

World-Wide Labor Movement

Interesting Items From Trade Union Papers and Exchanges, at Home and Abroad.

The 450th lodge was recently formed and added to the International Association of Machinists.

Hazleton girls refuse to dance with miners who won't support the strike. Now will you be good?

Carpenters will vote upon the proposition of removing headquarters from Philadelphia to Indianapolis.

It is stated that after election four of the iron and steel trusts will combine. A trust of all trusts is not far off.

Ottawa, Canada, trades unionists are contemplating the nomination of labor candidates at the coming elections.

The Toledo board of education refused the request of the Building Trades Council to employ union labor exclusively.

Owing to a cut in wages of 10 per cent made by the Page Boiler Company, of Norwich, over 200 men have gone out on a strike.

One excellent test of unionism is whether or not you are a subscriber to a labor paper. Now is the time to subscribe for the Labor Press.

Twelve hundred members of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers in New York fought for and secured an increase of wages of 25 cents per day.

Fifty new unions and thirty-five branches have been organized by the United Brewery Workmen during the last seventeen months. Others are organizing.

The Standard Oil Company employs the eight-hour system in many of its eastern concerns—that is, eight hours in the forenoon and eight hours in the afternoon.

The eight-hour workday got a trial in Norway several months ago. Now the legislature has resolved to run every state establishment on the eight-hour workday plan.

The labor people of Wilkesbarre, Pa., sent a cold chill down the backbone of the politicians by holding a big convention and nominating workingmen for the offices.—The Toller.

It is now mandatory for organizations belonging to the Central Federated Council of New York to patronize union places only and buy and use union-made goods exclusively.

The unionist who advocates organization among different classes of workmen, but advises against the federation of kindred crafts, has yet to learn the vital principle of unionism.

The national convention of factory inspectors at Indianapolis, Ind., last week elected John Williams, of New York, president, and resolutions were adopted condemning the child-labor system.

Another wave of enthusiasm has struck the laboring classes of this city—almost a cyclone. New unions are being formed, and the membership of those already formed is being rapidly increased.—Labor Signal.

Owners of big cotton mills near Charlotte, N. C., whose employes had the audacity to become dissatisfied and quit work, have posted notices warning all members of the Textile Workers' Union to vacate the houses of the companies. All employes who refuse to withdraw from labor unions are notified that their services are no longer desirable.

Nearly all the members of the American Railway Union who lost their positions through the great railway strike in 1894 are now at work in the machine shops and freight houses or as car repairers for the railroad companies.

Ship Carpenters' Union, of Tokio, Japan, has a membership of nearly 1,000 and the Yokohama Union numbers over 200. Besides these, the dock laborers and cargo boat-workers are well organized and have strong unions.

The Deering Harvester Company has posted a notice that a cut of from 10 to 50 per cent in wages will take place in some of the departments. This will effect over 4,000 men, and a strike is imminent.

The Journeymen Bakers and Confectioners' International Union, nearly 50,000 strong, will make a general demand for a ten-hour day on May 1, 1901. Members are now working twelve to sixteen hours daily.

The strike of the employes of the Linford Cut Glass Works, of Jamestown, N. Y., which began August 30, ended in a victory for the men. Recognition of the union was obtained and a 55-hour week established without a reduction in wages.

In the 49 years of its existence, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Machinists, Pattern Makers and Blacksmiths of Great Britain has disbursed the sum of \$28,570,000 in benefits. The organization has 614 branches, with a total membership of 86,000.

The law creating a state board of arbitration and mediation has just been decided to be constitutional by the supreme court of Michigan. The constitutionality of the act was questioned by the attorneys of Pingree & Smith, shoe manufacturers.

The strike of the New York cigar-makers against Kerbs, Wertheim & Schiffer and their allies continues unabated. Besides donations from local unions, the special assessment of the A. F. & L. is now flowing in to aid the workers in their struggle for living conditions.

Officers of the American Federation of Labor recently waited upon the officers of the biscuit trust and urged the bakers' union label be used on all the products of the combination. A long conference with Vice-President H. F. Vorles, of the trust, was held, without result.

The Coast Seamen's Union recently sent a letter to President McKinley, protesting against the employment of Chinese sailors on United States transport ships. It was promised that the evil would be remedied, but advices from the headquarters of the Seamen's Union are to the effect that cheap Asiatics still occupy the places on transports across the Pacific which rightfully belong to American sailors.—Typographical Journal.

CHICAGO LETTER CARRIERS.

Employes in the Chicago postoffice to the number of 1,400 have joined the American Federation of Labor. The new organization will be known as the Chicago Postoffice Clerks' Union. The principal object of the union is the adoption of the eight-hour working day for letter carriers. Another object will be the agitation in favor of Federal legislation to absolutely fix the rate of wages for letter carriers and other postoffice employes, so that the matter will be taken entirely out of the hands of the Promotion Board. The efforts of the union will be directed toward bettering the condition of the rank and file of postoffice employes.

Subscribe for the Portland Labor Press.

THE MAN WHO DECLINES.

"I decline," is a phrase that is often heard from a member that is nominated for an office in the union, or appointed upon a committee. "You decline what?" Do you understand what you are doing when you pipe out: "I decline?" Do you decline serving on some committee that is part of the machinery, decline to help your union in the capacity of an executive or administrative officer? Decline to perform any duty allotted to you by the president? You do! Then why? Do you not know that there is not another member that can do as well or better than you, provided you do your duty? Look at your constitution; look up the points belonging to your duty in the position you have been elected to, and is it not your duty to do whatever you are appointed to do by your president?

Every member has his part to perform. Your part, then, as the true brother you profess to be is to do your share of union work, says the Labor Signal. Come, now, candidly, haven't you been resting on your oars long enough? Just because some of the others are doing the work and seem to like it, is it reason why you should allow or make them do your part or share of the work too. If you go to work you will enjoy it as heartily as they. If you cannot get a chance to help pull the car of progress, then go behind and give a long, strong and steady push, and ere long you will have the consciousness of having helped it on to victory.

When your president announces "Good of the Union," be prepared to do something; do not sit with your hands folded, feet crossed and your mouth closed during the entire meeting; do not expect to be perpetually fed, for it is no one's special duty to see to it that you are well entertained when you will not even attempt to do anything. If you will go to your union meetings, be prepared to take some part that will interest others; you will become interested yourself and will not consider your union meeting dull.

Under such circumstances they could not possibly be dull or prosy to you. Do not be an iceberg in your union, for you will have most of the ice for your own share. Will you do your duty? Resolve, then, that you will never ask to be excused or decline to act well your part, unless you have very good reasons for declining.

FIGHTING ORGANIZED LABOR.

The following is clipped from the Typographical Journal:

"The Kansas City meeting of the United Typothetae seems to have been dominated to some extent by an element antagonistic to the International Union and its affiliated bodies. From the information at the command of the Journal, it appears that the most important action taken by the convention was that looking toward the establishment of an emergency fund of \$100,000. This fund is to be raised by an assessment of the members of the Typothetae, and is to be used to fight strikes and boycotts in which any of the members of the Typothetae may be involved. Each employer will be required to pay 10 cents a month per capita on each of his employes. Under this assessment plan, an employer who has 50 people in his shop will be held up for \$5 each month, and so on. Five hundred dollars was appropriated in its fight against the label.

"The committee on the union label advised the members of the organization to oppose the use of the label to the fullest extent, even to contesting in the courts all legislation favoring the label, which has been, or may hereafter be, adopted by municipalities. The convention concurred in the committee's report.

"A resolution declaring against the eight-hour day was adopted. One favoring open offices also met the approval of the delegates. This resolu-

tion was championed by G. E. Matthews, of the Buffalo Express, who has been recognized for years as an enemy of organized labor."

ORGANIZED LABOR WINS.

It seems that the great mine strike in Pennsylvania is at last settled, the miners being granted the 10 per cent increase asked for. A good many thousands of dollars might have been saved if the coal barons had come to this inevitable conclusion at first. Thus has organized labor gained another victory over their oppressors. That they succeeded is largely due to the fact that President John Mitchell, of the Miners' Union, was their general. With rare organizing and executive ability he combines coolness, self-control and an ability to look over the field of battle, and see the weak points in the enemies' lines. He commanded his army of 150,000 men and led them on to victory, and he is entitled to the thanks of the entire coal consuming community as well as of the miners.

A MAMMOTH TRUST—THE KING BEE OF THE WHOLE BUSINESS.

Here be true news from the New York Verdict. This is a grave story. It is one of even near concern to small and great. Let it come unshod of simile, unbusked of imagery or rhetoric, unclouded of any mists of metaphor. In Wall street, as this is read, the giant trust of all is forming. It is to collect within itself all the banks of New York City. Its core is to be Standard Oil. Its moving spirits are John Rockefeller and Pierpont Morgan. With them in full and close association are the Rothchilds and their American agents, says the Erie People. It was to link the Rothchilds to the scheme that of late took Morgan Europeward and brought him back again. This trust at its consummation, which is close, will pull the reins of guidance and crack the whip of domination over two billions of dollars. It will, as stated, be a muster of the New York City banks. They are to be made into one force—unified and brought under one word and one command. Thereafter they are to say "No" together, or "Yes" together, or together stand motionless and mute. This trust of the banks is to be the dictator trust—to overlord all other trusts. The greatest among these latter will be dwarfed as they stand beside it. We, the people, are to become the subjects of bank conquest and suffer the feudalism of money. This bank trust is to be our William of Normandy. New York City is to be its Hastings without a blow. It will have, as it were, a doomsday book, and the country is to be parceled among its followers.

THE ABSORPTIONISTS.

Fifty years ago more than half the wealth of this country was owned by farmers. Ten years ago the farmers owned one-quarter, and now, according to the Journal of Commerce, they own but 21 per cent, while the trusts, railroads, banks, manufacturers, merchants and monopolists have the rest, says an Exchange. The fact that 10 per cent of the people own more than half of the wealth, and that more than half of the people own nothing ought to convince any one that something is wrong somewhere.

In the mention of Miss Marie La Motte, one of Professor Thielhorn's pupils, last week, the Labor Press said she had successfully passed an examination at the Berlin Conservatory of Music, when it should have been the Brussels Conservatory.

Why can't Portland have a telephone operators' union? There is plenty of good material here for a first-class union.

A Jap lives on less than a Chinaman, and the latter's mode of living would put a decent hog to shame.