

tion of a municipal coal and wood yard, adoption of State laws authorizing the removal of city employes for just cause, use of public school buildings for dances, amalgamation of a number of city offices for financial reasons, creation of public comfort stations, and limitation of use of city automobiles to municipal purposes.

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A Blossoming World Stormswept.

With a "March spring" the crops of the Central West and the Mississippi Valley have been prematurely advanced from a month to six weeks. On the 23d, what has been described as "the most disastrous and far-reaching storm experienced in a generation," swept with snow and a bitter wind over the North Central States, and in the days immediately following, through the Southern Mississippi Valley States, while but slightly abating its rigors in the North. The frost in Illinois varied from 18 degrees to 30 degrees and the snow blew in drifts that were slow to melt. Fruit trees that had already blossomed, shrubs in flower, and shade trees in leaf, hung thick with the snow, and the staple crops of fields and gardens were buried deep. The following estimate of crop losses is taken from the Chicago Inter Ocean of the 26th:

Cotton	\$225,000,000
Tobacco	50,000,000
Fruits	125,000,000
Vegetables	50,000,000
Wheat	100,000,000
Oats	70,000,000
Total	\$620,000,000

Georgia—Fifty per cent of the cotton crop destroyed.

Alabama—Cotton crop practically ruined. Fruits and vegetables also have suffered heavy loss.

Missouri—Fruit crop seriously damaged. Killing frosts prevailing.

Louisiana—Thousands of acres of cotton destroyed.

Kentucky—Fruit and vegetables either killed or damaged. Tobacco crop will be seriously impaired.

Ohio—Fruits and early vegetables badly damaged. Grape crop loss will be heavy.

Arkansas—Crop loss heavy. Cold wave unprecedented.

Tennessee—Loss in early cotton, fruits, tobacco and vegetables heaviest in many years.

Indiana—Fruit crop badly damaged. Full extent will not be known until weather changes.

Illinois—Fruit crop practically ruined. Early vegetables almost total loss. Truck gardeners in vicinity of Chicago suffer loss of thousands of dollars.

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The Ten-Hour Labor Law for Women in Illinois.

By the Supreme Court of Illinois on the 21st the statute limiting the hours of labor for women in factories, laundries, etc. (p. 156) was held to be Constitutional. This law, which was secured

and championed by the Women's Trade Union League, was attacked on the ground that it interferes with freedom of contract; it is upheld by the Court on the ground that it is a legitimate exercise of the police power for the protection of the public health. In their opinion the Court says:

As weakly and sickly women cannot be the mothers of vigorous children, it is of the greatest importance to the public that the State take such measures as may be necessary to protect its women from the consequences produced by long-continued manual labor in those occupations which tend to break them down physically. It would seem obvious, therefore, that legislation which limits the number of hours which women shall be permitted to work to ten hours in a single day in such employments as are carried on in mechanical establishments, factories and laundries would tend to preserve the health of women and assure the production of vigorous offspring by them and would conduce directly to the health, morals and general welfare of the public, and that such legislation would fall clearly within the police powers of the State.

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A Possibly Factitious Race Movement in Cuba

The organization of an Independent Party of Color is creating for the first time the race question in Cuba. The Negroes are demanding official recognition and privileges of land grants. Inflammatory speeches have been made by their leaders in the several provinces. General Entendoz, a Jamaica Negro, after rousing Santiago province, went to Havana, where on the 22d he was arrested with four of his followers; and on the day following 24 more Negroes were placed under arrest. By the 24th 70 Negroes were in jail and the authorities declared that the disturbances had been quelled. General Entendoz and 22 others were indicted on the 26th, on charges of inciting rebellion. It is asserted that President Gomez (vol. xii, pp. 130, 253), during his campaign, made promises to the Negroes he could not fulfill. Dispatches of the 18th stated that every one was wondering who was financing Entendoz, and the two Haytian Negroes who were accompanying him. They traveled in special trains for which they had no means of their own to pay. The Chicago Tribune of the 22d says editorially:

One of those inflammatory orators is a Jamaican, and two are Haytians. The white Cubans would like to know who are paying their expenses. There are some Americans who will say that it is the Sugar Trust. Their reason for saying so is that it would be the greatest gainer by a revolution, intervention, and annexation. The output of its sugar plantations would enter the United States duty free. Its overzealous employes would no longer attempt to falsify weights to add to its profits. Just what the Cuban holdings of the Trust are is not known, but they are extensive and its gain through annexation would be great.