

plow (American) on passenger trains receive \$210 per month; while the firemen (Mexicans) receive \$1.85 per day, freight engineers (Americans) \$250 per month, firemen (Mexican) \$150 to \$1.75 per day; passenger conductors (American) \$160 per month, brakemen (Mexican) \$1.50 per day; freight conductors (American) \$200 per month, brakemen (Mexican) \$57 to \$63 per month; Pullman conductors, \$80 per month (American money) and the porters \$28 per month (American money) with \$5 per month extra for being able to talk Spanish.

The National soldiers (regular army) of Mexico, called rurales, and who are all ex-bandits, receive \$1 per day.

"In a broom factory near the depot at Jimenez the men are paid 50 cents, women and children 25 to 37½ cents per day. In the cotton mills, seed oil mills and soap factories at Torreon men are paid 47½ to 50 cents, women and children 25 cents per day.

"A carcador (public carrier) has a rate of 12½ cents per hour, but you can hire him for from 25 to 37½ cents per day.

"At Leon, where nearly all the leather goods in Mexico are manufactured, the peon gets his leather cut for shoes or other goods to be made by him, and takes the material to his hut, where the whole family assist him, the same as in the sweat-shops of Chicago. For making shoes he receives \$1 and upwards per dozen pairs. On the other goods he receives 37½ to 50 cents per day for his labor, working as long as daylight lasts, averaging twelve to fourteen hours per day. House servants, male or female, receive \$3 to \$5 per month and board themselves. In or near cities peons live in adobe houses and pay a rental of \$3 a year for the ground that the hut stands on. When leaving this for another location all improvements the peon has made go to the landlord or owner of the land, who pays no taxes whatever on the land.

"The chief article of dress of the Mexican is his sombrero, often costing as much as \$35 (which is bought on the installment plan) while the balance of his clothing would make a crazy quilt turn green with envy, owing to its variety of colors and assortment of patches, making it a hard problem to solve as to which is the original garment and which the patch. No stockings are worn by either sex, and only about one-third wear sandals, which are made from a piece of sole leather, and tied to the foot with straps. These sandals cost from 12 to 20 cents per pair. The average cost of the necessities of life for a peon family of five is 25 cents a day, and clothing for the same costs \$20 per year.

"The day's work in Mexico runs from ten to fourteen hours, and workmen who take work to their homes work as many hours as they please.

"The Mexican laborer's work is easy as compared with the American laborer, except carriers, who bear enormous burdens on their backs all day without manifesting fatigue.

"The haciendas (or plantations) are owned by the very rich and cover an area of from ten to one hundred square miles. Farming and agricultural implements are very primitive. The plough is a crooked stick or beam, and

scratches the ground to a depth of three or four inches. This plough is drawn by two oxen, and the harness is a broad strap or rope passing over the forehead instead of the shoulders of the oxen. Planting is done by poking a hole into the ground with a stick, dropping the corn into it, and the seed is covered by the peon in stepping from hole to hole. On these immense tracts of lands the natives, or peons, have lived for centuries, and are forced to buy all their necessities of life at the hacienda's (land-owner's) truck store. On the hacienda the peon gets from 18 to 50 cents per day for his work and a hut to live in, if he builds it himself. The peon gets no money, except on feast days and for religious offerings. This form of slavery has been forbidden by law for a number of years, but two-thirds of the peons do not know it, as they can neither read nor write, and their masters take good care not to teach them this fact.

"Organized labor is unknown here, which is considered a great blessing. But the country today that has the best system of trade organization and the greater number of union men per capita of its population is the foremost in wealth, progression and happiness of its people.

"The cry is raised that there are no poor in Mexico, but that is no indication of the absence of poverty, as your committee can fully testify without fear of contradiction, as the voice of the mendicant supplicating rings in our ears all through the country. In the cities of Zacatecas and Guanajuato, with populations of 40,000 and 70,000, respectively, we failed to get butter and potatoes on the tables of the best hotels. On inquiry we were informed that if we paid \$1 a pound for butter it would be purchased and kept for our exclusive use.

"Your commission would caution American workmen against going to Mexico without sufficient funds to bring them back, or to have employment secured before going there, or they will be obliged to subsist on cactus and the sap of the tequila plant while doing the country.

"On asking an American who was conducting a prosperous business in one of the cities which your commission visited, why it was that the foreigners all seemed to be making money, no matter what business they engaged in, he, with characteristic Yankee frankness, replied: 'The laborer here is different from the laborer in the states. Here labor is cheap and we have no brains to contend with.'

"The mission entrusted to your commission is a peculiar one. We were sent to study the social and financial conditions of a far-away people. We are plain tellers, inured to the hard knocks of the factory and workshop, and none are better qualified to investigate or to feel and sympathize with the workers of another country than men from our ranks. We did not go loaded with credentials, to be entertained by the people of the better classes, nor yet as scholars to describe the monuments of historic interest, or to have our poetic fancies inspired by the landscape and azure skies, or build up wasted energies in the healthful air of that southern clime, but to go among the common people, who are of our own class, and study conditions

from that standpoint. Hence this epistle does not abound in high-sounding platitudes on the sublime and beautiful of that country, but in facts that still exist and are ready to speak for themselves to those who will go and seek as we have done, and should they do so, they will feel as we do, that the American workman is a prince compared to the workmen of Mexico. In this country all stand equal in social and political life, and in that political right they should exercise with care the faithful discharge of their duties, unprejudiced and unbiased by supporting such principles as will do the greatest good to the greatest number, irrespective of party politics or the machinery of either party who may manipulate conditions and measures for personal gain to the detriment of the whole people.

"PATRIC ENRIGHT,
"P. J. MAAS,
"Committee."

HOME FROM MISSIONS.

Elder Samuel Gerrard of Taylorville, who Sunday returned from a mission to Great Britain, paid the News a pleasant visit Monday. Elder Gerrard left for the mission field July 22, 1894, and his absent time has been spent in the Liverpool conference, over which he presided for several months prior to his release. He reports having enjoyed his labors very much and while there is not much inquiry among the people regarding religious matters, especially Mormonism, still the Elders persevere in their labors and are blessed with good health. The company had a pleasant trip en route here, although for three days the voyage on the water was quite rough.

Elder D. J. Lang of this city likewise returned from his labors in the mission field Sunday. His time has been spent in Geneva, Switzerland, for which part of the vineyard he left April 24, 1894. He reports the work in that country in a flourishing condition and while no great strides are being made, he says that the Elders can see a gradual advancement. The Church members there are few but faithful and their desires are to serve God and keep His commandments. Perfect religious liberty is accorded the Elders in Switzerland and the only trouble encountered in preaching the Gospel is the indifference manifested by the people. Elder Lang states that he and his companion were cordially received into Switzerland by United States Consul B. H. Ridgeley, to whom they furnished reports of their labors, which were transmitted by him to the interior department. They were also treated very kindly by Vice Consul Storey.

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 7.—In a fog at Argentine this morning five east-bound Santa Fe trains were mixed up in a rear end collision just outside the railway yards, the trains following each other closely. Three engines, two way cars, one Pullman sleeper, two tourist cars, two baggage cars and several stock cars were wrecked. Miraculous enough no one was killed although four persons were slightly injured.