

of the Prussian cities and probably throughout Germany.

The service is entirely in the hands of women, who wear a uniform similar to that of the Salvation Army. The object of the simple uniform is that the woman shall be entirely free in her movements, and at the same time appeal to the intoxicated man or woman entirely by virtue of her womanhood. The members of the service are constantly at work; they are assigned to certain sections of the city and usually work in pairs. This, however, is not an invariable rule, and when an intoxicated man or woman is found by one of the officers alone, another member of the service is summoned by means of a whistle. The intoxicated person is then helped to his or her feet and guided to the nearest station. If the degree of intoxication is such that the person cannot walk, then the members of the service literally carry the helpless creature to a place of shelter.

As may be readily understood, the work is beset with difficulties. A remark made by the *Monde Illustré* is of interest: "It is certainly significant that women should be chosen for this work, for it is conclusive evidence of the fact that the world is realizing more and more the value of appealing in every case to the higher instincts. We believe this to be the only course, in social reformation and progress."
—Public Opinion.

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THE SHORTER WORKDAY

Letters on the Eight-Hour Day Addressed to the Editor of Justice of Cleveland, Ohio, and Printed in the Issue of That Journal for June 1, 1906

I am in favor of an eight-hour day because—

1. I know that I ought not to work more than that myself. My idea that I am in tip-top physical condition has just been confirmed by life insurance examination, but I still need sleep and recreation. It seems a reasonable inference that other workers also need time for sleep and recreation.

2. Eight hours a day for adult Americans who ought to work is much more than is necessary for the easy doing of all the work that America has to offer. To force one man to do more work and to deny the next man any chance to work is not a "square deal."

3. I expect to continue to "look out for No. 1," but I do not want to be a hog.

Yours truly,

ELROY M. AVERY.

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I believe an eight-hour workday is very desirable, not only from the standpoint of the employe, but also of the employer. Men can render much better service if sufficient time for rest, recreation and self-improvement is given, and I believe all working-men should have some time to spend with their families.

Yours very truly,

W. J. SPRINGBORN,
Director of Board of Public Service.

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in favor of the eight-hour workday because,

under natural conditions, a good living can be secured in not more than that time. Anything beyond that makes a mere machine of a man.

I don't think the eight-hour workday will come until we realize that special privilege stands in the way of short hours, and we shall never enjoy the full benefit of the movement until the votes of the laboring people are concentrated for men and measures that will abolish these special privileges.

Very truly yours,

TOM L. JOHNSON, Mayor.

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OUR PENAL SYSTEM.

An Editorial in *The Square Deal*, of Omaha, Neb., Laurie J. Quinby, Editor.

Our penal system does not prevent crime. It breeds and nurtures it. So far as a man's hope is concerned, he may as well be sent to the penitentiary for life as for a year. We take a husband and father or perhaps a son who is the only stay of a widowed mother, and damn him in a penitentiary practically for life. We do not stop at that. Getting him behind the bars we teach him how true we are to the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," by stealing from him the product of his toil. Our crime does not end even there. We contract with extortioners for his labor. The product of that labor is sold in the open market in competition with "free" labor. Nor in our progress in crime do we stop here. All the time the man is imprisoned his children are abandoned. Society points its damning finger at them as the children of a convict. It forces them naked upon the world. It drives them into the footsteps of the father. It not only deprives them of their natural support, it robs them of the opportunity to properly support themselves. Upon the life-record of nearly every convict may be truly written, "More sinned against than sinning."

Let us change such an infamous system. If for the protection of society the criminal must be confined, let us reform our system of punishment and make it a reformation. These convicts should not be kept in idleness. The most painful sight I ever witnessed was in the Ohio penitentiary during the panic of 1893. There was no work for the convicts, so during the usual long working hours they were obliged to sit on a plain bench, with their hands upon their knees, looking straight ahead. They were not allowed to move or utter a word. And the self-righteous hypocrites of the state stood by in silence. They were only convicts! But in the sight of that Eternal Justice who metes good for good and ill for ill, the real criminals were those who permitted such an outrage—not the victims.

The remedy? Put the convict to any kind of work that may interest him. Encourage him. Allow him to have the full product of his toil. If he has anyone dependent upon him, let his earnings in full go to them. If he has not such dependents, let half his earnings go to his victims, the state acting as custodian of the remainder, to be turned over to him at the expiration of his time to enable him to begin life anew. This would prove a reformation for the convict and the best protection to society.