

increase in wages of \$6,377,925 in the year 1891 as compared with 1890, and a net increase of production of \$31,315,130 in the same period. An analysis of his table further demonstrates that of the sixty-seven industries covered, seventy-seven per cent. show an increase either of wages or product, or both, "and there were no less than 89,717 instances of individual increase of wages during the same year" (1891). Speaking of another table the commissioner says: "Of the sixty-eight industries included, seventy-five per cent. of them show an increased average yearly earning in the year 1891, while the total average increase of yearly earnings of the 285,000 employes was \$23.11." He adds: "The average increase of yearly earnings of the employes in the fifty-one trades was \$43.96 in 1891 as compared with 1890."

Mr. Peck remarks, in his report, relative to New York being a State whose condition may be taken as reflecting the situation of the country at large, as follows:

"No State in the Union offers a field so varied or so extensive within which the statistician can carry on his work with greater assurance of intelligent success than is presented by the State of New York. Within its borders are to be found by far the greatest number of manufacturing establishments, the most varied industries, and the largest number of individual employers and wage-earners of any of the forty-four commonwealths embraced in the United States. So that, whatever the statistical data collected and tabulated may prove relative to the effects of 'protection' on labor and wages in New York, may justly be taken as fairly representative of the conditions throughout the whole country."

Of course, the Republicans have not been slow to make use of Mr. Peck's report for party purposes, it being specially useful for that object on account of the Commissioner being himself a Democrat. The Democracy are necessarily greatly exercised on the subject, and numerous articles have appeared which present the matter in a totally different light, and action has been taken resulting in the arrest of Mr. Peck. The latter is accused by leading Democrats of making a false report and of burning or otherwise disposing of the tables and circulars upon which his exhibit ought to have been based. This alleged crime with which the man of figures is charged is said to be a part of a conspiracy, in which he is one of the chief participants. The inciting cause of the plot is said to be rooted in Hill movements and Mugwumpism and its object the defeat of Grover Cleveland.

The Republicans state, on the other hand, that Peck's report is an honest one, made up from the materials obtained by him from manufacturers and others.

The subject is one of conspicuous interest at present, and we have therefore given a brief statement of the claim of each of the great parties in relation to it. Having done this, the reader is left to make up his own conclusion as to which of the two positions is correct.

A CORRESPONDENT from Sweden says that there are now thousands of Jews in Finland and the Russian Baltic provinces who are ready to immigrate to America. Since they cannot now pass through Germany they are endeavoring to travel via Sweden, but it is doubted that they can obtain permission to do so.

## WORKINGMEN AND THE WORLD'S FAIR.

NOTWITHSTANDING the cholera alarms there seems to be no abatement in the prosecution of the World's Fair work in Chicago. All the details have been completed for the grandest civic display that ever took place on this continent on October 21, next, when the ceremony of dedication will be performed. President Harrison and the members of his cabinet, Grover Cleveland, the members of the diplomatic corps, the governors of the States, and a host of distinguished personages, civil, military and religious, are to be present. Col. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, will deliver the dedicatory oration. This gentleman voted against the appropriation in Congress, and on this account a great deal of ill-feeling was manifested against him. But that matter has been all settled, and the gallant Colonel, who is said to be one of the great orators of our time, is now unanimously chosen as the speaker of the day.

Eastern papers are discussing ways and means whereby the working men and women of this country can see the great fair next summer. The *New York Mail and Express* is taking an aggressive stand on the proposition that from May 1, 1893, to November 30, 1893, railroad fares from all points in the United States should be placed at a uniform scale of \$1.00 per head to bona fide working men. The laws of Congress now governing railroad fares need in no way be infringed by the contemplated scheme. These laws now recognize a dozen or more classes. They recognize first, second, third, immigrant, tourist, excursionist, family ticket passengers, drawing room, mileage passengers, sleeping car, dining room, clergymen, editorial, crews, commuters, private cars, free passes, separate cars for colored people, and several other grades. For each of these classes the national law demands a uniform rate. But among all these various grades the working men are not mentioned, and the companies may institute a class of this kind.

The plan proposed is that at certain periods special trains should be run for workingmen. In order that existing laws be not interfered with, the Union Pacific for instance could offer to run a train of ten coaches from Salt Lake City to Chicago for \$500. These cars could accommodate 600 passengers, which at \$1 each would defray operating expenses. And the *Mail and Express* suggests that Salt Lake City be made the Western terminus of the radius over which the dollar rate would extend. But roads westward of this would be expected to make excursion rates to enable the Pacific coast people to reach here cheaply, and to have one day in Salt Lake. After arrangements of this kind have been completed then let the Exposition Directors make one day weekly "workingmen's day," and the admission fee be placed at 10 cents each.

It is estimated that by this plan 41,000,000 people would visit the Fair who would not visit it under existing circumstances. And it is held to be only proper that every man, woman and child, over 10 years of age, in the United States, should see the Fair, and receive an impression of the greatness

and grandeur of our country. To the railroad managers of the United States, who are accorded a first rank in the solution of transportation problems, the movement of vast masses will be no difficulty.

## SHOEMAKERS OF HISTORY.

THE death of John Greenleaf Whittier, who in early life was a shoemaker, has prompted enterprising literary persons to search the volumes of universal history for other distinguished cobblers. This trade has been called ever since the days of the Romans "the gentle craft." And whatever there is about it that conduces to intellectuality, the shoemaking trade has furnished more distinguished learned men than any other of the crafts. The story of St. Crispin is more or less familiar to all readers of newspapers. He lived in the time of Diocletian the Roman Emperor. He embraced Christianity, and had to fly from Rome to France. He settled in the town now called Soissons, as a shoemaker, and at the same time became an ardent preacher of Christianity. The legendary stories relating to him state that he used to steal leather from the rich to make shoes for the poor. By reason of his aggressiveness, as a Christian he suffered death on October 25, 289 A. D., and on this date falls annually, as Whittier calls it, "Gay St. Crispin's Day."

Hans Sachs, a German cobbler, is characterized as "the nightingale of the Lutheran reformation." His songs did as much as Luther's sermons to spread the new religion. He died at the age of eighty-two, and left a reputation as an excellent shoemaker and a great poet.

William Carey, the distinguished Oriental scholar, began life as a shoemaker. He was the first to carry the Bible into the East Indies. He translated it into Bengali and several other dialects. He even compiled grammars of those languages which are considered reliable today.

Robert Bloomfield, "the shoemaker poet," composed his "Farmer's Boy" while working with five others at the trade in a garret. This poem brought him recognition from the nobility of England. Samuel Drew was another eminent cobbler, who attained celebrity by his reply to "Palne's Age of Reason."

Perhaps the most eminent cobbler of all the craft is Sir Cloudeley Shovel. This Norfolk lad began life as a shoemaker's apprentice in 1662. His monument in Westminster Abbey now bears the inscription, "Knight, Rear-Admiral of Great Britain, Admiral and Commander-in-chief of the Fleet."

Samuel Bradburn, "a poor cobbler," was for forty years known as the Demosthenes of Methodism. Thomas Cooper, the famous leader of the English Chartist movement, worked eight years on the cobbler's bench. He spent two years in Stafford jail. While there he wrote "The Purgatory of Soulsides." His works comprise a dozen bulky volumes.

James Lackington, a cobbler, became owner of "the biggest book shop in the world," in Finsbury Square, London. William Gifford, who be-