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THE HIGHEST PAID LABOR OF THE WORLD.

The Plutocrats of Labor From the Saturday Evening Post by Paul Latzke.

The ten-inch mill was in trouble when I came upon Davie, at our first meeting. A bloom had stuck. The rolls were chewing at it with the fierceness of the tiger and the rattle of thunder. But there it hung, white hot, unmoved and unmoving. A swarm of men hovered over it, pushing with long iron rods, throwing great handfuls of sand, seeking to ease it from below with huge hammers. The very devil seemed to be in the bloom. With all the pounding and coaxing and manipulating, it gave not an inch to the rolls that were clutching at it so greedily. The trouble was the scale that forms during the heating process. It "greases," and the rolls, for all their power, are often unable to take hold and push the bloom through, but slide instead.

The noise was deafening. With the clatter of iron and steel all around, and the wild pounding of machinery, came this hoarse straining of the stalled roll, rending the ear and holding the spirit in suspense.

Suddeuly came a shrill cannonading, as though a score of machine guns had been shot off in a bunch. The machinery or the bloom, or both, had burst under the strain. I thought the air was full of flying derbris, the ground strewn with the mangled corpse of men. After a moment I opened my eyes. To my amazement everything was running along as before. Only the grinding that had come of the obstinate bloom was cut out. The noise had settled down to a steady businesslike swing; the mill was moving again like clockwork.

"What happened?" I asked in a dazed way of the superintendent.

"Happened? Nothing."

"But the explosion?"

"Oh!" said he with a smile. "The explosion. That was only some salt Davie threw on the bloom when it finally consented to move. Salt, you know, when thrown on hot iron explodes under pressure, and as it passes under the rolls the concussion blows the scale off."

The House and Horses of Roller.

Thereupon I looked around once more for Davie, as it was on his account I had come. The superintendent a few hours before had shown me Davie's house, a charming place, set in an emerald background of smoothly cut lawn, dotted plentifully with flower-beds. It commanded a fine view of the river, and was well hidden from the grimy, rattling mill where Davie worked, three miles away, in McKeensport. It was smiling, serene country, all upland, the stream winding in and out like a silver band. The place might have been the home of a prosperous merchant or manufacturer. The grounds were spacious and the appointments perfect. The house must have contained fourteen or fifteen rooms. The windows all showed curtains of filmy lace. The panes glistened like crystal in their spotlessness. On the wide piazza were comfortable chairs and plenty of cushions.

"And that," I asked in amaze, "is the home of a roller?"

"Yes, sir," said the superintendent; 'a plain, ordinary, common roller; a mechanic; a man who goes to work every morning at three o'clock when he has the day-turn and keeps at it steadily for twelve hours. When he has the night-turn he goes to work at three o'clock in the afternoon for twelve-hour stretch, and that holds good for every day in the week, every week in the year, except when the mills shut down through a strike or some other trouble. He carries his dinner in a tin pail, though I don't mind saying it's a very good dinner."

"He seems to keep a horse, too" I suggested, looking at a substantial stable that stood in the rear of the grounds.

"Why, yes," he admitted, "Davie does keep a horse. In fact he keep two, and they are as fine a team as may be seen anywhere in Alleghany County not excluding Pittsburg. When he drives that team through Schenley Park on a Sunday you'd probably agree it would tax the resources of a millionaire to provide a finer outfit. Would you like to see it?"

Now, a fine horse is a fine horse and there is no particular use of waisting space attempting to describe the roller's team. But there was something in that stable worth particular description. It was a pair of the most beautiful ponies I have ever seen in my life, not excepting those shown at the Madison Square Horse Show each year when the children of the Goulds and the Vanderbilts turn out their finest possessions. It was a blue-ribbon pair of ponies, stallions, with arching necks, perfect heads, beautiful eyes, coats like velvet. Their dainty hoofs shown like the freshly manicured nails of a lady of fashion. Their coats glistened, and their manes hung as soft and curling and fluffy as the hair of a young girl.

"These too belong to the roller?"

"To his boy. He bought them for the boy, I believe as a Christmas or birthday present. There's the trap the ponies are driven to." It might have served as a parlor ornament. Of a height to match the ponies, it was built of quartered oak, rubber-tired and nickel-trimmed. The two lanterns at the dashboards looked like show ornaments in a jeweler's window. It was from end to end a perfect specimen in miniature of the carriage-builder's art.

"A pretty nice outfit altogether, horses and ponies and carriage, isn't it?" smiled the superintendent, impressed by my admiration.

"I suppose he drives to work every day?"

"Not he. He walks to work. Thinks far too much of his horses to use them like that. No, sir; he pulls himself out of bed about two o'clock in the morning, and trudges the three miles to the mill, for at that hour, you know, trolley cars don't run. In winter-time, when the thermometer is ten or fifteen degrees below zero, as we frequently have it here, it's no soft snap to plow your way through snow and ice on a pitch-dark night. But Davie never misses a day."

The Highest-Paid Labor of the World.

But, after all, the most fascinating thing about Davie to my mind was his income.

"About twenty-five dollars a day is average wages at the mill," the superintendent told me. "In the course of a year he will earn in the neighborhood of seven or eight thousand dollars."

This seemed incredible. Twenty five dollars a week is an exceptional wage for the mechanic in other walks of life.

The beginning of the end has come already. To day, men like Davie are by no means the invariable rule. There are probably not over forty per cent. among the rollers employed in Western Pennsylvania who make wages as good as Davie's. The average is much nearer fifteen than twenty-five dollars a day. Only a few years ago the average roller's wages ran from forty to a hundred dollars a day. There were plenty of men in the field who made fifteen thousand dollars a year, quite a number who made twenty and some who made thirty thousand dollars. Now there are a number of firts-class men who are content with three thousand dollars a year. This is the pay of all the men at Homestead, the most important works in the iron district. Before the great strike at Homestead there was not a roller in the place who made less than two hundred and fifty dollars a week, and quite a number who made twice as much. The strike, for which the rollers were mainly responsible, proved their Waterloo. When work was resumed after the long, fierce battle, not one of the old, high-priced men was re-employed. In their places new ones were broken in, and for the first time something like a uniform earning rate was established among all the mills. Ten dollars a day was decided upon as fair wages and a tonnage rate was fixed for each mill which would yield the rollers about this sum each day.

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James T. Mullin & Sons.

Summer Closing Sale Now On.

We had the greatest spring business of our history. Now we want to clean up and get ready for fall A big lot of broken sizes, Sample Suits and small lots in all sizes at one-half price. Men's Suits $2.50 to $7 50, that were $5 to $15. Boys' Long Pants Suits $2.50 to $5, that were $5 to $10. Little Boys' Suits $1.50 to $2,50, that were $2 to $5. 10 per cent off regular stock except Serges, Thin Goods and Black Clays. About 200 pairs of finest Russets Shoes at one-price $1.50 to $3, for our $3, $3.50, $4, $5 and $6 Shoes. Great bargains in Furnishings and Straw Hats. It will pay you to come right away and make good selections.

JAS. T. MULLIN & SONS.,
6th and Market, Wilmington.

REDUCED RATES

To Tacoma, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, and Victoria Via Pennsylvania Railroad, Account Meeting Y. P. C. U. of the Presbyterian Church at Tacoma, Wash.

On Account of the meeting Y. P. C. U. of the Presbyterian Church, at Tacoma, Wash., July 23 to 27, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to Tacoma, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, or Victoria from all stations on its lines July 10 to July 20, inclusive, at greatly reduced rates. These tickets will be good for return passage until September 15, inclusive, when executed by Joint Agent at destination and payment of 50 cents made for this service. Apply to Ticket Agents for additional information.

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Big line Ready Mixed Paints Lead, Oil, Window Glass.

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TOULSON'S SARSAPARILLA

75 Cents Per Bottle.

Prescriptions given our careful attention.

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Shingles, Pickets,

CYPRESS FENCING.

WHITE PINE BARN BOARDS,
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J. B. McINTYRE - H. HODGKINS

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We have and keep constantly on hand a full variety of Choice Fresh Groceries Provisions, Fruits and Vegetables.

Try our 15c. Coffee it is a great seller. Flour 28, 30 & 35cts. a sack, Salt and Sugar-cured Meats at lowest cash prices. Pure Country Lard, Canned Goods, Preserves, Pickles etc.

For a good smoke, we have as good a 2 for 5c. cigar as can be had. Tobacco, Chewing and Smoking. Cakes and Crackers, a very fine line of candy, Plain and Fine Chocolates.

We want to buy Country Lard for the best cash prices. Give us a call.

Respectfully yours for business,

McINTYRE & HODGKINS,
Opposite Park.

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For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

Saved By Jumping!

A gentleman drove a spirited horse up to the front of R. H. HICK'S STORE a few days ago, jumped hastily from his buggy and saved at least $3.75 on a purchase of $20.00 worth of goods.

Lots of people are being saved in just the same way.

We save you 2½c per yard on Dotted Swiss.
We save you 2½c per yard on Organdies.
We save you 2c per yard on Duck for Skirts.
We save you 2c per yard on 5c Lawn.
We save you 3c per yard on 10c Percale.
We save you 11c on a 50c Shirt Waist.
We save you 4c on a Paper of Pins.
We save you 25c on any Skirt in the House.

So if you want to save come and buy

50c Sailor Hats at	39c
40c Sailor Hats at	25c
35c Child's Sailor Hats at,	25c
$1.00 Ladies' Hats at	49c
50c Tennis Shoes at	39c
6c Lamp Chimneys at	4c
5c Sea Gull Baking Powder at	4c
45c Schnapps Tobacco at	39c
$1.00 Men's Soft Bosomed Shirt at	87c

We pay the highest market price for all Country Produce.

R. H. HICKS, - Galena, Md,

Chestertown Bargain House

NEXT DOOR TO J. S. BRADLEY'S GROCERY.

Offers Better Bargains than ever done heretofore. Call and be convinced. An opportunity to save from 15 to 35 per cent.

The following are a few prices.

Men's Suits from	2.25 and up
Children's Suits from	89c and up
Men's Pants from	49c and up
Men's Shoes from	98c and up
Ladies' Shoes from	98c and up
Men's Sunday Straw Hats from	39c and up
Men's Shirts from	19c and up
Ladies Wash Skirts from	33c and up

Our Big Underselling in All Lines. Wonderful display in Men's, Boys' and Children's Clothing of the BEST PRICE. Come all and see for yourselves.

P. S.—HATS TRIMMED FREE OF CHARGE. Special offering in Ladies Millinery and Shirt Waists and Ladies' Furnishing Goods.

A. BLUM, Proprietor.

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KERR'S WRIGHTSVILLE, SCHUYLKILL, &
-H. C. LIME.--

Delivered by Rail to Any Station on the Baltimore and Delaware Bay Railroad.

Standard Lime & Stone Company's Lime,

Delivered by Boat to Any Wharf or Landing on the Chesapeake Bay or Tributaries.

GROUND LIME.

Delivered by rail or boat on reasonable notice. The lime you drill in your land the same as fertilizer and is getting to be very popular because of the way in which it can be used and the good results.

COAL and WOOD.
UNDER COVER.

The only yard in the County where you can buy COAL free from snow and water. This is a stride forward and to the advantage of Coal buyers.

Best Coals, Lowest Prices, Quick Delivery

Come and see us before buying and let us see what we can do for you.

Very Respectfully,

J. D. BACCHUS.

Jan. 27. 1900. CHESTERTOWN MD

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