

all arrears were paid up in full, and now they are clearing all the way from \$4 up to \$16 a day for each man. They never make less than the big wage of \$4 a day, and \$16 has been the highest wage taken out. Ten dollars a day is about the average, and they have almost a month right of way ahead of them.

#### A LESSON FOR WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES AS WELL.

An editorial in The Milwaukee Daily News of October 13, 1904.

James Bryce, the distinguished British parliamentarian and author of "The American Commonwealth," when asked to set forth some of the lessons the English people have learned in a thousand years' experience that the American people might profit by, unhesitatingly replied that the first thing the American States should do is to preserve the right of free foot passage along the lakes and streams, that access to them may be open to all the people.

This is a lesson that the people of Wisconsin above all should heed. The State is dotted with lakes and rivers and running brooks. As yet the population is not dense enough to emphasize the wrong to the masses of the people involved in denying free access to the streams and lakes. There is little difficulty in obtaining access to the lakes and streams. Private owners do not insist upon the legal right to forbid trespass. But with the pressure of population it is inevitable that the time will come when the public will find itself barred from access to the lakes and streams of the State. While it is yet time the State legislature should reserve this privilege to the people.

It is a shame that the State did not reserve a strip of land along the borders of the lakes and rivers. In northern Wisconsin the shores of the lakes have been denuded of the pine trees, and nothing remains but charred stumps and brush piles, nature seeking to repair the vandalism with growths of poplars. These lakes are gems wrenched from their settings. It will take years before their natural beauty may be restored. It never can be restored wholly, as the pines do not renew themselves.

At this time it is too much to expect in an American State that the public will take possession of the boundaries of the lakes and rivers and restore their natural beauty and preserve them as a heritage to all the people, but it ought to be possible at least to reserve

footpaths along the lakes and streams. This ought to be possible, even at the present time. It would not interfere with despoiling nature of its beauty in the making of dollars. The lakes and rivers have been stripped of the trees of commercial value that fringed their shores.

The only thing that stands in the way is the desire for exclusiveness that possesses the holders of wealth. This spirit of exclusiveness has not yet taken possession of the owners of the soil, as it has in Europe, but, as Prof. Bryce intimates, like conditions will breed like results. We should profit from the experience of others.

#### "RELIGION HAS OFTEN FORGOTTEN THAT LIFE IS GOOD."

A portion of a sermon delivered in the Vine Street Congregational church, Cincinnati, O., November 13, 1904, by the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow.

How often has religion forgotten that life is good! How often has the church preached the gospel of repression and contraction of human interests.

If you will pardon a personal reference, my grandfather and mother, about the time of my birth, withdrew from one church and joined another, because they disapproved of the use of instrumental music in God's house. A jewsharp was the only musical instrument my father was allowed as a boy. Those good people firmly believed that the devil was in the fiddle. The love of music was frowned upon, and talents which might have been developed and added something to the enjoyment of my father's life, were sternly repressed by the parental conscience.

After telling me this story only this summer, my father excused himself, and, going to another room, returned with a violin. I had never seen him with such an instrument. To my amazement, he sat down and played tune after tune. In the winter of his seventy-first year he had learned to play the fiddle. Since passing out from under the parental authority, this was the first opportunity he had had of satisfying that desire which slumbered within him. Who can say how much more life might have been to men had their religious convictions been tempered with reason.

But yesterday I received a letter from one of our young men who has traveled afar from us. Fresh from school he is beginning life as a "roustabout" in one of the mines of the West. He is face to face now with the serious business of the world. Will he succeed? Any man succeeds who keeps his ideals. The young man writes me from the strange, new country that he misses the stimulus

of the old church, and is conscious of the struggle ahead of him, if he avoids the common fate of men in "sacrificing self for selfishness." The phrase is his. "Sacrificing self for selfishness." That tells the story. Failing in order to succeed. Succeeding but to fail. That is a greater misfortune than poverty.

The other day in passing a house I heard unusual sounds. I looked, and on the porch, quite alone, sat an aged man. He was in a chair and his hands rested on a cane. Lost in reverie, he was singing a song, and the cracked and muffled notes had a music of their own.

He had not a tooth in his head, but he had a song in his soul. That song of old age was a tribute to some son or daughter. To the beatitudes I would add! Blessed are they that honor gray hairs, for they shall be comforted.

But more than this, the song of the old man was symbolic of that composure and peace of mind which ought to go with the widening vistas and the ripening years.

To hold in old age the ideals of youth; to keep one's honor through it all; to store up an heritage of generous deeds; to sit at the journey's end and look into the future and sing; to have a life abounding in duties done and crowned at last with hope; to go through the world with a brave heart and to leave it with a song. That is an achievement worthy of any man and possible to all.

#### CAUSES OF DEMOCRATIC DEFEAT.

A letter published in the Elizabeth (N. J.) Evening Times of Nov. 11.

Your editorial of yesterday, while furnishing good reasons for the overwhelming Democratic defeat of Tuesday last, does not, in my opinion, dwell strongly enough on the fundamental cause of this great Roosevelt landslide.

While Roosevelt's personal popularity had much to do with the tremendous popular vote in his favor, yet it should be plain to any thinking person that the Democratic party would this year have been signally defeated, no matter whom the Republicans might have nominated. The Democratic party dug its own grave last July when it put men of the caliber of Gorman, Belmont, McCarren and Sheehan in the control of the National organization. It dug its own grave in the State of New Jersey when it left in control the men who, since 1894, have continuously led the party to inglorious defeat. While the platform adopted at St. Louis was Democratic, as far as it went, yet Judge Parker was not allowed at any time to stand on it, and was made to straddle