

HELP IS WANTED.

In enumerating the attributes that go to make a city great or a state inviting none stand out so prominent as the employment question. Seattle and its surrounding country offers employment to thousands of laboring people of all ages, sizes and colors. Like most American towns there are some trades and some unions that attempt to draw the color line, but the rule is that you can get work whenever and wherever a laborer is wanted. It is true that the Japanese are replacing many Negro laborers who have done porter work here, and a few of the hotels are placing girls in their dining rooms, but there is still work for all who are willing to work at that kind of employment and a few hundred more steady workers, who are willing to stay by a job so long as they are properly paid and respectfully treated. To enumerate the number of men in the different trades and employments would be an impossible task, but we may name a few without being understood to mean there are no others.

One of the most substantial employers of colored help is the gas company, which employs about 25 men with steady employment the year round. Many of their men have been with the company for six or eight years.

The city of Seattle is the employer of 20 or 25 Negroes in its street cleaning department and other works, and pays them \$2.50 per day. Besides these we have one policeman, a dog catcher and a pound-master. Three of the hotels have colored waiters and two others colored bell boys. There are possibly 75 in and around the hotels of the city employed in some capacity.

There are eight plasterers, several brick masons, a half dozen or more carpenters, four painters and decorators. The hod carriers and mortar men number about 30. There is also a large number with the asphalt companies at a wage of \$2.50 to \$3.00 a day. Plasterers get \$6, masons \$5, carpenters \$4.00 to \$5, painters \$4 to \$6. There are hundreds in other employments such as porters, janitors, watchmen, firemen, coachmen, cooks, etc. It will therefore be readily seen that the average wage paid is between \$2.50 and \$3.00 per day to laborers, mechanics from \$4 to \$6, and despite this none of the labor markets herein enumerated are overcrowded with workmen, and therefore hundreds of others could get employment at once if they were here. The cry heard on all sides is, give us more sober, industrious workmen, color no bar, race no objection.

While discussing the wages paid, it might be well to also consider the cost of living. The average family—husband, wife and two children—can live very comfortably on \$1.50 a day, not luxuries, but substantial and healthy food. Thus by anything like ordinary thrift and reasonable economy a man can soon place himself far above want and its miseries. Women as well as men have good, substantial work here, stenographers, seamstresses, maids, cooks and house-servants are always in demand at what would be considered excellent wages anywhere else.

In speaking of employment in this state it is almost useless to speak of female help. Not a day passes but some one is inquiring where colored woman help can be had for housework. Day's work pays well and can be had simply for the asking and such help is receiving from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day. House servants are begged to work at wages ranging

from \$25 to \$40 per month. Three thousand working women could get employment in this state within ten days after arriving here. There is, however, enough, yes far too many, of that class who wish to dress, walk around the streets window shopping. What is required here is that class of neat, thrifty women who are anxious to accumulate something and make for themselves a comfortable home.



**GREEN FIELDS.
THE MAN WITH THE RAKE.**

Green Fields, whose picture was caught while he was at work, is one of the oldest (from point of service) Negro employees of the city. He is known and respected by all who live on Queen Anne Hill, and is always a familiar figure on those beautiful drives. Mr. Fields and his wife came to the city fourteen years ago, and by faithful and energetic work and commendable frugality has placed himself and his family beyond the question of want. He is a veteran of the Great Civil War, being a member of Company I, Second United States Regiment, and is a highly respected member of Miller Post, G. A. R., of Seattle.

William Eweing of Tacoma is the colored money king of the state, but "he was not always thus." He came to Tacoma twenty years ago from Iowa, and his life has always been one of hard work and rigid economy. He engaged in different occupations in that city for a number of years and although he always lived well he always managed to save something from his earnings. For a number of years he drove the patrol wagon, and a most efficient driver he made. In 1895 he decided to seek his fortune in the gold fields of the North and left for Alaska soon thereafter. These were the days when Forty Mile was the center of operations, so he went there.