

much against the contract system as in support of the agreement. If the agreement is not maintained, he says, every one in Broken Hill must suffer. When it was made all the people thought that there was a security against future strikes, and invested money in properties. The number of men on strike Mr Sturcke calculates at 5000, and the cost of their keep will be 7s a week per man.

In refutation of one of the mining managers—a certain "Cap'n Bill Adams," from Arizona, who informed the *Adelaide Register* that the contention of the mine-owners and managers was to have the stoping done for 10s, instead of 20s, a ton, the *Barrier Miner* makes the following calculation:—"Let the *Miner* pull up 'Captain' Adams' right thar," as he would remark, and show that he has been grossly misinformed. See here: 1190 miners and timbermen were engaged in the big mine last half-year. Take off 190 for timbermen and miners sinking, driving, cross-cutting, rising, etc.—it ought to be 300, though, to be more nearly correct. However, 190 from 1190 leaves 1000. Ore raised and treated for half-year, 180,798 tons. That is, within a hundredweight or two of 181 tons a man. Working full time—and a man can't work more, though most work less—the miner earns £3 a week. Three multiplied by 26—26 weeks in a half-year, 'Cap'n'—equal to 78. For £78, then, a man breaks 181 tons. That is, he breaks one ton for 8s 7½d. Of course if the mine-owners and managers think it only ought to be broken for 10s, that can be managed; all that the men will have to do is to ease off a little. The *Miner* repeats it: not one of them can open his mouth without putting his foot into it."

At a meeting held on Tuesday, July 19, it was resolved to establish particular stores where the men on strike should obtain goods in exchange for coupons—to be given them instead of money by the defence committee. This step, it was explained, would result in a very considerable and important saving. It was also argued that the step would produce a good effect by showing the determination of the men to hold out.

The profits on the Broken Hill mines for the past half-year (says the *Brisbane Worker*) were £633,700; wages and managers and officials' fat salaries, £132,000. This was in drought times and when things were going slow. Last year the value of total output was £3,960,676, or just under four millions sterling, and the wages just under half a million, leaving a cool three and a half millions for the fencers who now say they can't run the mines to pay on present union rates. How's that for capitalistic philanthropy and trade union tyranny!

We learn from the cablegrams that at the assembling of Parliament the dockers escorted Mr Keir Hardy, labour member, to the House of Commons in procession, singing the "Marseillaise." Great enthusiasm was shown by those taking part in the proceedings.

The strikers at Pittsburg have evidently the sympathy of workmen in other parts of the States. We are told, for example, that in New York three thousand workmen at Stoddowker's waggon works have gone out on strike owing to the proprietor using material received from Carnegie's works.

The case of the soldier James, who was suspended by the thumbs for cheering the man who attempted to shoot Mr Fick, is exciting public indignation all over the United States. The Central Labour Union have demanded that the workmen in the National Guards shall resign. The Coroner's jury, meantime, have found that the men killed in the riot were killed while in unlawful assembly, incriminating nobody. But as for Carnegie himself, he is a friend of the workingmen. He subscribed largely, for example to the fund for the return of Mr Keir Hardy. All the blame must be attributed to the managers—to whom for the last three years he has left the entire control of his works.—And who, by the way, has controlled the profits?

The Labour Commission report that from 14 to 16 hours is usually worked on English and Scottish railway lines. In this respect the Caledonian Company is the greatest offender. The commission report that many witnesses were terrorised.

Mr Tom Mann, recently addressing an aristocratic gathering, complained that "to-day 700,000 working men are without employment, not loafers, and not those that will not work, but men eager and willing to work, and the churches, instead of trying to assist the working classes in the endeavour to live more human lives, are callous and indifferent." "And I," he adds, "am a rebel, a determined rebel, against the institutions which do nothing to better the lot of the working man."—The Churches, but not the Church. "At this moment," writes the Holy Father, "the condition of the working population is the question of the hour; and nothing can be of higher interest to all classes of the State than that it should be rightly and reasonably decided."

A deputation of the Christchurch unemployed waited on the Mayor on Friday morning, and stated that they wanted work, as many of their number were starving. There were 300 unemployed on the books of the Labour Bureau. The Mayor promised to communicate with the Minister for Labour and see if anything could be done for them.

The proceeds of the Mount Morgan mine for the last half-year were £504,200. The amount paid in salaries and wages was £56,000.—Here also a few bonuses would hardly seem out of place. However, let us do justice: we hear nothing of a proposal to reduce wages.

"The *Silver Age*, a Broken Hill paper, publishes an account of a visit to the Proprietary Mine made secretly by a miner, who alleges that immense destruction is going on through the collapse of the timbers supporting the drives."—This is only what was to be expected from the accounts given of the condition of the mine and the desperate attempt made at timbering when the strike seemed imminent. The wonder is that the miner was not afraid to risk his life in the adventure.

Mr Gladstone's dealing with a deputation from the London Trades Council who waited on him on June 16, to seek his support for the eight hour's legislation, was very frank. He firmly declined to take the matter up at the sacrifice of the Home Rule cause, as some members of the deputation urged on him. If they were satisfied on the point he sincerely wished them success, but he declared that they must not look to him, for he was bound in honour and character to the Irish question. He appealed to the services he had rendered the industrial classes by helping to put them in possession of the franchise, by which they would be enabled to govern themselves. It was his desire, he said, to perfect this instrument. He added that they must judge of what little future lay before him by his past. Mr Gladstone seemed to doubt the assurance given by the deputation that the working classes were unanimous in their desire to have the term of eight hours fixed by law. He also expressed a fear as to an interference with liberty. The strength of the working classes, he declared, lay in holding to the principle of liberty.

Notwithstanding the assurance of unanimity pressed on Mr Gladstone, the workmen throughout the country appear by no means unanimous. For example, Mr Foster, secretary of the Coke-men's Association, says he firmly believes that a legal eight hours' day would annihilate the Durham coke trade. Mr Robert Knight, general secretary of the Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Society declares that the London men are ignorant of the working of the great industries of the country. A Legislative eight-hours' Bill, he says, is impossible and undesirable. Mr Ralph Young, secretary of the Northumberland Miners' Union, says the members of that body will have nothing to do with a legal eight-hours' day. Mr Gladstone, therefore, as we see, was fully justified in his doubts.

The labour bureau of Mr Ballance's Government has been preceded in the State of Ohio, where, two years ago, an Act was passed for the establishment of what are called "free public employment offices." We are indebted to our contemporary, the *Irish World*, for the results as given by the State Commissioner of Labour. "The Commissioner in his report for 1891 says he established offices in five of the municipal cities of the State. The number of situations secured through the offices was 8,982—5,575 for males and 3,407 for females. Thus 49.05 per cent of the applications for employment were met by the offices, while 44.6 per cent of those applying for situations secured them; 38.3 per cent of the men and 60.7 per cent of the women applying to the offices were furnished with positions. The Commissioner computes the entire cost of the offices up to January 1, 1891, at 5,000 dols. He estimates that the services of private offices in securing work for 8,982 persons would have cost these persons about 20,000 dols. Thus he shows a net money gain of 15,000 dols in six months to the working people of the State. He further claims that 100,000 dols is annually spent on private employment agencies by the working men and women of Ohio. This sum can be saved to the workers, he says, by a State expenditure of 10,000 dols." "This, of course," adds our contemporary, "is but a small fraction of the gains effected, as it deals only with the question of the ordinary outlay usually made in securing employment, and does not refer to the wages made by those securing employment, which otherwise would have been lost to them till able to get work through their own endeavours. The experiment is worthy of earnest trial, and the first reports of the Ohio Labour Commissioner give assurance that such institutions, wisely directed and kept from partizan or other partial influences, might exert a very beneficent influence and amply repay the State for the very small outlay required in establishing them."

The most important resolution passed last week at the railway servants' conference at Wellington seems to be that for the appointment of a board of appeal in each centre, to adjudicate in cases of