

Drs. Charron and Netter, to superintend the precautionary measures on the frontier. Iron disinfecting chambers have been sent to all custom houses, and goods coming from Spain are subjected to heat in order to kill the microbe. Officers of health have been ordered to all frontier towns, and quarantine is ordered at the port of Marseilles against all vessels which have touched at any Spanish port.

"The Madrid medical commission yesterday reported eighty-five new cases at Puebla Rugat and forty-two at Senars. Several cases distinctly choleraic have occurred at Bergamin with many deaths. Cholera is also suspected at Malaga. There are no fresh cases in the town of Valencia. The Spanish government has prohibited the inoculation of cholera virus after the method of Ferran.

"At Cairo the sanitary department is preparing temporary hospitals for the British troops. The instant that a case of cholera is known it will be removed and the barracks will be deserted.

"Italy decrees rigorous examination of all arrivals from Spanish ports on the Mediterranean.

"Eight days' rigorous quarantine is enforced against Malaga on account of reported yellow fever."

### DISCRIMINATION OF WOMAN'S WAGES.

THE annual report of the Massachusetts State Board of Labor Statistics furnished some figures that will interest the promoters of woman's cause, and be profitable to all who pay attention to the labor question.

Taking the lowest rate of wages for the first comparison of relative male and female pay, it appears that of actual wages paid to 248,200 employees of both sexes 8.99 per cent of all males receive less than \$5 a week, 4.85 per cent less than \$6, and 6.77 per cent less than \$7. About one-fifth of all males average less than \$1 per day. The females working at this low scale of wages comprise 72.99 per cent of all the workers. No intelligent reader will fail to realize what this fact means. In the higher scale of wages we find that 11.21 per cent of all males receive \$9 but under \$10 per week, 13.71 per cent \$10 but under \$12, 19.37 per cent \$12 but under \$15, and 19.49 per cent \$15 or over. These males, who comprise 63.78 per cent or nearly two-thirds of all males, receive \$1.50 or more per day. Only 10.26 per cent of the females employed are paid similar wages. As the scale of wages rises the number of females enjoying them grows steadily less. Of a total of 7,257 workers receiving \$20 a week and over, only 268 are females.

From these figures it seems that in those kinds of work for which the very lowest wages are paid, women form seventy per cent of the

workers, while they only form three per cent of the employees in labor that brings a high rate of wages. This is not all. For the same work performed with the same skill, women are paid less than men at the same establishments.

Everybody can see that this is not just. The question is, why this discrimination? The *Boston Globe* says it is because women carry no votes, and therefore legislators permit this injustice. Women "can neither seat nor unseat a politician."

But the regulation of wages by law has not yet been accomplished with any degree of satisfaction. The law of supply and demand is supposed to rule in the labor market, as elsewhere. We do not say this rule always holds good. There are exceptions. For instance, journalism is not paid in anything like the same proportions as the other professions, and yet there is no talent that is scarcer, in places where it commands but meagre remuneration, as genuine journalistic ability.

In Massachusetts woman is almost a drag on the labor market. The fair sex greatly outnumber the workers of the male persuasion. This, no doubt, has something to do with the disparity in the wages of the two sexes. Usually, however, a man's work, in most branches of labor, is really of more value than a woman's. But in cases where woman's work is equal to man's in quantity and quality, there is no good reason why it should command a less price.

There are many things in this world that are "out of joint." They will all be put right some day. But meanwhile the weak still suffer from abuses by the strong, and true civilization, justice, liberty and equal rights exist chiefly in theory.

Workers for women should continue their laudable exertions, and not cease until the question of sex shall no longer be permitted to intervene to prevent that which is right, politically, socially or in relation to anything that affects humanity.

### OLD COUNTRY CO-OPERATION.

THE co-operative movement in Great Britain has steadily advanced on the road of success ever since it was advocated and projected by Thomas Hughes, George J. Holyoake and their associates. The various societies now number more than a million members, and the capital invested exceeds \$50,000,000.

The sales last year were upwards of \$180,000,000 and the profits about \$15,000,000.

The presiding officer at the recent co-operative Congress in Glasgow, Lord Roseberry, in his annual address, stated that in the past quarter of a century the societies had transacted a business aggregating two thousand millions of dollars, bringing profits not less than two hundred millions.

These societies are entirely co-operative, and do not include those trading stores which sell to everybody and are called co-operative. The really co-operative institutions are for the benefit of the members, who receive the profits of their own purchases. Capital only receives its market value. It is hired at so much per cent. The profits are distributed to the members, who are the traders. Labor is paid wages, as capital is paid rent.

This, however, has been somewhat changed of late. In some of the co-operative societies the workers for the institution are peculiarly interested in its success and have a share in the profits. This, with the principle of profit-sharing by the purchasing members, is true co-operation.

The multiplication of shareholders in a joint-stock association does not materially change its character. A copartnership of a thousand, is no different to a copartnership of two or three, except that the thousand will be induced to buy of the establishment in which they are mutually interested. It is merely an extension of the partnership principle. It is a step in the right direction, of course, and if conducted on business principles is highly beneficial.

An institution which merely gives a portion of its profits to purchasers, and gives the greater proportion to the capitalists who invest their money for the purpose of getting dividends, is not a co-operative institution in the fullest sense. It still maintains the majesty of capital, and its object is to make for capital big profits out of purchasers. This is better than an individual business, however, because the buying public get some returns from their purchases.

Co-operation, as projected by those who gave to it in England its name and practical being, is an identity of interests between the buyers and the sellers. Or rather, the purchasers buy of themselves, paying persons to handle the goods and giving the market rate of interest for capi-