

American and European Wages

The comparative tables of wages recently published by the United States Bureau of Labor and Statistics show that, during the last five years, wages have risen and hours have been shortened both in our country and abroad. Wages are much higher, and hours much shorter, in the United States than in Europe. The average work-day for eleven trades—

boiler-workers, machinists, brick-layers, carpenters, compositors, painters, plumbers, iron-moulders, hod-carriers, stone-cutters, and common laborers—is nine hours in this country, eight and a half in Great Britain, ten in Germany, and between ten and eleven in France and Belgium. The average hourly wages of these trades in this country is 35.1 cents, 17.3 cents in Great Britain, 10.5 cents in Germany, 13 cents in France, and 6 cents in Belgium. In other words wages are nearly twice as big here as in England, three times as big as in Germany, and nearly six times as big as in Belgium, which, in proportion to its size and output, is probably the greatest manufacturing country in the world. The American common laborer receives higher wages than the skilled German or French workman, and almost twice as much as the skilled Belgian. It is noteworthy, too, that the greatest differences in wages between the different countries appear in trades which have no tariff or other government protection.

The most significant fact about American wages is the purely arbitrary way in which they vary with trades which require practically the same skill and ability. Brick-layers, for instance, receive twice as much an hour as machinists. Probably this difference is due to the activity of the unions in some of the trades in which there is such an increase. For in the European countries, there is very little difference between the wage-levels of the various trades, and the wages of common laborers more nearly approach the wages of skilled workmen than in the United States.

But the most important fact shown by these comparative statistics is the great superiority of the American laborer and me-

chanic over the English or Continental workingmen in the same trades; for, as a rule, the wages which a man receives vary almost exactly with his capacity and economic efficiency.

But an interesting question is presented whether some of our trades unions have not pushed wages so high as greatly to lessen the yearly income of their members. If a man receive (say) \$3 a day, and have work for 300 days a year, he will make \$900. But, even though he receive \$5 a day, if he be idle half his time because of strikes and lockouts and the diminution of work, he will receive only \$750 per year. Some of the building-trade unions have now for several years made this very great mistake. For this reason, the scales of wages as computed by the Bureau imply a greater degree of prosperity than many skilled workmen now enjoy. —[The World's Work.]

A report issued by the Canadian Manufacturers Association shows a scarcity of 6,717 men, women, and children workers in the factories controlled by the members of the Association.



FIFTY YEARS

From a small beginning this firm has grown until our factories now cover many acres. Some of our machines sold fifty years ago are still giving faithful service.

WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINES

The Rotary Hook, a distinctive feature, originated with this machine, operates in one continuous revolving motion. Compared to a shuttle it works on exactly the same principle as the circular buzz saw in contradistinction to the cross cut saw. The work that can be accomplished, the speed that can be made, and the ease and convenience of operation all are features that have combined to give this machine its present enviable prestige.

THREE MILLION HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME

Ald n, Bidinger & Co.
WAUKEGAN, ILL.

The Ravinia Nursery

The Finest Stock in Northern Illinois. Inspected by the State Entomologist each year. Let us give you prices and estimates on your work.

A Full Line of Shade and Fruit Trees, Shrubbery, and Ornamental Stock.

One Mile West of Ravinia. Postoffice, DEERFIELD, ILL. **F. D. CLAVEY, Prop.**

DON'T

"Wear Your Life Away" trying to do washing in your own home this hot weather

THE RELIABLE LAUNDRY

will do it for you. Get their "Rough Dry" or "Family List," and save money.

ST. PETER BROS., Props.

FOR GOOD RELIABLE HARDWARE ENAMELWARE or TINWARE

See Chas. A. Kuist **McDONALD BLOCK CENTRAL AVENUE**

WORLD'S FAIR ART ALBUMS

THE WONDERS AND GLORIES OF THE GREAT WORLD'S FAIR IN ARTISTIC FORM FOR PERMANENT PRESERVATION.

These superb Albums should be in every American home, and we have arranged to place them within the reach of our readers so that EVERY ONE may have them.

ONLY 15c PER ALBUM

There are 20 of these Albums in all, each containing sixteen fine halftone views and bound in heavy felt paper covers. They are published at the rate of one a week, beginning August 15. The Albums may be ordered one at a time or the whole Set of 20 at once.

Come and see sample Album on file at our office and order one like it. The regular retail price is 25 cents each, but we will have them prepaid to your address for only 15c per Album. If you cannot call, send us an order now.

WE HAVE THEM FOR SALE

Sheridan Road News-Letter **Highland Park**

Edward M. Laing

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Cement Sidewalks and Basement Floors Laid

My Concrete is mixed by a McKelvey Mixer. The result is that it is properly done. Information and Estimates given.

GRAVEL AND CINDERS FOR SALE

Phone 411