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FREELAND, PA., AUGUST 27, 1902.



ELECTRICAL LEAKAGE.

One of the Great Dangers Which Threaten Men.

The greatest dangers which threaten man are generally invisible to the victim, and among these none is more productive of disastrous consequences than "electrical leakage," the selfsame leakage used by the natives of all hot climates to lower their temperatures. As no organic function can take place except by means of electrical currents, so it can be easily understood that if these currents leak from our bodies the loss of power must be distinctly harmful. A common instance of this loss of electricity from our bodies consists of what we call a nervous shock, the scientific explanation being that a sudden egress of electricity takes place owing to the violent mental impressions involuntarily forcing a current of power through channels which had not been previously open to receive them.

"This," remarked a scientist, "is but one case among a thousand of the ways in which we uselessly expend our vital power. The electrical waste of a person is entirely due to his surroundings—the seat upon which you sit, the table upon which you write, the floor, the ceiling, the fireplace, the rays and colors of light which surround you, all may be instrumental in absorbing your electricity, to the great detriment of your health. Red or yellow light waves excite electricity within you, blue and violet waves exhaust it, while green waves are practically neutral in their effect.

"The air you breathe places you in direct communication with the walls, windows or hearth of your room; if, owing to the manner in which they are constructed, they place you in electrical communication with the soil on which your house is built, an 'earth return' is formed, and the electricity in man's condenser—the brain—is drawn out of the body. When one stands in the vicinity of a place of electrical exhaustion one ought to face it, as the base of the skull and spine, being the center of the nervous system, are more sensitive to outside influences than is the more covered front of the body. This is why one feels so tired when sitting with one's back to a fire; the flames serve as conductors and extract the force from the exposed nervous centers."—Pearson's Magazine.

Low Fare Excursion to Niagara Falls.
Via the Lehigh Valley Railroad, September 2, 1902. Tickets will be sold August 31, good to return to September 2, and will be honored on any train except the Black Diamond express.
Fare from Freeland for the round trip, \$8.55.
Consult agents for further particulars.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad
Will sell tickets to East Bloomsburg and return August 28 and 29 at the low rate on one fare for round trip, good to return to August 30, on account of the centennial celebration to be held at Bloomsburg, August 28 and 29.
Consult agents for further particulars.

Michael Brizzi, the aged resident of Harleigh whose mysterious disappearance caused much excitement several weeks ago, has been located by the Hazleton Standard. Brizzi is behind the stockade at Colorado, near Beaver Meadow, and the hundreds of mine workers who searched the woods and caverns for his body feel that they have been imposed upon.

The school board of Mahanoy township, Schuylkill county, removed six of the oldest teachers in the township. The reason given was that members of the families of these teachers were non-union mine employees. The board unanimously decided that applicants in any way connected with non-union workmen should not receive appointments.

PLEASURE.
September 9.—Military ball under the auspices of Royal Castle, No. 65, A. O. K. of M. C., at Kroll's hall. Admission, 50 cents.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Mitchell*

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

CHILD SLAVERY IN SOUTHERN MILLS SOBERLY DISCUSSED.

Nothing Overdrawn and Divided Responsibility Fairly Described—Investigated by the Organ of the Dry Goods Trade.

The following conservative discussion of the question of child labor in the south is taken from an article written at Atlanta by E. J. Lister for the Dry Goods Economist, published in New York:

Proud indeed are a group of southern states of the marvelous strides which have marked the development of their cotton mills within the last decade and pardonably so, for such rapid extension knows no parallel.

In the wake of such material development, however, have come social problems of vital import, the solution of which will have a more lasting, though far subtler, influence upon the welfare of the commonwealths concerned than the mere multiplication of spindles and looms or other concrete evidences of prosperity could possibly have.

That problem is child labor. Tennessee and Louisiana excepted, the southern states hold the unique position of being the only portion of the civilized globe wherein the employment of children is not regulated by law.

The great American public, however, seems to have but a faint conception of the extent or enormity of the child slavery evil as existing in its own land, judging from the storm of indignation aroused by the accounts of the alleged conditions as published in leading magazines.

Could conditions so harrowing and out of harmony with the spirit of the times actually exist in this "land of the free and home of the brave," and that, too, in this much vaunted twentieth century of civilization and progress?

Are such accounts absolutely authentic? Upon a foundation of facts may there not have been imposed a superstructure of fiction and sentiment? Upon no publication probably do the duty and responsibility of furnishing trustworthy answers to such queries more clearly devolve than upon the organ of the dry goods trade—the Dry Goods Economist.

"We want the facts concerning child labor," were the last words of the editor in chief of this paper in dispatching me upon the tour of investigation which I am now making. "We have no ax to grind, care not whom the truth may hurt or help, but beware of special pleading. Steer clear of sentimentality on the one hand and whitewashing on the other. We want facts."

What are the facts? An article which appeared in the May Philistine, from the pen of Elbert Hubbard, entitled "White Slavery in the South," is perhaps the most sensational presentation of the case that has been published. An exhaustive investigation of the subject—not from hearsay or at long range, but as an eyewitness—compels the conclusion that had as the real conditions undoubtedly are the Philistine's account of them is at many points palpably overdrawn. And this is especially unfortunate, seeing that the truth in itself was sufficiently strong—almost sensational enough, I might say—to render exaggeration or misrepresentation entirely superfluous.

From the viewpoint of child labor the conditions are indeed appalling. Indeed, it is almost inconceivable how they could have so long existed without a protest that would have resounded the world around.

This is the more incomprehensible in view of the fact that mill presidents and managers are men of exceptional character and capacity. Though typical southerners, many of them are Harvard, Yale or Princeton graduates. They play golf, sport automobiles and are prominent in church and politics.

Yet they are parties to a slavery infinitely more cruel and debasing than the worst that ever existed in the darkest days prior to the dawn of negro emancipation.

It is true—alas, too true—that these tiny toilers—"slaves" is the word, for slaves they are to the avarice or ignorance of their parents—have weakened bodies and wan faces.

Even mill owners do not deny this, though ascribing it to poor diet and worse habits. They claim that all mill workers, due in part to the confinement incident to their occupation, have a complexion best described as a "prison pallor." Equally plucked and haggard faces, they add, are also to be observed in the case of street Arabs and store children.

In only one mill—and that in Columbia, S. C.—was I enjoined from asking questions of child operatives. In one mill only three of the twenty boys and girls who were asked whether they could read and write claimed that they could, and of these two either could not or would not prove the possession of such ability when handed paper and pencil.

This condition, too, the mill owners frankly admitted, but they attempt to stirk all responsibility therefor. They contend that the parents of these children, not having enjoyed such advantages themselves, are not alive to the necessity of education, and, though exonerated would not be put to school, but would roam the streets. And if there is one thing more than another which thoroughly arouses the alarm of a mill owner it is this ineradicable propensity of children to play pingpong with each other and fate in the byways and

highways. "They're far better off in the mill," say the operators.

These child toilers, as well as adults, are required to work sixty-six hours a week. In some mills work is stopped on Saturdays at noon; in others at 2 or 3 p. m., but this implies no curtailment of the hours of labor. It is merely a readjustment.

To make this half holiday possible these little tots must begin work at 6 in the morning and continue thereat till 6:45 in the evening, with forty-five minutes' intermission for lunch. In this way they get in twelve hours for five consecutive days, leaving six hours on Saturday to complete the stipulated sixty-six hours a week.

This, of course, is too much for adults, to say naught about children. The work, it is contended, is light. It is, but it is not work that kills, but the unceasing grind of monotony. The work at which these children toil knows no variety. They become automatons.

Moreover, the deafening din of the spindles and looms is of itself sufficient to rack nervous systems more robust than theirs. "They become used to it," say the superintendents. They may, but be assured, at the expense of numbed sensations and palsied nerves.

Who is responsible for this state of affairs? The "cracker" or father of the family? To a certain extent, yes. But in this solution are not the real culprits the mill operators themselves, who have fought and are pledged to continue to fight any and all efforts aimed at a regulation of the evil by legal enactment?

It is true there are countless instances of "crackers" or heads of families who invert the normal order of things by calling upon their progeny to support them in lieu of supporting their offspring. I have talked with several such. The Philistine editor faithfully portrayed the type. Not the slightest exaggeration there. Such a parent is a monster whom 'twere gross flattery to call a man. He is generally to be found hanging around a grocery store chatting by the hour with cattle similarly situated. I have joined such a group and "budded into" the milk.

One told me that he had \$36 coming in every fortnight, the proceeds of four children's and a wife's earnings. Two children each got 40 cents a day, two got 60 cents and the wife \$1 a day.

I asked him why he didn't turn in himself and allow the wife at least to remain at home. "That's my business, sah," was the reply, accompanied by a look and gestures which boded little good to the questioner.

Undaunted by this ebullient of temper, I further inquired what he would do should his children slip their cables and make for parts unknown. "I'd get them back, sah; don't you forget it, and when I did they'd be taught a lesson they'd never forget. The boys are mine till they're twenty-one and the girls till eighteen, and the law will uphold me in my rights."

Yet there are mill owners—graduates of colleges and pillars of churches—who consider their industry grossly libeled by the slightest references to child slavery.

The children, by the way, do not complain of cruelty by overseers. They say they are not cuffed or flogged or in any way maltreated, though many taskmasters use abusive, even profane, language in enforcing their orders.

Before being shown through the various mills I generally had a chat with the president, as well as with the superintendent. Both assured me that though they endeavored to keep children under twelve years of age out of the mill some were admitted because their mother was a widow or their father an invalid, their help consequently being essential to the support of the family.

But there was another feature, which added, from which, without explanation, a wrong inference would likely be drawn. Quite a number of small children would be seen in the spinning rooms who are not on the pay rolls of the mill. They were there merely on sufferance—that is, at the request of mothers employed in the rooms, who wanted their children near them while at work.

So, in making the rounds of the mills whenever a tiny tot was noticed tugging broken threads or otherwise busy around the spindles the foregoing explanation was invariably forthcoming—"not on the pay roll." In one instance after the superintendent had made this stereotyped comment he was called away a few moments—an intermission which, true to reportorial instincts, I employed to good advantage by asking the tot "merely there on sufferance," "Do you work here regularly?" "Yes," was the reply.

"How much do you get?" I asked. "Ten cents a day," was the reply.

Of course I am not sure that this was not an isolated instance, but I confess to strong doubts thereon. So many such infants were noted in the spinning rooms, all apparently as busy as those admittedly employees, that credulity is apt to make a stand against such explanations.

Another point is that even in those mills where the superintendents were exceptionally emphatic in their protestations against the employment of children under twelve years many were noted whose age did not seem over eight or ten years at the most. In passing such I would say to the superintendent, "Isn't that lad under twelve?" He would be called up and asked his age, the invariable reply being, "Twelve years." Such uniformity was, to say the least, surprising.

"Twelve years?" I would repeat. "If so, no stronger argument could possibly be advanced in favor of the exclusion of children from factories, if that is an example of the effect such employment has upon their physical development." This comment seldom evoked any reply from the superintendent. Evidently he had nothing ready.

SIDE LIGHTS ON HISTORY.

Curious Letters by a Harvard Man Who Served Under Washington.

Some curious side lights on history, as valuable in their way as the more serious studies, are found in a little collection of letters from a Revolutionary soldier which are preserved in the Harvard library. They were written to relatives and friends in New Hampshire by one William Weeks, a Harvard graduate, who was an officer in Washington's army.

Homesickness must have been severe at times, though in one of his letters from Valley Forge this soldier seems to have had a hard struggle between his natural pleasure at the honors which he was fortunate enough to be accorded and his nostalgia. "This Day," he writes, "I must be at Gen'l Sullivan's to take Dinner with him, the other day I had as great an Honour conferred upon me—I had the Honour to take a Glass of Wine with Gen'l Washington & his Lady—But at the same time I should count as great an Honour to have the satisfaction of seeing, conversing & taking a Glass of Wine with my—Friends at Home."

There is a curious indication of the state of mind in the Continental army at times during the war in another letter, where Mr. Weeks says, "If my Wages were not higher than I expected when at Home, I would by no means tarry, but as they are raised, and for the Love I have for the Country, I can by no Means think of leaving the Army."

That the manner of obtaining a Harvard degree has changed radically in the last hundred years appears in a paragraph written at Valley Forge in 1778. Weeks had taken his A. B. three years before that, but evidently was anticipating an A. M. "As the campaign is coming on," he wrote, "I have but little expectation of coming home for my degree." But it appears that in consideration of the \$10 which his family forwarded to the college in response to this request the desired honor was conferred.

STAGE LIFE TEN YEARS.

New Crop of Minor Actors Harvested Every Decade.

A new crop of stage people is harvested in the United States every ten years. Each decade marks the beginning of a new epoch in theatrical history.

This fact does not apply so aptly to stars and stage people who dominate in the profession, for the life of these, so far as the public is concerned, is usually somewhat longer. But with the rank and file—those who never rise higher than the level of minor roles—ten years is about the limit of endurance. After having served before the public for that length of time without doing anything sufficiently meritorious or novel to attract unusual attention the actor or actress, as a rule, passes away in so far as the profession is concerned, and a new crop is harvested among the many anxious recruits on the waiting list to fill the depleted ranks.

Men who deal in the talents of stage people to the extent of reaping financial return from their labors are better qualified to "size up" the situation than others, and their experience teaches that few ordinary people of the theatrical profession remain longer than ten years in the business. They either achieve distinction—although this is the exception rather than the rule—or else drop into other lines after having been convinced by experience that the stage, so far as they are directly concerned, offers practically no opportunity for advancement. For this reason the rank and file of the profession is constantly changing, and the popular idea "once an actor always an actor" is easily disproved.—Chicago Tribune.

A Foggy Story.

In London an American, boasting of the superiority of his country, was interrupted by an Englishman, who said: "There's one thing in which this country surpasses America. You never saw on the other side of the Atlantic any fog that could match the one which hangs over London tonight."

"Fog! Fog!" came the unhesitating reply of the late American. "Why, this is nothing compared with some of the fogs we have around New York harbor. Sometimes the fog is so thick around there that it's a common thing for the captains of the ferryboats to put on extra crews simply to pump the fog out of the cabins. Why, there's a corporation organizing in New Jersey right now to can American fog and supply the British people with 'the real thing.'"—Argonaut.

Natural to Him.

"Your husband," said Mrs. Oldcastle as she again availed herself of the privilege of inspecting the splendid library of the new neighbors, "seems to have a particularly fine taste for articles of vertu."

"Yes," her hostess replied. "I know it. But, then, it's only natural he should have. John's one of the virtuouslest persons—for a man—that I ever seen."—Chicago Herald.

Satisfied.

Senator Grab—A man called on me this morning and offered me \$1,000 for my vote on a certain measure, but I refused it.

Political Purist—Bravo! You ought to have the approval of your conscience. Senator Grab—I have. We finally agreed on \$2,000.—Boston Post.

Accommodating.

"The shovel fish of South America," said Uncle Jerry, "is the most accommodating fish there is. It has a snout in the shape of a shovel, and it will jump out on the bank and dig bait for you to catch it with."—Baltimore American.

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IN

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RAILROAD TIMETABLES

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.

May 18, 1902.

ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS.
LEAVE FREELAND.

6 12 a m	for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.
7 29 a m	for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston and Scranton.
8 15 a m	for Hazleton, Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, New York, Delano and Pottsville.
9 58 a m	for Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.
11 45 a m	for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, New York, Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.
11 41 a m	for White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and the West.
4 44 p m	for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, New York, Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel, and Pottsville.
6 35 p m	for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and all points West.
7 29 p m	for Hazleton.

ARRIVE AT FREELAND.

7 29 a m	from Pottsville, Delano and Hazleton.
9 12 a m	from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.
9 58 a m	from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.
11 41 a m	from Pottsville, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City, Delano and Hazleton.
12 35 p m	from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.
4 44 p m	from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.
6 35 p m	from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City, Delano and Hazleton.
7 29 p m	from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.

For further information inquire of Ticket Agents.

HOLLIN B. WILBUR, General Superintendent, 35 Cortland Street, New York City.
CHAS. S. LEE, General Passenger Agent, 35 Cortland Street, New York City.
G. J. GILDROY, Division Superintendent, Hazleton, Pa.

THE DELAWARE, SUSQUEHANNA AND SCHUYLKILL RAILROAD.

Time table in effect May 19, 1901.

Trains leave Drifton for Leola, Eckley, Hazle Brook, Stockton, Beaver Meadow Road, Houn and Hazleton Junction at 6:00 a. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:07 a. m., 2:28 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Drifton for Oneida Junction, Harwood Road, Humboldt Road, Oneida and Shepton at 6:00 a. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:07 a. m., 2:28 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Oneida Junction, Harwood Road, Humboldt Road, Oneida and Shepton at 6:32, 11:10 a. m., 4:41 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:37 a. m., 3:11 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Drifter for Tomhicken, Cranberry, Harwood, Hazleton Junction and Houn at 5:00 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 3:07 a. m., 5:07 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Shepton for Beaver Meadow Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Jeddo and Drifton at 5:26 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 5:11 a. m., 3:44 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Beaver Meadow Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Jeddo and Drifton at 5:49 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 10:10 a. m., 5:40 p. m., Sunday.

All trains connect at Hazleton Junction with electric cars for Hazleton, Jeannette, Audenried and other points on the Traction Company's line.

LITNER & BRYCE, Superintendant

PRINTING

Promptly Done at the Tribune Office.