

tragic death of one person through a visible blow than by the death of thousands through unseen causes. But these statistics certainly make visible the saving of a great many lives, and a return to old conditions and old death-rates is impossible without a public sense of public guilt.



Under the direction of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor for the State of New York a free employment bureau has been opened at 331 East Fourteenth Street, in this city. We give the exact address of this bureau because it seems to us that the State has here undertaken a work which ought not to be left in the hands of the costly private agencies, and that employers everywhere ought to join in making the work of this bureau a success. For such work as this a central agency is far better than a large number of smaller agencies, because every employer can be put in communication with a larger number of men seeking work, and every employee can be put in communication with a larger number of employers seeking workmen. The abuses connected with many of the private employment agencies are widely known. At some of them the applicants for work are simply swindled out of their money and deluded from week to week with the hope that they can get employment, when the managers of the agency know that it is beyond their power to furnish it. The New York law is in a measure in imitation of that of Ohio, the successful workings of which have already been reported in these columns. In an industrial State like New York, where the cities are larger and employers and those seeking employment less likely to know each other, the need of such a bureau is greater, and its success will be greater if the experiment is supported in the right spirit.



The strike of the tailors in New York City and Brooklyn continues; this last week it has been increased by the strike of the members of the Vestmakers' Union. Some of the contractors have absolutely refused to confer with the leaders of organized labor. Others have signed agreements, and still other contractors have resumed work with the non-union men. There have been few disturbances this week. The leaders in this strike are showing wisdom over former leaders in that they are advising peace methods, and are endeavoring, with quite a little success, to consolidate the different branches of the clothing trade. The Brotherhood of Tailors has for years hoped to deal directly with the manufacturers through a co-operative shop. This dream has now materialized. A shop was opened last week, and the first attempt of united labor to deal directly with the manufacturer has been made. It is an experiment, but one worthy of success. Should it succeed, it will create a revolution in the clothing trade of New York. Past history would seem to indicate that the difficulty between the workingmen, the contractors, and the manufacturers in the clothing trade is one of evolution, not revolution. Low wages compel the workers in this trade to live under the conditions that rarely make heroes. The physical necessities have through long years of low wages been reduced to a minimum, and hundreds of men and women employed in this trade are satisfied if they are kept just above the point of starvation and are provided with a place of shelter. The natural tendency of the race engaged in this line of employment is toward thrift, and thrift carried to the point of vice. This leads them to overcrowd their homes with boarders, thus increasing the physical disabilities of the wage-earners of the family. What is needed for the elevation of this people and the protection of their interests is a rigorous enforcement of the law against the sweat-shop system; the elimi-

nation of the middleman—the contractor; and compelling the manufacture of clothing to be done outside the living-rooms of the family. This last requirement will be enforced when the public sentiment of the workers themselves has been educated to protect their true interests, and not until then.



The recent strike among the weavers of St. Petersburg, although lost, demonstrates that the working people of Russia are acquiring a new power. The power which they have best shown is the power to control themselves during a time of great excitement. The strike was of course illegal, as all strikes are in Russia, but during the two weeks it was in progress the strikers refrained from any act which would have been illegal among the more progressive countries of Western Europe. The correspondent of the London "Times" says: "So far as we know, there have been no disturbances and no drunkenness. The majority of the strikers appear to have remained quietly in their homes." Everything was conducted so quietly that it was difficult for the police to learn who had organized the movement. The proclamations calling out the strikers were signed by an unknown "Committee for the Betterment of the Working Classes." In some way the strikers day after day were supplied with food and kept in line. The Government finally put down the strike by arresting strikers for breach of contract—the law requiring both employer and servant to give a fortnight's notice. These strikers, however, were tried before the regular courts instead of the administrative officers, who usually have dealt in such an arbitrary fashion with labor agitators. The demands of the strikers were an increase in wages and a reduction of the hours of labor to ten and a half per day, instead of thirteen or fourteen as at present. Although the men returned to work without obtaining any concession of importance, the Russian Government has recognized the new strength of the labor movement by summoning the Czar's Council of Ministers for the discussion of the labor question and the formulation of new legislation that may check the growth of Socialism.



One of the inquiries made by the Eleventh Census, which has not been included in the earlier censuses, was that of the ability of the people to speak English. The information furnished in answer to this question is of great interest and importance, particularly in connection with the foreign-born population of the country. It appears that the total number of persons in the country, ten years of age and over, who were unable to speak the language of the country was not less than 1,718,496, or 3.6 per cent. of the entire population; in other words, about one person in twenty-eight could not speak the tongue of the country. Distributing this number among the various groups of population according to nativity and race, it appears that about 10 per cent. of them were whites, native-born, of native parentage; that only about 4 per cent. of them were native whites of foreign parentage; that 80 per cent., or four-fifths of them, were whites of foreign birth, and that 6 per cent. of them were colored. These colored who could not speak English were doubtless Chinese and Indians, since those classes are included in the term "colored," and practically all negroes ten years of age and over can speak the English language, or at least their adaptation of it. The white natives of native parentage who could not speak English numbered 168,149. This was only two-thirds of 1 per cent. of all white natives of native parentage over ten years of age. It may at first sight strike the reader as a little curious that people can live in this coun-

try for two generations or more without acquiring the language, and the whereabouts of these people is a matter of interest. Thirty-eight thousand four hundred and ten of them are found in Pennsylvania, and are probably what are known as the "Pennsylvania Dutch," who are proverbially ignorant of the tongue of the country; 41,390 are found in Louisiana—they are the descendants of the French Acadians and of other early French colonists; 59,778 are found in New Mexico—they are among our oldest inhabitants, being the descendants of the early Spanish immigrants to that region. These three States account for 150,000, leaving only about 18,000 to account for. These are scattered widely, many of them, however, being the descendants of early Spanish settlers in Texas, Arizona, and California. The white natives of foreign parentage who could not speak English numbered only 69,876, and constituted but nine-tenths of 1 per cent. of all white natives of foreign parentage who were over ten years of age. They are widely scattered over the country, being found in considerable number only in the State of Louisiana, where they number 19,874, being between one-third and one-fourth of all. The small proportion of this class shows that even in the first generation the foreign element of our own population is pretty thoroughly Americanized, and this in spite of the vast volume of immigration and the colonizing of immigrants, by which it has been feared lest foreign tongues, and with them foreign ideas, would be perpetuated here.

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The whites of foreign birth who could not speak English numbered 1,371,044, and constituted not less than 15.6 per cent. of all whites of foreign birth who were over ten years of age. But a large part of our people of foreign birth came from English-speaking nations. From Great Britain and Ireland are not less than 3,000,000, besides many English-speaking people from Canada. These should be deducted from the total number of the foreign-born in calculating the percentage. Having done this, it results that 25 per cent., or one-fourth, of those coming from non-English-speaking nations cannot speak our tongue. Numerically, the great bulk of these are of course found in the Northern States, where the great body of the foreign-born element is massed. Thus, in New York there were found 215,110; in Pennsylvania, 133,962; in Wisconsin, 131,927; and in Illinois, 131,324. Comparing the number of the whites of foreign birth who could not speak English with the total number of whites of foreign birth who are over ten years of age brings out many interesting details. The highest proportion is found in Arizona, where 50 per cent. of the foreign element cannot speak English; next to that is Texas with 45 per cent., then New Mexico with 40 per cent. These large proportions are doubtless made up of people of Mexican extraction. Florida follows, with 29 per cent., its large proportion being probably due to the migration of Cuban cigar-makers. Wisconsin and New Hampshire are next in order, with 26 per cent. each. Of the element which produces this large proportion in Wisconsin it is impossible to make any statement. In New Hampshire it is doubtless largely due to the migration of French-Canadians across the border. Then comes Minnesota with 21 per cent., South Dakota with 20 per cent., then Maine and North Dakota with 19 per cent. In most of the other Northern States the proportion ranges from 9 per cent. to 19 per cent., while in the Southern and Western States, as a rule, the proportion is smaller. In Washington and Oregon the proportion is but 7 per cent., and in California but 8 per cent. It should be remembered, however, that the Chinese are not here included among the foreign-born,

since they are not classified as whites. The colored of California who cannot speak English form not less than 58 per cent. of all colored over ten years of age. This class in California is made up almost entirely of Chinese and Indians, the larger proportion being of the former race. In New York City 18 per cent. of the foreign-born cannot speak English. Similar proportions in other large cities are as follows: Chicago, 17 per cent., or one-sixth; Philadelphia, 8 per cent.; Brooklyn, 12 per cent.; St. Louis, 13 per cent.; Boston, 9 per cent.; Baltimore, 17 per cent.; San Francisco, 26 per cent., including the Chinese; Cincinnati, 16 per cent. The fact that one out of four of the foreign-born inhabitants of this country over ten years of age who have come from non-English-speaking countries have not learned the tongue of this country is at first a little startling, but when we reflect that these people have been among us but a short time (for probably nearly half of them came to this country within the ten years preceding this census), that most of them are adults to whom the learning of a new language is not easy, and that a large proportion of them are destitute of the rudiments of education, we may well be surprised that three out of four of them are already able to speak our language.

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The opposition of the landlords to the Irish Land Bill has been, as expected, more violent in the House of Lords than in the House of Commons. Party lines were altogether broken, and the Government had the mortification of being beaten on at least three important points, although sustained by many Liberal peers. The debate brought to Westminster many peers who are rarely seen there—several, it is said, even had some trouble in being identified. The class feeling and the appeal of personal interest were unpleasantly evident, and the tone of the debate has done much to revive that desire for the reform of the upper chamber which has lately been in abeyance. Majorities of 58, 47, and 19 were obtained for amendments opposed by the Government and totally altering the character of the bill as it passed the Commons. Other changes are likely to follow, and the measure, if accepted by the Commons in its new form, will be practically useless. It remains to be seen whether a compromise can be proposed which will be possible of acceptance. From the political point of view the lack of party control by the Conservative and Unionist leaders over their followers is thoroughly demoralizing. With a vast and confused mass of proposed legislation on its hands and with a large nominal majority, the Government party has accomplished practically nothing, and the hopes of immediate action are small.

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The latest proposal to settle the Irish land question, that for a minister and council of agriculture especially for Ireland, may mean much or little, according to the intention which underlies it. If there should be a council and minister whose investigations and recommendations are to be subjected to the revision of Irish landlords relying upon their Conservative allies, there will be little amelioration of the condition of the tenant. On the other hand, if minister and council should be impartially chosen with reference to their knowledge of the land laws and an intelligent sympathy with the tenants' disabilities, there is no proposal yet made which seems to us to point so directly to the root of the immediate difficulty. We say immediate, because the Irish trouble is and always has been mainly agrarian, and the political unrest has always drawn its life from that phase of it. Political aspirations for a just measure of local government will undoubtedly persist, apart from the land question; but the latter has caused