

STRIKE AT A FUNERAL.

Union Hackmen Tie Up a "Last Sad Rites" Procession in San Francisco.

Out of the struggle between the union and non-union hack drivers of San Francisco has come a unique, and, in some of its phases, a distressing condition of affairs. Virtually, there is an embargo on scab funerals, and its enforcement has resulted in the tying-up of twenty-two non-union burials within the last two weeks, and in the delay and disturbance of many others.

The union, which was organized about two months ago, originated among the independent drivers, men who own or lease their hacks, and are in business for themselves, says Organized Labor.

In order to force in the outsiders the union decided two weeks ago to refuse to participate in funerals where non-union men appeared on the box. Whenever a man outside the fold was seen occupying the driver's seat at a funeral, he was told to get out unless he was willing to join the union and to pay his dues on the spot, and the undertaker in charge was warned that if the objection was not removed, the union hacks would draw out of the solemn procession. In cases where the funeral directors have been obstinate, trouble has generally followed. As a result, there was a great accession to the ranks of the organization at its last meeting. Thursday night (last week) both independent and attached men coming in wholesale. The only large body of men now outside are those of the United Carriage Company, the largest employer of drivers in the city.

Certain undertakers who are careless about ascertaining the status of men driving hacks employed by them have been in hot water every time they took charge of a funeral. Perhaps the longest tie-up occurred at the funeral of W. H. Wiggins, Jr., held at the parlors of a Powell-street undertaker on Tuesday, the 8th instant. While the services were going on inside, it was discovered that there were four non-union hacks in the procession. Two of these were allowed to stay after the drivers had promised to join the union. The drivers of the other two vehicles remaining obstinate, they were sent away, and two more hacks were summoned by telephone. The mourners waited just one hour and five minutes after the end of the ceremony before the march to the grave began.

PONDER THESE FIGURES.

The results of the municipal ownership and operation of the public lighting plant in Detroit are even more satisfactory than were indicated. We spoke of the reduction in the expense of public lighting at thirteen per cent since the establishment of the municipal system. In fact, however, there has been an annual reduction, that of last year being thirteen per cent as compared with the expense of the previous year, says an exchange. The price per arc light of 2000 candle power paid for the last year under private contract, 1896, was \$133.80; but in 1897, the first year of public lighting under municipal ownership and operation, the operating expense per arc light of 2000 candle power, was only \$51.85, making a gross expense, after allowing for fixed charges (interest at four per cent, depreciation at three per cent and loss of taxes on the investment) of only \$83.50, a clear saving of \$50. Since 1897 this gross expense has been reduced annually until in 1899 it was down to \$66.45. Deducting incomes from that amount—such as rentals for poles, conduits, etc.—the gross cost was only \$61.76, while the cash cost to the taxpayer was but \$37.13. Moreover a better service

has been secured than under private contract; and in opinion of the president of the Detroit Public Lighting Commission, the expense would be very much further reduced and the public very much better served if the commission were allowed to do commercial lighting in competition with the private companies.—Exchange.

STRIKES IN GERMANY.

Certain startling figures have been made public to show the increasing frequency with which strikes occur in Germany. Incidentally they destroy the prestige of the United States as a strike center.

During one year, for instance—the year 1899—1207 strikes took place in Germany, says the Bauer Zeitung. The year before there had been only 985, which indicates the rapidly growing strength of organized labor and perhaps also the multiplication of causes of discontent.

At all events, it was a hard year for employers as for strikers, as 1,920 establishments were obliged to shut down completely at different times during this one year. It is plain from this that the German workman has not only acquired weapons of self-protection, but uses them. As for the number of workmen concerned in the strikes of 1899, the same interesting statistics fix it at 100,779, while the entire number of establishments affected was 7133. Of these, all not obliged to shut down altogether were seriously disabled.

Further indications of the serious character of the labor-capital war in Germany lie in the fact that the total number of strikes extended over 3976 weeks and cost \$625,254. Of the total number, 542 had an offensive and 420 a defensive character.

The least gratifying feature to the friends of organized labor is that only 520 strikes were completely successful; 205, however, were partially successful, and only 213 failed altogether.

FOOLISH DISTINCTIONS.

One of the factors which contribute to the continued abasement and robbery of workers of all classes, says the Brisbane Worker, is their failure to recognize that in every respect and detail their interests are identical. The sub-class and caste distinctions which are in evidence throughout Australia are many. We have the spectacle of the bricklayer looking down on the bricklayer's laborer. The shearer who holds himself as of finer clay than the roustabout. The low-paid clerk who, because he goes to work in a collar and tie and black suit and does not take off his clothes to work, fails to see any point of contact between himself and the man who goes to work in moleskins, minus neckwear, and takes off most of his clothes to labor. Then the educated teachers of all kinds hold aloof from all the grades of workers who do not possess an education, or who cannot accurately decline the verbs to work, to eat, and to love. Yet the whole of these people live and eat and work and love on common lines. But "divide and conquer" is the rule of their masters, the capitalists. Set the shovel worker against the pen worker, the thinker against the doer, and while they revile, condemn and fight each other they can take them singly and strip them for their own profit. "They all work, but the capitalists reap the profit." "What fools these thieving mortals be!" The Gods of Rent and Interest and Profit may well cry, "They slaughter each other and their lifeblood is incense and sacrifice on our altars and shrines." And they are fools—blind, stupid and purposeless. If they would only unite—

He—I point out your faults because I love you.

She—Nonsense! If you really loved me you would think my faults were excellencies.—Chicago Record.

A HUNDRED YEARS HENCE.

What Part Does the Non-Union Man Take in the Work of Reform?

What the working day will be 100 years hence is a question to be answered by those interested in trades union and social problems.

When the nineteenth century was born men and women toiled from daylight until dark and frequently beyond the hours given to natural light. In the various occupations 14, 16 and 18 hours of the 24 were devoted to labor. It was only when the century had been well spent that the shortened working day became anything more than a dream.

Through the efforts of trades unions our country was the first to reduce it to 12 hours; then it was lowered to 10; and now in several branches it is down to eight. In Europe there has been a shortening, but not to the extent it has been carried to here. The rapidity with which Americans work in the industries which compete with those of the old world makes the day about equal in the matter of wages. This operates against an abbreviation of the working day in Europe, for it would give the American manufacturer too great an advantage in securing the markets of the world. Until the American manufacturer cuts down the working day to six hours his German and British rival will keep it at 10. Two hours difference is as little as they can stand and keep the foreign customers, says an exchange. To meet us on equal terms in the hours of labor would mean that the United States would soon drive her competitors out of the field.

And in regard to a still shorter working day it is pertinent to ask: Will the non-unionist of coming years continue to be benefited by the efforts of his fellow workman in securing a reduction of hours of labor, or will he, too, cease to be a parasite and do his full share?

Has there ever been a reduction of hours to the employee which was voluntarily granted?

To attain a shorter work-day without a corresponding reduction in wages has been the fight of organized labor for a score of years. Every hour cut off from the day has cost thousands of dollars, but it has resulted in almost every instance in a victory to the employee, and with little hardship to the employer.

With a shorter working day inaugurated in almost every industry, the United States has forged to the first rank as a manufacturing nation, competing with all foreign countries, even where the work-day is longer and the wage scale much lower.

But there is one deplorable feature to the whole matter. The union man who devotes his time and efforts to ameliorating the conditions of his craftsmen, pays his ever increasing dues and oft-times sacrifices his position to maintain his principles—he is the martyr, and to a worthy cause. He derives small benefit for his labors compared to his non-union brother, who secures almost equal wages and shorter hours without effort on his part.

What would the non-union man receive for his services and how many hours would he labor were it not for trades unions?

The length of the work-day in the twentieth century will be determined by the thorough organization of working men into trades unions, and when labor can produce a solid phalanx just so soon can labor dictate the length of the working day.

I shot an arrow in the air,
Nor marked the course on which it sped.
Then—jumping cats! How I did swear!
The blamed thing lit upon my head.



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YOU CAN DO THIS TOO.

New Orleans, La., Nov. 2, 1896.
 The Pettibone Bros. Mfg. Co., Cincinnati, O.
 Gentlemen:—Enclosed you will find clippings from some of our leading newspapers in regard to our play called "The Ancient Order of Hercules". The play was a grand success. We realized \$450.00 clear of all expenses. It was given in the largest hall in the city of New Orleans. We had at least 3,000 people present—it is still the talk of the town. We had everything against us, such as complimentary balls, Buffalo Bill's Show and cheap theatres, but we came out all right. The cast was splendid and every one took their part like professionals. Later I will send you names of the cast.
 Wishing you success, I remain,
 Yours, W. R. SMITH, Chairman,
 Washington Ivy and Appollo Circles,
 New Orleans, La.

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Eight mountains of shoes are stacked up in a show window on the corner of First and Yamhill streets, at John Dellar's store, showing the big ax they use for cutting prices. People come in as soon as they notice it and purchase two pairs instead of one, as they realize the substantial cut made in prices. Men's and boys' suits and overcoats are slaughtered at a price not to be equaled elsewhere.



Mr. Dellar does not believe in extravagant expenses; that's why he conducts his business on the corner of First and Yamhill streets, where the rent is not one-third of what other stores pay. The profits are generally fixed by every merchant according to his expenses.

We carry none but good qualities, which explains why our trade is so well satisfied.

Administratrix' Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed administratrix of the estate of Ira Purdin, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are notified to present the same duly verified within six months to me at 246 First street, Portland, Oregon.
 Dated January 10, 1901.

MARTHA J. PURDIN,
 Administratrix Estate of Ira Purdin.
 PEARCY & MENDENHALL,
 Attorneys.

Show your non-union brother, that you are in earnest in your unionism and it will go a long way toward converting him.