (76 pounds to the bushel). One man can after 4 p. n. in the winter time. As brick. I went into his house. On the put from 150 to 200 bushels per day



A smap shot taken in Whitechapel, showing how the poor get their rest.

Taken August 28, 1896, by M. McKay.

floor and an old-fashioned fireplace are no poorhouses in Brownsville staring with ovens on each side and a place for these working people in the face. They coal in the middle. Back of this was a make from six to eight times the wages

One pumper to every St persons. It elight paupers to every 1000 persons. Cost to maintain these paupers cost to maintain the queen and the royal family. \$2,003,779 Cost to maintain the president

and bis secretaries The population of the British empire. including India and the colonies, is S46. 000,000. There are 50 colonies and 40 distinct governments.

Life in London.

I arrived in London August 28, suc made a visit to Whitechapel. I visited a lodging house on Osborne street. I our last census report of 1860 asked for the proprietor and was introduced to him. They call him "the governor" to distinguish him from other cach person being \$488. The avers

of these societies are located and include some of the ter-ated in the Booth table. I control the wages of their vaand were it not for the stand their wages would be reduced manufacturer to a lower stand they are at present, which is one-half of what is paid in Amo

Blaber Wages in Americ



Daughters of Mrs. Fowkes, che lumakers of Cradley Heath, earn \$1,20-1 10 a week. a day. Taken August 26, 1896, by N. Mckay.

men. His name is Wildemouth. He | England for each person (taken lodges 391 persons in his house every reports published by l'arliament) is al night. His rooms are 6 by 6 feet and he 7280, a difference in favor of American receives 12 cents per night for each of | cf \$208 per capita. Now there are the these rooms.

(in Whitechapel) where I saw a place angle from smiths 53 per cent. more called the Victoria home (kept in the they are paid in England; our same manner as the one on Osborne smiths, 102 per cent. more; our same manner as the one on Osborne street), where the roomers pay from 6 to 12 cents per night. Then I went through the thickest part of Whitechapel on alley called Petticont lane. The ment bunging in the stores and on the sidewalks was so fifthy that it sickened me and I could not tarry long enough to eren ask the price of it. I asked the price of herrings-1 cent each. Bread was I cent a loof, and it was hard looking bread; potntoes one-half cent pound; onions one-half cent a pound; pounds of carrots for 2 cents. Such a lilthy trading market would disgust a stole. They live in filth, breed in fith and die in fith. knowing nothing else. The "Cusual Ward."

Then I went to a public institution known as a cusual word, the same one I visited eight years ago, I found it just as it was in 1888. The keeper, or gnardian, told me this ward had been in existence for more than thirty years and that there were thirty such places in London at present. These institutions are kept as public places and are really poorhouses. If a men has no money, be can go there and apply for admittance, which he grets if the place is not already filled. When received, they are kept in all the free-trade fallacies of the confinement for two nights and one day, cratic party and cannot be dis

sauds of people in England who do I went from there to Commercial street | receive one-half this \$280. We pay makers, 47 per cent. more; shop helpers, 95 per cent. more; our be carpenters, 165 per cent. more; our ductors (on express trains), 849 per more; our locomotive engineers, 191 p. cent, more; our police, 200 per et more: our telegraph operators, 105 cent. more; our train dispatchers, per cent. more, and our common in all classes of labor is the cases these examples I mention,

The engineers who run the fastest but \$10.80 per week for ten house day. The firemen get \$5,82 per week a 98 cents per day. The guards (correspond with our conductors) from \$4.80 to \$0.72 per week. The per week. This is a sample of the of English labor. Our engineers America on the express trains 1 \$31.50 per week, one conductor and our brakeman \$13. W than double the wages paid in where railroad fare is higher and coal cheaper than in America.

The following table of wagen a



Mrs. Fowkes' daughters work ten hongs per day, sam from \$1.26-1.50 per teach... Taken at Cradley Heath, August 26, 1696.

at the expiration of which time they are

Nobody is allowed to come to these places more than once a month, and he can stay no longer than the time prescribed. The ward I risited accommodated fifty-five men and thirty-two women. The beds consist of a narrow strip of canvas stretched like a hammock between two Iron rode about a foot from I hath in one of the six boths in the ward and their clothes are fumigated and disinfected. After the bath they have their supper of six ounces of bread and a pint of grael. For their bed they are given three blankets. For breakfast they receive the same food as for supper. For dinner, in addition to the bread and gruel, they are given 114 ounces of cheese. The total cost for earing for these people during the period of their onfinement, including the five meals, is

I cents each. Advice to Americans.

My advice to every American workingman is, as I have said before, to proert his own rights and the rights and privileges of his family and not to folow the whims, cries and falseboods of the free-trade politician who seeks to have goods imported into the United States which are made by cheap punper inhor because he thinks the goods can be cold cheaper than if they were made

If the wages of the American workingmen are not reduced to the standard of those in England, and the goods are not made in America, he has no money to purchase these cheap goods with. Being deprired of work, where are they to get their money to make their purchases

Labor in London. The following statistics are taken from Booth's "Life and Labor of the People of London," showing the number of peocity of London: Tailors. Boot and shoemakers. Intters. letmakers. Machinista. Drapers and hosiers. Clerks. Cabmen, coschmen, busmen, etc.... Railway service, labor, etc.....

above. Til.

TAKEN FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES

londactors, express ...

Blacksmiths. Carpenters, hones. Carpenters, ship. Car drivers, Eng. 6s. 12 hrs., Amer, \$2..... Engineers, London Northwestern and Y. Central, coccession Piremen, express.

Hodenriers.

Holders on, boiler shops,
Joiners, house, Liverpool
Laborers in streets, London.
Longshoremen, N. Y.
docks 22 to 40e per he;
London docks 12e per

Mr. Machinista, Int class.... Machinista, 2d class.... Masons, 8 hours..... Molders, iron. sinters, lasterets. mbers., recessories inters, job. ATOM.

Riverers.

Riage drivers (anne sa horse car drivers).

Telegraph operators.... Regiand— Average first year's sere-Average ten years' serrlee. semmenter en en en