

work of the Almighty for the redemption of the race, such inquiry is profitable. One thing is certain, "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is long-suffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

DEATH KNELL OF HARD TIMES.

Twenty-two thousand new freight cars have been ordered since New Year's, which would surely not indicate any very lively expectation of general railroad disaster in the immediate future.

Within the last six weeks the wages of a quarter of a million workmen—two hundred and fifty thousand perhaps sounds a little better—have been increased, in almost every important instance without previous solicitation by the laboring men. Moreover, there has been a very large increase in the number of men employed. All of which would seem to prophesy the advent of prosperity and the resurrection of industrial life.

The general volume of business in the country, as shown by the clearing-house returns, has increased from 20 to 30 per cent over the returns of a year ago; and the year thus far has also been noted for a strong and steady advance in the price of nearly all farm products.

So far as signs go, therefore, no risk will be incurred in stating that for the merchant, the shipper, the manufacturer, the wage-earner and the farmer, the bed-rock of depression and hard times has been touched and the upward movement toward the fair surface of normal business health has set in all along the line and in good earnest. Every department may not feel the stimulus just yet, for building up is always a slower process than that of demolition. But that there is certainly force and stability in the improvement noted cannot be disputed, and for one result of it everybody ought to be thankful—the calamity-bowler will be soon out of a job.

OPEN AIR FOR HEALTH.

Notwithstanding all the benefits that mankind are supposed to derive from improved sanitation, from better houses and food, from advanced methods in medicine, and from the thousand and one other things that would naturally be expected to conduce to prolonged life and increased health, the fact remains that without plenty of exercise and abundance of pure open-air, the death-rate remains almost if not quite as high as at any time since medical reports were kept. This, at least, is the conclusion of many experts in life insurance—a branch of business in which it is to be expected that the closest examination will be made of mortality statistics. Certainly in the study of the life-shortening of American Presidents the pessimists find support for their theory. One such expert, whose figures and conclusions are discussed in a late issue of the Springfield *Republican*, proves the interesting fact that the later Presidents do not compare well with the

earlier ones in meeting the "expectations of life" as derived from the insurance tables. The individual record is as follows:

	Age at inauguration.	Expectation of life.	Years lived.
Washington	57	16	10
Adams, John	62	13	28
Jefferson	58	15	25
Madison	58	15	27
Monroe	59	15	15
Adams, John Q.	59	18	22
Jackson	62	13	16
Van Buren	55	17	24
Harrison	68	9	0
Tyler	51	20	21
Polk	51	21	3
Taylor	55	11	0
Fillmore	50	21	24
Pierce	49	22	15
Buchanan	66	11	11
Lincoln	52	20	4
Johnson	57	16	9
Grant	47	23	16
Hayes	54	19	16
Garfield	49	22	0
Arthur	51	20	5
Total years	1,178	354	290
Average	56	17	14

This table unfortunately starts off with a record that is contradictory of the result sought to be established; for Washington did not live up to his "expectation of life" at the time of his inauguration. But after him and until Harrison, who stood at the half-century mark of the government, every President survived up to and in most cases materially exceeded the aforesaid "expectation of life." From Harrison down, however, it will be noticed that no incumbent of the office, with the exceptions of Tyler and Fillmore, has exceeded such "expectation" and only one (Buchanan) lived up to the limit. Examining the same facts in another way, it will be seen that in the first half century the Presidents had an expectation, at the time of inauguration, of living 122 years, while in the aggregate they actually lived 167 years; during the last half century this gain over expectation was lost and 64 years in addition. The result is certainly striking and is thus explained by the insurance authority:

This is not to be explained by coincidence or chance. The cause lies deeper. It is true two of the last six Presidents were assassinated, but the number of years lost by these violent deaths represent only half the aggregate loss. The fact seems plain to me that the presidential office is becoming too heavy a burden for any man to assume without almost certain shortening of his life. The responsibility is so great, the tension so destructive, that I never again expect to see a President survive the full period of his natural expectation. The contrast between the longevity of the early Presidents and the latter ones is more noteworthy when we remember that medical science, household hygiene and means of travel without exposure to the weather have all had wonderful development since the days of Washington, Jefferson, the Adamses, Madison, Monroe and Jackson. No matter how we explain the cause, the fact remains that the early Presidents lived long lives, while modern Presidents invariably die before their time.

The conclusion would appear to be that the strain and worry and habits of modern life in their exactions upon men in official and professional life are less than offset by the advancement in hygiene, etc., referred to. In the case of the long-lived Presidents it will be admitted, we believe, that they were forced to lead an out-dor life much more than their later successors have been, and after leaving office they gen-

erally came into close and continuous contact with Mother Earth and her best medicine, fresh air.

WHAT WORK WILL DO.

Messrs. George Whitman and Sons have sent to the NEWS office various samples of fruit raised in their orchard, which eight years ago was nothing but a dry piece of sagebrush land, and considered entirely worthless. It lies two miles east of the Draper depot, in Salt Lake county, and was purchased by the present owners in 1887. The specimens of fruit sent consisted of the "English Bigreau" and "Black Ox-bear" cherries—as good as can be produced anywhere—of splendid size and flavor; "Industry" gooseberries, of mammoth proportions, though not yet fully ripe; red "Fay" currants, of extraordinary size; and bunches of ordinary white currants. The trees and bushes on which these grew were all raised in this county, and mostly obtained from one of the nurseries near Salt Lake City. We are told that Messrs. Whitman & Sons have in the same orchard an abundance of other fruit trees—peach, pear, plum, prunes, apples, besides raspberries, strawberries, grapes, etc., and we are easily able to believe that they have a ready market for all they can raise, which amounts to a large quantity in the course of the season. Every tree was planted by themselves, and last year nearly a ton of grapes was disposed of by them at good prices.

Now, what the NEWS wants to say in this connection is that there are hundreds of opportunities for men out of employment to get pieces of land much more inviting than was the tract these gentlemen settled on. By industry many heads of families now idle or dependent upon others for subsistence, can make for themselves good homes, and by giving attention to the business of raising fruit they can secure a comfortable living for their families. All that is needed is properly directed labor and a little of the spirit of enterprise without which no success is to be attained anywhere. It is an old, old story, and the sermon may become wearisome through frequent repetition. Nevertheless, it is the practical Gospel and abounds in present sense and future wealth.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

The account given by a Norwegian captain just returned from Vladivostok of the situation there explains the dispatch of Russian squadrons to the Asiatic coast and the massing of troops on the Manchurian frontier during the recent war between China and Japan. These movements were at the time a subject of much surmise, being considered far more elaborate than necessary for the actual defense of Russian interests. It now seems clear that the Russian government, under cover of the disturbances in China, gathered large forces at a convenient spot in order to be able to pursue its policy of acquiring an open seaport on the Pacific, and it is expected that an advance will be