

THE RIGHT TO LABOR.

SEEKING A LOCATION.

The Cotton Acreage.

GIL MILL MEN'S VIEW.

TEN HOUR LAW IS NULL AND VOID.

The New York Statute Turned Down by the Supreme Court—An Important Decision.

Washington, April 17.—In an opinion by Justice Peckham, the supreme court of the United States today held to be unconstitutional the New York State law making ten hours a day's work and 60 hours a week's work in bakeries in that State. Justices Harlan, White, Day and Holmes dissented, and Justice Harlan declared that no more important decision had been rendered in the last century.

The opinion was handed down in the case of Lockner vs. the State of New York and was based on the ground that the law interfered with the free exercise of the rights of contract between individuals. The court of appeals of the State upheld the law and affirmed the judgment of the trial court holding Lockner guilty. Judge Parker wrote the opinion of the New York court of appeals supporting the law and the court divided four to three on the question of validity.

Lockner is a baker who was found guilty of permitting an employe to work in his bakery more than 60 hours in a week.

Justice Peckham said that the law is not an act merely fixing the number of hours which shall constitute a legal day's work, "but an absolute prohibition on the employer permitting under any circumstances more than ten hours work to be done in his establishment."

He continued:

"It necessarily interfered with the right of contract between the employer and employe, concerning the number of hours in which the latter may labor in the bakery of the employer. The general right to make a contract in relation to business is part of the liberty of the individual protected by the fourteenth amendment of the federal constitution. Under that provision no State can deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The right to purchase or to sell labor is part of the liberty protected by this amendment unless there are circumstances which exclude the right." The justice referred to the exception coming under the head of the police powers of the State and after considering that point at length concluded that the present case did not fall within the police power.

"The question whether this act is valid as a labor law, pure and simple, may," he said, "be dismissed in a few words. There is no reasonable ground for interfering with the liberty of person or the right of free contract by determining the hours of labor in the occupation of a baker. Bakers are in no sense wards of the State. Viewed in the light of a purely labor law with no reference whatever to the question of health, we think that a law like the one before us involves neither the safety, the morals nor the welfare of the public and that the interest of the public is not in the slightest degree affected by such an act. It is a question of which of two powers or rights shall prevail—the power of the State to legislate or the right of the individual to liberty of person and freedom of contract. We think the limit of the police power has been reached and passed in this case."

The Right Name is DeWitt.

DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cools, soothes and heals cuts, burns, boils, bruises, piles and all skin diseases. K. E. Zickfooss, Adolph, W. Va. says: "My little daughter had white swelling on her leg. DeWitt's Witch Hazel salve cured her." It is the most wonderful healing salve in the world. Beware of counterfeits. Sold by all druggists.

Paris, April 21.—The French minister at Tokio has assured the Japanese government of France's neutrality.

Alabama Iron Works Wants Information From Chamber of Commerce.

The Peacock Iron Works, of Selma, Ala., is desirous of finding a new location for its iron works. They have been in correspondence with Secretary Reardon of the Chamber of Commerce. Last Friday the secretary received a list of questions for information, among which are the following:

"Are you willing to erect nine fire proof buildings 100x200 feet for car wheel foundry, soft foundry, carpenter shop, machine shop, blacksmith shop, engine and boiler room, erecting shop, pattern shop, office, supply and material building, all of which we calculate will take between 20 and 25 acres for buildings and switch yards, tracks, lumber yards, coal and coke, pig iron, bar iron, sand bins and room for foundry flasks, tools, formers, etc.

"Are you willing to pay transportation on all machinery, tools, supplies, etc., that we will move from here?"

"Are you willing to pay transportation of all employes and families that we will move from this point to work for us permanently?"

"What is your water supply? If city, give cost of 10,000 gallons per day for manufacturing purposes.

"How many railroads have you? Give name of each and division.

"Freight rate on pig iron, charcoal pig iron, steam coal, domestic coal, 72 hour foundry coke."

"Can artesian wells be bored, and at what depth and cost?"

"Are dwelling houses for mechanics and other employes easy to get, and are rents high?"

"Is your city a healthy location. What is your death rate?"

"What are your freight rates from your city on car wheels, trucks and axles to New York, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah, Jacksonville, Pensacola, Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston, El Paso, Texas, St. Louis, Mo., Memphis, Birmingham, Cincinnati and Chattanooga?"

"What is your population. What is your state, city and county tax rate?"

"How many banks have you, and are they liberal to manufacturers in handling customers' paper where we have to sell on time?"

"What is the usual rate of discount?"

"Are there any other iron works in the same business as we are?"

"Have you any agricultural pursuits around your city and what products?"

"Our pay roll is nearly \$40,000 annually and our sales amount to from \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually."

The above information and much more, not printed, which is asked for shows the necessity for compiled information which the Chamber of Commerce keeps on hand in printed form.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

Walding, Kinnan & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price, 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation. April 18-1m

Mrs. McLean Elected President. Washington, April 20.—Mrs. Donald McLean, regent of New York City chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, today was elected president general of the national society, D. A. R.

Conservative estimates from the best informed sources, based on the output of the mills so far, the number of spindles, existing contracts and the known, and the prospective demand, place the world's consumption of cotton this year at approximately 12,000,000 bales; there are close observers and calculators, however, who believe that the mills will not "work up" as much as 11,000,000 bales even. The American crop from which the spinners have drawn and must continue to draw their supply is now set at 13,500,000 bales. This means that there is the strongest probability that the old crop will still be awaiting when the crop of 1905-6 begins to come forward July 1,500,000 bales of manufacture. Is there any wonder, then that the topic uppermost in the mind of the South today is the necessity for a small crop from this season's planting, or that "reduced acreage" is an argument down there that possesses almost the incentive and the potency of a battle cry? "Five-cent cotton," with all its commercial depression and other attendant evils, is still too fresh in the minds of the southern people for them to crave a repetition of it.

And a price for the staple dangerously near that point is what will almost inevitably happen if only an average crop for 1905-6 were to be piled onto a carry-over of 1,500,000 bales. The advice of the growers' association organized at New Orleans last winter, was an acreage curtailment of 25 per cent for this season. There is a very general disposition among the planters to follow it and, as weather conditions this spring are making the planting season backward, the situation is being taken advantage of to preach reduced acreage from every platform and house-top and in some instances from the pulpit, even. It is emphatically "a condition and not a theory that confronts the southern cotton industry this year, and upon intelligent concert of action in keeping the size of the crop down depends the stability and the prosperity of many another industry in the United States during the next year and a half. Every cotton manufacturing centre and the jobbing trade generally are especially interested in preventing a crop whose size would mean not a profit but a loss to the planters.

The crop of 1904-5 was raised from a planted area of 31,730,371 acres. The proposed reduction for this season would bring the acreage down to approximately 24,000,000; but unless every planter feels himself under a personal obligation to cut his cotton fields fully 25 per cent, the aggregate acreage will far exceed that figure. And even with an acreage of only 24,000,000, favorable weather and other conditions might not reduce the crop anything like 25 per cent; hence the additional advice of the planters that they cut down the volume of fertilizers commonly used. That a low acreage does not necessarily mean a "short crop" may be seen from the following comparisons:

The largest crop, except one—the present—in the last eight years was that of 1898-9—11,256,000 bales, raised from 24,967,000 acres; the next season, with an acreage of 23,521,000—a reduction of only 5.3 per cent—the crop fell to 9,422,000 bales or more than 16 per cent; in 1897-8 the acreage was 24,319,590 and the crop 11,216,000 bales; in 1900-01 the acreage was 25,557,180, the crop 10,339,000 bales; but in 1903-04, with an acreage of almost 29,000,000 the crop was only 10,002,000 bales, or less by 337,000 bales than that from a 25,557,000 acreage. A 25 per cent reduction from the present one in the crop of 1905-06 would mean a product of about 10,125,000 bales; but, as the foregoing statistics show, the acreage now proposed has in the past eight years produced two crops in excess of 11,000,000 bales each. So the product per acre must be kept down as well as the acreage.

It would be unwise of course, as a permanent policy for the South to scheme to keep the price of cotton always high by cutting the acreage and reducing the per acre product, for its tendency would be to check the expansion of a vastly important industry and it would ultimately lead to the increased cultivation of cotton in India, Africa and other countries in order to meet the world's demand—and thus the South's "king" might some day be dethroned. But for now, this policy is a sound one, for a "bumper" cotton crop on top of a carry-over of 1,500,000 bales this year would mean disaster.—New York Commercial.

Congressman Aiken has secured the appointment of Dr. J. R. Wright of Honea Path as physician to the Indians at Phoenix, Ariz., at a salary of \$1,200 a year.

Cheated Death.

Kidney trouble often ends fatally, but by choosing the right medicine, E. H. Wolfe, of Bear Grove, Iowa, cheated death. He says: "Two years ago I had Kidney Trouble, which caused me great pain, suffering and anxiety, but I took Electric Bitters, which effected a complete cure. I have also found them of great benefit in general debility and nerve trouble, and kept them constantly on hand, since, as I find they have no equal." J. F. W. DeLorme, druggist, guarantees them at 50c.

MILL MEN ESTIMATE ACREAGE REDUCTION.

Average Decrease of From 10 to 20 Per Cent. in Planting Observed by Cotton Seed Crushers.

The Manufacturers' Record this week says:

"Figures of the total cotton seed crush in the South during the season now closing are not available, but letters from the cotton seed oil mills filling three or four pages reveal rather an unsatisfactory situation from the mill standpoint and incidentally brings out quite a number of interesting points about the cotton crop of 1904-5 and the prospect of the coming crop.

"In the first place, many of the mills did not receive as much seed in the aggregate as they might have expected. The extraordinary yield of lint cotton had much to do with a decrease in the size and weight of the seed. The amount of lint in some cases went as high as 40 pounds or more to the 100 pounds of seed cotton, and it is believed averaged frequently from 36 to 38 pounds, whereas the average is usually 33 1-3 pounds. One establishment, for instance, handling more than 2,000 bales not infrequently got a 500-pound bale of lint from 1,350 pounds of seed cotton, showing a falling off in the yield of seed per bale of about 150 pounds. This falling off accounts in part for the small quantity of linters in comparison with the large ginning reported, though another influence was the fact that there was reduction in the quantity of seed moved to the mills for crushing, the farmers preferring to use the seed for cattle feed or to fertilize grain and vegetables, rather than to sell at the low prices which were offered after the fall in the price of the lint was accompanied by a fall in the price of oil. At one point in Indian Territory it was noted that the falling off was from 35 to 50 per cent. of the total seed produced.

"While this unprecedented yield of lint left some seed short of oil, so that instead of 41 or 42 gallons to the ton of seed, only about 38 gallons were obtained, the average amount of oil was obtained from other seed in spite of the fact that the yield of seed from seed cotton was but 60 per cent of the total weight, whereas it is usually 67 per cent. The actual yield of oil per ton of seed was about the same as usual, or was smaller or greater in different localities and sections. The yield seems to have been about the same or better in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, though in Georgia where one mill obtained 1.1-2 gallons more of oil to the ton because of improved methods of handling rather than condition of seed, and another had a better crush than for fourteen years past, a third found the seed unusually dry and had to use water in cooking the meats, and a fourth attributed the betterment to the fact that it had been obliged to use damaged seed in the preceding season and while some mills in Mississippi found the seeds richer in oil by three gallons to the ton than for the past five years, others reported a yield of one or two gallons less per ton, with one North Carolina mill tracing the good yield to improved facilities for crushing. The shortage in yield ranged from three to five gallons per ton in the Indian Territory, to two to five gallons per ton in Texas, and the shortage is accounted for by the dry and hot summer making small and shrivelled seeds, or to the premature opening of young bolls in Arkansas, by damage of the seed by rain in the gathering season in Louisiana, by the dry spring and wet summer preventing the proper maturing of seed in South Carolina, by the dry and small seed in North Carolina, by the full ripening of the seed in Georgia, by a faulty seed due to the dry season in the Indian Territory by the puncture of the seed, by the boll weevil in Texas, or by the very hot and dry weather in August, causing too early maturity of the seed in Texas. It is interesting to note that at several points machinery of recent make and best quality kept up the average of production or increased it.

"The oil mills generally note the prospect of a reduction in acreage, varying by states and by different localities in the several states typed as follows:

"Alabama—From 5 to 7 1-2 per cent. where cotton is thought to be the only possible crop; from 20 to 25 per cent. fruit growing, oats and wheat taking the place.

"Arkansas—From 10 to 20 per cent. the tendency to reduction being increased by the fact that the farmers who were lured by the expectation of high prices for cotton did not raise enough forage and are paying prices for corn and hay to make the coming crop too high for 7-cent cotton to be profitable.

"Florida—Many growers are negro tenants and the advancing merchants are insisting that these shall plant all the cotton they can work.

"Georgia—From 5 to 25 per cent., with separate estimates of 10, 18 and 20 per cent., with more attention to corn and other grain and live stock.

"Indian Territory—From 10 to 20 per cent.; about 55 per cent.

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"Louisiana—From 15 to 25 per cent the largest decrease being made in the sugar regions where cotton growers will go back to cane.
"Mississippi—From 10 to 20 per cent with a special estimate of 16 2-3 per cent, accompanied by a substitution of farm products, the general statement being made that the reduction in the hill country will be largely balanced by the increase in the Delta.
"North Carolina—From 15 to 20 per cent.; about 20 per cent.; about 25 per cent.
"South Carolina—From 10 to 12 1-2 to 15 and 25 per cent. the suggestion being made that the reduction in acreage will be offset by more liberal use of fertilizer.
"Texas—About 10 per cent. though reduction would have been greater had the season been favorable to corn planting; boll weevil has been reducing acreage for two or three years and growers have gone into rice planting; new land coming under cultivation will increase acreage; form 15 to 20 per cent. with more potatoes, more corn and more peach trees, the inclination to diversify farming being especially strong among settlers from abroad.
"Virginia—From 20 to 25 per cent.
"A reasonable suggestion is made by a Kentucky refinery, basing its belief upon reports from correspondents in the farther South that the general reduction in acreage of 10 per cent will really mean a reduction of 25 per cent in the crop from that of last year which was the product of an exceptional season.
"A tone of depression seems to run through many of the letters because of the financial results of the season's crush. These are attributed to the existence of too many mills, one Arkansas concern claiming that the growth of mills is outstripping the seed supply and one in North Carolina pointing out that in a particular region there are enough mills to handle in ten weeks all the seed produced, to the competition among the mills for

Worse Every Year.

Plenty of Sumter Readers Have The Same Experience.

Don't neglect an aching back. It will get worse every year. Backache is really kidney ache. To cure the back you must cure the kidneys. If you don't other kidney ills follow—Urinary troubles, diabetes, Bright's disease. A Sumter citizen tells you how the cure is easy.
B. A. Betts, well-known farmer, living two miles north east of Sumter, says: "I believe Doan's Kidney Pills which I procured at Dr. A. J. China's drug store are a good kidney remedy. For a number of years I had a hard time with my back and every cold I caught settled in my back and the pain felt just like rheumatism and would just lay me up. I could not sit for any length of time in one position or attempt to turn over in bed without the sharp pain striking me and making me yell right out and I had to take hold of something to support me when I got out of bed. The kidney secretions were irregular, unnatural and at night too frequent in action. I used lots of remedies and took doctor's medicine but was just the same after I used Doan's Kidney Pills curing other people so I went and got them. They helped me immediately and since then the pain has left me, my back is strong and the kidney secretions do not bother me. My health is greatly improved in every way and I give Doan's Kidney Pills the credit."
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