

indirect cause of the brutal murder, in Tennessee, of four innocent men and the serious wounding of one woman, by a mob who were incited to anti-"Mormon" blood-thirstiness by the bogus "Red Hot Address," which was read to the people of the district where the massacre occurred, by a local preacher.

When the nature of the atrocious fabrication of the "Liberal" organ was exposed, it attempted to excuse its perfidity by formulating an explanation made of the same kind of fibre—it had been "imposed upon," by some person who had furnished the "Address." These innocent, gullible caricaturists had been made the victims of deception. Being childlike and bland, they doubtless became an easy prey to the great unknown arch-deceiver.

Of course, in the light of indisputable facts, the News cannot say it has ever seen "an untruthful report in the Tribune"—the journalistic speech-inventor, caricaturist and defamer.

WAGES IN MEXICO.

In the January number of the *North American Review*, M. Romero, the Mexican minister, has an article entitled "Wages in Mexico." In it he says that trade restrictions between his country and the United States are justified by American politicians on the ground that the "pauper wage" of the one country would bring the lordly wage of the other down to a common standard.

Senor Romero admits that it is very difficult to present in correct form the wage systems of Mexico. In some places a fixed amount is paid for one day's work; in others a given sum is paid for an agreed amount of work done; in some others, besides the wages, rations are given, which consist of a certain quantity of grain. However, the Department of Public Works has made some progress in collecting data of the exact wages paid to farm laborers in the various States. The highest average wage per day is paid in Coahuila, being fifty-three and one-eighth cents. The lowest averages eighteen and three-fourths cents per day, the rate in Nuevo Leon and Aguas Calientes. No data of an official kind exists as to labor in other departments, but from personal observation it is found that \$1.50 per day is the prevailing rate on railroads and such works.

These figures seem small in comparison with rates in the United States. But when the labor performed is contrasted, no such disparity appears. A Mexican bricklayer will not lay more than 500 bricks in eleven hours, while the American bricklayer lays 2,500 in nine hours. The peon system, as is commonly supposed, is not akin to slavery. It is true, rich employers abuse the system. Its worst feature is that in some districts by reason of advances to workmen a few wealthy planters can control the labor of a district. No employer can hire a peon unless the latter's debt is first paid. But the laws of Mexico provide against such abuses, which would not exist if the laborers were intelligent enough to seek the law's protection.

Mr. Romero's main point is to de-

monstrate that the United States could not be injured by complete and absolute trade reciprocity with Mexico, even in the article of silver. It costs more to produce silver in Mexico than in the United States, notwithstanding the high wages in the latter country. In the City of Mexico printing paper costs 15 cents a pound, in New York 5 cents. The same disparity prevails in other articles. Sugar is 21 cents a pound in Mexico, and only 5 cents in New York. Cotton costs 19 cents a pound in Mexico, and flour 5 cents, while in the United States the figures respectively are 10 cents and 1½ cents per pound.

The imperfect transportation system of Mexico adds immensely to the cost of production. Sugar in one locality can be produced at 1 cent a pound, yet in others it sells as high as 25 cents a pound. At one time the cost of moving a ton of freight from Vera Cruz to Mexico, a distance of 263 miles, was \$330. There are about 5,000 miles of railway in operation, but that mileage is not sufficient to displace the old pack mule method, except in very limited areas.

One feature of Mexican life discouraging to capital is the practice of feast-day observances. At one time the actual one-third of the working days of the year, not counting Sabbaths, was given to religious festivals. In 1858 feast days were reduced by law to six per year. But so fixed were the habits of the people that the reform law became inoperative. The laborer would not work on the feast day, and there was no punishment provided for refusing to work; therefore matters remained practically as of old. It is this fact which gives foreigners in Mexico the idea that native labor is unreliable. The priests, it is said, encourage the habit rather than oppose it, because it is productive of revenue to the church.

THE HOPKINS' MILLIONS.

By the death of Moses Hopkins, brother of Mark, the famous California millionaire, the affairs of that plutocratic family are once more brought before the public eye. When Mark died he left his widow sole owner and manager of his many millions. In time she married a Mr. Searles and bequeathed to him at her death all her vast wealth. An adopted son named Timothy Hopkins was not mentioned in her will. This led to the notorious lawsuit on the part of Timothy which is still in the courts.

Moses Hopkins, who died recently, was very indignant at the conduct of his brother's widow towards her adopted son, and often expressed himself very forcibly at the manner in which Searles influenced the doting old woman. Moses left wealth to the extent of \$4,000,000. His widow inherits \$3,000,000 of this sum. Among the bequests are \$200,000 to Timothy Hopkins, \$100,000 to Mary Hopkins, wife of Timothy, and \$10,000 to Lydia, their little daughter.

This shows that the Hopkins family regarded Timothy in the light of a blood relative, though he was only an adopted child. The family burial lot in Sacramento is said to be beautifully laid out. Mark Hopkins is buried there.

Moses often desired to rest there also, but it is now the property of Searles, and no member of the family would demean himself to ask Searles for permission to use it. Moses will be buried in Vermont.

"LIBERAL" LAWMAKERS.

The following report was submitted and adopted at the meeting of the Federated Trades Council last night:

To Utah Federated Trades and Labor Council:

Delegates.—Your committee on legislation respectfully report:

That there is now before both branches of the Territorial Legislature bills for the amelioration and protection of labor, to wit:

First—Mechanics' lien law.

Second—An act appointing mining inspectors, defining their duties and providing penalties for neglect of proper safe guards to employees of mines.

Third—Labor Day a legal holiday.

Fourth—Establishing free employment offices.

Fifth—An act to secure to operatives and laborers engaged in and about coal mines, manufactories of iron and steel, and all other manufactories or buildings the payment of their wages at regular intervals and in lawful money of the United States.

So far indications point unfavorably to the success of those measures which are not needful for the protection and progress of organized labor in the Territory. The mechanics' lien bill comes from the upper House with two sections relating to claims of miners stricken out, though no good reason has been assigned why the miners should be excluded from the benefits of the act. In what shape it may be reconstructed in the lower House remains to be seen. The bill creating a bureau of labor statistics was rejected in committee. A bill introduced by Mr. Montgomery to fix the liability of railway corporations in case of accident to employees failed of passage. It was subsequently reconsidered and the bill amended by inserting the word "person" after the word "corporation." In such a form it would bring the liability to the doors of every employer hiring men in dangerous and hazardous pursuits, and in this simple form meet with the overwhelming approval of organized labor. The bill as amended was defeated by a vote of 13 to 9, those voting for and against it being:

Ayes—Allen, Annett, Irvine (W. H.), Irvine (J. D.), Montgomery, Moritz, Mackay, Snow, Tuttle—9.

Noes—Adams, Colton, Cunningham, Kimball, Lawrence, Mackay, Marshall, Nebeker, Olson, Pierce, Pike, Sargent, Stoker, Wright—13.

The bill introduced by Mr. Moritz for "An act making eight hours a day's labor on all public works" shared a similar fate. We copy from the House journal, Thursday, February 11th:

"H. F. No. 23, a bill for an act making eight hours a day's labor on all public works.

"Read third time.

"Mr. Kimball moved to strike out the enacting clause.

"Motion adopted.

"Ayes—Cunningham, Irvine (J. D.), Kimball, Lawrence, Mackay, Marshall, Nebeker, Olson, Snow, Stoker, Tuttle, Wright—12.

"Noes—Adams, Allen, Colton, Irvine (W. H.), Montgomery, Moritz, Pierce, Pike, Sargent—9.

"Absent—Annett, Ferry—2."

When it is recollected that an eight-hour law was recommended in the Governor's message; that it was emphasized in the platforms of all the political parties