HOW THE DISINHERITED WORKING CLASS WERE BRANDED THROUGH THE EAR AS ROGUES, AND CLAPPED TO WORK AT "STA-TUTE WAGES."

er. The population was scattered by the law." largely amongst little villages and hamor the great nobles who up to Wolsey's was modified or intensified. change of sumptuary laws made by made more severe.-Wolsey, for the purpose of furthering trade and inorder to bring the nobles

conditions. III (1349). It runs as follows:—

wards their desyres, so that therby thei same pein." maie be compelled to labour for their messary lyvinge. Wherfore our saide shall do openly to be proclaimed and formation":holden, all and singular the premisses in the counties, boroughs, marchaunt of due execution, as afore is saide."

worker to his own town or tything.

enacted, but with greater detail.

petted persons and such Englishmen as pence." "have been pillours and robbers in the partyes beyond the sea; and be nowe come agayne and goeth wanderynge and authorities that will not labour as they were wonte in times past."

other things, is the following:-

"And moreover it is ordayned and as-

in the same circumstances as rural Am- them to fynde suretye of theyr good of the Act runs,erica to-day. We must, of course, leave | bearynge by sufficyent mainpernours, of out the facilities of movement, which such as to be distreynable, if any de- Provided alwaie that diminusion of soldiers having licenses, are exempt. So are very different; but this latter ad- faulte be founde in suche faytours and punishment of vacaboundes and beggers also the following: "any cockers or vantage is largely in favor of the vaga- vacabundes. And if they con not fynde aforesaid, may and shall be had for harvest folks . . . either come harbond. According to Froude, the popu- suche suretye they shall be sent to the women great with chlyde, and men and vest, or hay harvest, if they do worke lation of England was in the middle next iayle, there to abyde tyll the Com- women in extreme siknes, by him that and labour accordinglie, neither yet to of the sixteenth century somewhere a- mynge of the justices assyned for the hath auctoritee to doe the sayde punish- any that happeneth to be robbed or tout a million persons. In this he prob- deliverance of the iayles, who in suche mentes, this acte notwithstandynge." | spoyled by ye way"; nor serving-men ably underestimated to a great degree, case shal have power to do upon such but his statement will serve as an il- faytours and vacabundes so imprysoned Instration; the figures really do not mat- that that thereof to them best shall seme Henry VII, cap. 12) the severity of cellor's license is to go everywhere.

kts; of these many were mere clusters In the above enactment the word night in stocks on bread and water; and -except whipping or stocking—as by or groups of small houses far apart ["vacabunde" is mentioned for the first for a second offence to three days and former Acts. Hospitals are empowered from similar congeries, and were cut time. It is taken from the French nights of similar durance. The same to harbour and help aged and impotent off from one another by dense forests through the low Latin word "vagari"- penalties are to be enforced on officers persons. Certain "abyding places" are and imperfect roads. There was in the to wander. The previous enactments neglecting their duties under this Act to be appointed locally in every shire, country no Police Force as we under- had compelled every man to remain in as in the earlier enactment. stand it now; but little, if any, organ- his own place; this one made the wan- In the first year of Edward VI an such places as to be deemed a "rogue" for ized local protection. Such protection dering itself from it an offence. We Act (I Edward VI, cap. 3) was passed the first refusal, and for the second to as nominally existed was in the king | shall see how, as time went on, this repealing all former Acts relating to suffer as a roge or vagabond in the

der seudal tenure, controlled troops. The cap. 7, the rule against wandering was year of the same King (HEdward VI, being so diseased, lame, or impotent

round the King, had the effect of en- that of every persone that goeth beg- There were other temporary Acts of larging the groups of houses from vil- ging, and is able to serve or labour, the time of Edward VI, Queen Mary, that in case of "any begger's childe," hges to towns and cities. Up to that it shal be doen of him, as of him that and Philip and Mary; also Acts I Elizatime the sumptuary laws were prohibit- departeth out of the Hundred, and other beth, cap. 19, and V Elizabeth, Cap. 19. ive and repressive-what individuals | places aforesaid, without letter, testi- All of these were repealed by XIV Elizand classes might not do or wear- monial, as afore is said, excepte people abeth, cap. 5, which was the most clab- male, "who may be liked of by any subnther than helpful to trade and manu- of Religion and Heremites, having let- orate and comprehensive Vagabond Act ject of this realme of honest calling," feture; but under his clever statesman- tern testimoniall of their ordinaries, and passed by the British Parliament up l sip-exercised mainly on behalf of the that the beggars impotet (importent) to to that time, 1572. King-the nature of these laws changed, serve, shall abide in the cities and and trade and manufactures increased. tounes, where they bee dwelling at the quote, but a survey of its provisions But for a long, long time villages and time of the proclamation of this statute, can be interesting. The preamble gives towns were practically far apart; and in and if the people of Cities or tounes the alleged reason of its enactment: he wide spaces between, the smaller wil not or maie not suffice to finde communities were still under the old them: that then the saied beggars shall drawe them to other tounes within the England and Wales be presented with of many Vagabond Acts or portions of The first Vagrant Statute recorded is Hundredes, Rape, or Wapentake, or to roges, vagabonds, and sturdie beggers that in the twenty-third year of Edward the tounes where thei were borne, with- exceedinglic pestred, by means whereof in XL daies after the proclamation daylie happen murders, thefts, and other made, and there shal continually abide, great outrages, to the high displeasure "Item because that many valiaunt beg- durynge their lives, and that of all them of Almightie God, and to the great gers, as longe as thei maie live of beg- that go in pilgrimage as beggars, and annoy of the common wealth," &c. ginge, do refuse to labour, gevinge them | be able to travaille, it shall be doen as | selfe to idlenes and vice, and sometyme | if the said servauntes and labourers, if to theite and other abominations: None thei have no letters of testimoniall of upon the saide peine of imprisonmente their pilgrimage, under the saied seales. shall, under the colour of pitce or almes | And that the scolers of the Universities | geve any thinge to suche, which maie that go so begging, have letters testi- or sturdie beggers" caught begging, valabour, or presume to favour them to- moniall of their Chaunceler upon the grant, or disordering themselves were

The Act XI Henry VII, cap. 2, is Soreraine lorde the Kinge, the xiii daie intended to be "merciful" and to spare of June, the xxiii yere of his reigne, cost to the taxpayers. By it "vaca- she shal be adjuged to be grievouslie Place. hath commanded to all the shiryffes of boundes," instead of being put in jail, whipped and burnt through the gristle Englande by divers writtes, that thei are to be given several chances of "re- of the right eare, with a hot yron on the

Act proclaymed, make due serche, and This statute XXIII Edward III was take or cause to be taken all such vaca-

As yet in the history of British legis- within six wekes next after the procla- years. If the person thus taking service lation, Parliament had only taken note macion of this act, go, rest, and abide abscond a second time, then "such roge of beggars and "rebels against work in that hundred where last he dwelled, o r vagabond shall be taken, adjuged, at statute wage;" but in the seventh or there where he is best knowen or and deemed as a felon in all respects, Year of the reign of Richard II an Act borne there to remaine and abyde with and shall in all degree have, suffer, and (cap. 5) was passed in which, amongst out beggynge out of the saide hundred, forfeite as a felon without allowance or upon peine to be punished as is afore- benefite of clergie or sancturie."

sented to refrayn the malyce of dyvers Then it goes on that no man is to be fortie dayes next after he or she shall people, faytours and wandrynge from excused by being a "clerke of one uni- be two several times taken into service place to place reumynge in the countrey versitee or the other," unless he show as is aforesaide, doe either in the sayde More habundauntile than they were letters from the Chancellor of that uni- Countie, or else where eftsoones the wonte in tymes paste, that from hence versity; nor is one calling himself a third time fall againe to a kinde of rogforth the Justices of Assyses in theyre soldier, shipman, or traveling man un- ish or vagabond trade of life: that then cessyons the Justices of peace and the less he bring a letter from his captain such roge or vagabond shall be adjuged shyriyffes in every countie shall have or from the town where he landed "and and deemed for a felon, and suffer the power to enquyre of all suche vaca- that he then to be commanded to go paynes of death, and losse of landes and bundes and faytours and of theyre of- the straight high waie into his countrey." goods as a felon, without allowance or fences, and upon them to do that the If any sheriff or other officer omit to benefite of clergie or sanctuarie." lawe demaundeth. And that as well the discharge this duty with regard to stranustices and shyryffes, as the mayres, gers he is to be fined for each case baylysses, constables and other govern- twenty pence. This regulation is pro- by laying heavy penalties on any person

cap. 16). In the same year another but that they may worke in some mansimilar Act was passed, which was in her of worke" who refuse to do such "Item it is accorded and assented, turn repealed by XIV Elizabeth, cap. 5. work as the overseers appoint them to.

This Act of 1572 is much too long to

"Whereas the parts of this realme of

Then came the provisions. All persons above the age of fourteen who were in the class of "roges, vagabonds, to be put in prison and kept there without bail till the next coming sessions. Such persons, being convicted, "he or compasse of an inch about, manifesting "—that the shyryffes, mayres, bayliffes, his or her rogish kind of life, and his townes sea portes, and other places in highe constables, and pety constables, or her punishment received for the their bailywekes, where to them shall and all other officers of cities, boroughs, same, whereof entrie shall bee made of seme expedient: And that thei do ther- townes, townshypes, vyllages and other records by the clerke of the peace in Headquarters 37 Canal street, near places, within three daies after this the same shire, in the recordes of the same sessions, which judgement shall called the "Statute of Laborers," and boundes ydle and suspecte persones, lyv- also presentlie be executed, except some was ordained to enforce the necessary yng suspiciously, and them so taken to honest person" (here is stated the prolabor required, "because a great part of set in stockes, there to remayne by the perty qualification of such) "will of his the people, and especially of workemen space of thre daies and thre nightes charitite be contented to take such of Districts—First and third Thursdays and servauntes late died in pestilence." and there to have none other susten- fendour . . . into his service for in the month, at A. Grieb's, 67 West . Its practical effect was to bind every ance but breade and water. And after one whole yeere." Such employer is to 101st street. the saide thre daies and thre nightes, be under recognisance to carry out the In the next session of Parliament, to be had out and set at large, and then obligation thus undertaken. And if such Districts-Second and fourth Mondays, XXV Edward III, the statute was re- to be commaunded to avoide the towne. offender abscond before the year is out at 537 Third avenue, between 35th and If the misdoer eftsones be taken in he or she "shall be whipped and burnt 36th streets. This purpose was still further main- suche defaulte in the same town or thorow the gristle of the right eare with tained in the later Act—XXXIV Ed- township he is to be set in the stocks a hot yron, as is aforesaide," Fourteen ward III, cap. 1-wherein power was for six days on the same diet; and every days' grace are to be allowed to the given to arrest and imprison laborers one giving him meat or drink or favor- offender if sanctioned by two Justices. unwilling to work for the wages offered ing in his misdoing is to be fined in Then, if the offender fall again within them, as well as all guilty or even sus- each time to pay a penalty of twelve three weeks into the same way of life, if he or she be of or over eighteen years of age, shall be adjudged a felon And also it is ordained by the same and suffer the penalties of such unless some honest person give recognisance (of double the former amount) to keep "all maner of begers, not able to work. him or her in his service for two whole

"And if such roge or vagabond after

The stringency of this Act is fortified ours of townes and places where such tected by giving the lord of the manor harbouring or aiding a "rogue or vagalaytours and vacabundes shall come, or the alderman of the ward a person- bond marked or not marked" travelling

Up to the middle of the sixteenth | shall from henceforthe have power to | al interest in such fines and to secure | without a license from the Justices; and century rural England was very much example them diligently and compell his reward by distraint. The last clause by heavily punishing negligent con-

Certain travelling persons, shipmen, turned away or who have lost master By an Act of eight years later (XIX or mistress by death. The Lord Chanpunishment for first offence in vaga- Young persons under the age of fourbondage was reduced to one day and teen are exempt from all consequences &c., in which the poor are to live in vagabonds. This Act was in turn re- last degree of punishment is to be mettime held courts of their own and, un- Five years later, by XII Richard II, pealed by another passed in the third ed to "aged and impotent persons, not

being above the age of five years and under fourteen years, being male or fe-

This statute was the mother statute England. Acts, which lasted down to 1822.—Bram Stoker, in North American Review.

RARE OLD COINS

Rare coins, Roman, Byzantine, Greek, American, &c., were recently sold at Merwin-Clayton's. They dated from 550 years before Christ, and some of them bore portraits of Julius Caesar, Tiberius, Nero, Marcus Aurelius, and other rulers in ancient times.

Included in the collection was an Aegina drachm, silver, one of the oldest | There is no brighter spot in the long, everywhere showing that they are not coins in the world. Another old rarity vista of human progress than the inter- afraid of imprisonment or even of death was a Sidon octodrachm, a Greek silver | national labor movement, with its effort | in defence of their liberties, can do what

Queen Elizabeth, harp reverse arms of help against oppressors and tyrants.

want, Straight and Truthful.

Other foreign silver coins included a and sages—the true brotherhood of man, ers did more than a century ago. so-called "mooldy moneythaler," of Hes- and peace between all the so-called "civ- At present there may be some diffise Cassel, 1178, said to have been made of | ilized" nations.

Austria, showing his large lower lip. at the Franklin Press," &c.

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verse had the star and arms worn on speeches and resolutions are required. ranks of labor that they cannot be dethe caps of the Hessian soldiers. A The time for action has now arrived, and peded upon to join in the action of their 1695 Tyrol crown silver piece had the the best and most effective form of fellows. But this is a matter that can bust of Leopold, "the Hogomouth," of action against the existing systems of soon be cured if the principle is once militarism and dynastic wars is that of seriously and earnestly adopted. For Among the scarce American Colonial passive resistance. The whole power of every worker will bring up his children and Continental pieces were the Oak the aristocratic government of England, to look upon the principle of not fight-Tree shilling of Massachusettes, 1652, in the 17th and 18th centuries ing against his fellow-workers as constirudely struck in what is now the United was unable to overcome the passive re- tuting the very charter of his own lib-States of America; the famous "Fugio," sistance of the small and insignificant erties as well as his first duty to his or Ben Franklin cent, with sun dial and body of the Quakers, who not only re- own order; and against his home teachchain of links, with the admonition fused to perform military service in any ing no influence of church, school, or 'Mind your Business," designed by form, but also to take oaths, ta pay authority will be able to prevail. Franklin and the first United States tithes or church rates, or to conform My excuse, if one is needed, for vencent; the George Washington cent of to those ceremonial observances by turing to give advice in this matter is 1783, with his bust in military dress, and which all other classes recognized those my life-long interest in liberty and prothe 1794 "Franklin Press cent," on the who were their rulers and claimed to be gress. As a boy I was a disciple and Doctrina Surgetque Libertas," "payable | their superiors. It is not, however, ne- | ardent admirer of Robert Owen; and obverse a printing press, "Sic Oritur | cessary or advisable to refuse military | though in middle life, while chiefly entraining. That will some day be useful gaged in scientific work, I was influenc-Other rare coins were the United in defending your own liberties. What ed by the individualistic teaching of There is a special clause to the effect | States silver dollar of 1801, the half is needed is that all organized workers | Herbert Spencer, I have now returned dollar of 1794, a Confederate half dollar | should combine in a solemn promise, in | to my first love, and am a firm advocate of 1861, minted at New Orleans, of the first place, never to use their arms of the co-operative commonwealth as which only about 250 were struck; two against such of their fellow-workers giving the best promise of human hap-British guineas, 1816-32; silver guilders who may be peacefully striving to gain piness, and as affording the only prosof Geroge III, and William IV,; a shill- their political or social rights; and, in pect of a speedy cure for the terrible ing of Queen Anne, 1709; the so-called the second place, never to use their arms evils of existing capitalistic society. such may be taken by them into service. "Godless Florin" of 1849, Queen Vic- against any other nation, the workers This must be done under bond, and the toria, without the "Dei Gratia"; a of which have joined the international master is bound to keep them till a stat- | Charles I. Scotch twenty pence, bust of | movement, except within and in defence | | ed age—twenty-four in the case of a the King with "XX." behind it; and of their own country, or in cases where male and eighteen in the case of a fe- and Irish copper halfpenny, time of the workers of any country appeal for

> I believe some of the German labor organizations have proposed or adopted "The People" is the paper that you some such principle; and it seems to me that if in the present International Congress the English workers will use their influence to get some such principle discussed and ultimately accepted, a blow will be struck in the interests of labor and peace which will be more effective than all the reports of philanthropists and philosophers, because it will cut away at the very root of diplomacy and militarism to bring about dynastic wars.

The numerical power of organized labor in all the chief European countries Thirty-third and Thirty-fifth As- is now so great and is so rapidly growurdays, 8 p. m., at 28 City Hall Place. sembly Districts—Every first and third ing that by this system of passive re-County Executive Committee -First | Thursdays, at German-American As- | sistance in military affairs it would be and third Fridays, at 28 City Hall sembly Rooms, 3393 Third avenue, near absolutely irresistible. Let it once be shown that the trained soldier will not German Branch-Meets the first fire upon his fellow countrymen who Thursday in the month at Harazim's are assembled for discussion or for combination in defence of their rights, Socialist Women of Greater New and all attempts at governmental interference with the freedom of meeting and discussion will cease. And let it be further realized that the men who will not fire on their fellow-countrymen are equally pledged not to fire on their fellow-workers of other countries, except in defence of their own hearths and homes or to assist the oppressed of other lands to gain their freedom, and no invasion of the territory of another country will occur, since the rulers will not risk the fiasco of the fraternising of the two armies on the field of

> And any compulsion or punishment would be equally impossible. No government can or dare punish the whole body of organized workers, members of which constitute the largest and best portion of the armies. And even if some compulsion or punishment is attempted, surely the workers of to-day, who are

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coin of Artaxerxes III., (B. C. 359.) at a realization of the dreams of saints the small and unpopular body of Quak-

culty owing to the fact that in many silver, sent from England to pay troops | But to bring about this era of peace | European countries recruits are so young hired to fight the Americans. The re- and fraternity something more than and so often belong to the unorganized

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