

eight hours' work a full day, whether the work be public or in some cases private. The cases referred to are work in or about mines and mining mills or smelters. This law had to run the complete gamut of judicial process, having been finally declared valid by the Supreme Court of the United States. Many other equally good things relative to working people might be named, but the foregoing will suffice.

IN THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE.

The "News" has been requested to state that an international temperance congress will be held at Prohibition Park, Staten Island, N. Y., from July 1st to 6th, inclusive. The object of the congress is set forth in a communication dated Brooklyn, 195 Washington Park, May 2nd, and signed by Alexander S. Bacon, temporary chairman. According to this, the intention is to secure an exchange of views so that the different classes of temperance workers may become better acquainted with the work and purpose of one another, and to discuss plans for united effort along such lines as the following:

1. To prevail upon the 115,000 physicians in the nation to cease prescribing alcohol for internal use, except as they would prescribe other poisons.

2. To bring the leading life insurance companies to acknowledge publicly, what they admit privately, that total abstainers are at least twenty per cent safer risks than moderate drinkers, and then to take the further logical step to grant these total abstainers the benefit of their abstemious habits in lower insurance.

3. To urge upon the more than 300 universities and colleges of America to protect their students by providing clean and anti-liquor surroundings.

4. To see that the millions of children in the Sunday schools are systematically fortified against the drink habit by moral and spiritual arguments, as they are now beginning to be fortified in the public schools by physiological and hygienic arguments.

5. To urge upon the 100,000 clergymen in this country to preach systematically, at least once a month, on temperance.

6. To teach the industrial and commercial classes to recognize the vital bearing of total abstinence on their respective interests.

7. To agitate total abstinence as a qualification of teachers in our public and other schools—as it is rapidly becoming a qualification of engineers and others who handle complicated machinery, there being found nowhere more complicated workmanship than that of the immortal human minds and hearts which are placed within the training of teachers.

8. To agitate for total abstinence in the officers and men of the army and navy who are placed, not to defend simply a railroad train, but a government.

Also, there is to be an exchange of views on such questions as fermented and unfermented communion wine; partisan and non-partisan prohibition movements; the best substitutes for saloons.

The communication further says:

"A cordial invitation to attend is extended to every national and general organization and every local organization, including the church, that is opposed to the liquor traffic and the drink habit.

"Each local organization will be entitled to one representative, if its membership be twenty or less, and for every additional twenty members an additional representative; each state organization to ten representatives and each

national organization to twenty representatives. While none but delegates will be entitled to vote on questions that will come up before the congress, all persons interested in temperance work will be gladly welcomed. All organizations are requested to appoint delegates on the above basis at as early date as practical, and to notify the secretary of such appointments.

"It is expected that special arrangements will be made with the various trunk line railroads, by which special discounts will be secured for passenger rates to New York; also special rates will be made for hotel accommodation."

DUTY TO COUNTRY.

The writer has lately perused a letter written by the mother of three stalwart young men, who are now studying to complete their education, yet who have been strongly inclined to enlist. One of them was determined to do so and was only prevented by circumstances beyond his control or that of his parents, and should there be another call for volunteers he may break over all restraint and become a recruit. This mother is racked with anxiety upon the subject. She is an American through and through, is descended on both sides from generations of New England ancestors and her patriotism cannot be questioned. But then there is the mother's love for her offspring.

It is the same old question and the same old struggle that mothers have had to grapple with and engage in ever since the sons of men began to oppress each other. What is the mother's duty? How shall she train herself to feel and how shall she counsel her son? Shall she cling to him, and keep him at home that he may be preserved from wounds and death, or shall she smother her instincts, stifle her heart's desires and tell him to go at his country's call? There is a light in which any mother can view these questions so as to remove the mists from her mind and the fears from her heart.

Let her remember that life here is short, a moment merely, but that hereafter it is long, an eternity; that the direction given to the soul during its momentary stay here determines its destiny throughout the endless future; and that the only true happiness sentient beings can experience in this life or the next springs from doing right. When these things are remembered the question of enlistment becomes merely a question as to the side upon which the weight of duty lies.

If there rest upon a young man obligations of a high, sacred and binding character which he cannot honorably disregard, yet which would be violated were he to enlist, let him show his patriotism in some other way than by going to the front. But if no such restraints are upon him, or if his country's call is so urgent as to outweigh them, it is not right that ties of kinship, even those of a mother for her son, should keep him at home when his country needs him. All progress is achieved by means of sacrifice, and when human beings refuse to make sacrifice they begin to sink in the scale of being.

It is better to go to battle and suffer privation, and be wounded and even mutilated, than it is to shrink from the call of plain and sacred duty. It is better to be a dead patriot than a living coward. Then let every mother who has a son of age and physique suitable for a soldier, consider his responsibilities and judge from them and not from her own heart whether or not he should enlist; and if the preponderance of moral obligation is in favor of obedience to a call to arms, let her make a cheerful sacrifice and give a free consent.

It is only when young men have mothers such as this that they can become a race to either win or deserve mankind's respect. Only such women can bring heroes into the world. A people that shrinks from war because it is harsh, cruel or deadly, notwithstanding that duty demands that they engage in it, will dwindle away and sink into oblivion covered with the contempt of all mankind.

A REGION OF VAST POSSIBILITIES.

Let an observant man, who takes note of the causes and elements that make a people prosperous and great, start on a journey from this city northward. Let him survey that area of marvelous beauty, Cache valley, with its elliptical horizon of mountains whose tops reach the clouds at all points of the compass. Let him consider the fertility of the soil, the luxuriant pasturage in the hills and mountains, the limitless power the dashing canyon streams would yield if harnessed for the production of electricity, and the facilities for manufacturing and rapid transit, and he will think this valley an ideal home for a thrifty and happy people.

Let our traveler continue his journey northward until he reaches the wheat fields of southern Idaho. Let him take note of the manner in which the staff of life is here produced. He will see vast stretches of land made into wheat fields. If he is traveling at this season of the year he will observe flat prairies, rolling hills and sloping mountain sides all clothed alike in the green that so soon and gloriously ripens into the gold of the harvest field, and the calm and confident independence of the wheat ranch owner will be sure to make a lasting impression upon his mind.

Three months of labor in the year is all that the wheat farmer here need do. He harvests his crop in August, and in September and October plows his land and sows it for another year, and then he waits around for nine months until harvest time comes again. During those nine months he can work a little if he wants to. He can milk cows and sell the milk to a creamery at a price that pays him well; or he can cultivate an orchard for which both soil and climate are admirably adapted; or he can raise sheep, swine or poultry, all of which are very profitable; or he can just live on the proceeds of his wheat crop and not try to increase his income from that source, if he likes a life of ease. Your Idaho wheat rancher is far more independent and far less worried than your Wall street banker.

Let our traveler continue northward to central Idaho, and traverse the great and vast Snake river valley. Here nature made preparations on a gigantic scale. Here she designed that the food supply of millions should be produced by tens of thousands of tillers of the soil for whom she provided farms of enormous size. The mellow loam when moistened has a richness simply wonderful. Eighty bushels of wheat, a hundred or more of oats and six hundred of potatoes are often raised on a single acre; and potatoes that weigh five pounds apiece are quite common.

The agricultural possibilities of Snake river valley are still unmeasured. Its area is greater than some of the states in the Union, and its supply of water for irrigation is correspondingly abundant. Cereals and vegetables sufficient to feed a population of millions can easily be produced within its boundaries. Its fame as a farming region is attracting thousands of settlers, and a procession of covered wagons, occupied by emigrants, rolls daily