

World-Wide Labor Movement

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

A new leather workers' union has been formed in Sacramento.

The union leather workers of Portland are generally at work, but there is no room for any more.

The Typographical Union of New York have withdrawn the boycott which they have had on the Sun.

Because of the present long hour day many are unemployed, and the man on the street fixes the wages paid to the man at work.

Strikes are the battle fields where the conflict wages most dire to both parties; therefore, should be resorted to only as a last resort.

The use of the label of the United Brewery Workers' National Union is only granted to such firms where all employes are organized and child labor is abolished.

The St. Louis plasterers' union, which was suspended by the International convention for failing to comply with orders of the national executive board, has been re-instated.

The Indianapolis printers have called on the International Typographical Union to annul the agreement with the pressmen and bookbinders, and take steps to combine every branch of the trade.

The Amalgamated Engineers report in their January Journal that in spite of the burden of their self-imposed superannuation fund, they are adding to their reserve at the rate of \$10,000 a month. The past year produced a lower unemployed list than for many years in the past.

The Switchmen's Union of North America, organized in February, 1899, now has 185 local unions. A sick benefit of \$5 per week and an insurance plan of paying \$1,000 to any member so disabled as to prevent him following the avocation of a switchman, are features of the union.

Since 1871, 1,195 unions, with an average membership of 96,295, have been organized in Denmark. In the past 30 years wages have advanced 70 per cent, and the hours of labor reduced from 11 to 9 hours. Denmark affords an example of what organization accomplishes for working men.

The Lord now owns the Second Baptist church, as the members of the congregation burned the mortgage upon the building yesterday evening. Some day there will be no mortgages to burn, for such documents are evidences of some one living upon the necessity of other men.—Labor News.

After twelve months of war, the arbitration committees of the Carpenters' and Builders' Association and the Carpenters' executive council have signed an agreement. The Saturday half-holiday, time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays, and the weekly pay-day have been given the men.

The Illinois factory inspector, in his annual report, shows that there has been "an unusual increase in the number of children employed in the factories, and the consequent crowding out of men and women." In Chicago alone about 11,000 children are employed in places visited. More laws are demanded, not to remove causes, but to deal with effects.

The eight-hour law has passed the Montana legislature and was immediately approved by the governor. This law was the effort of the union men in the legislature and they won out.

A number of small job printers in Chicago have formed an association and procured a state charter to launch a new label in the field. The Allied Printing Trades' Council declares that this label is an infringement, and has taken steps to have the courts restrain its use.

Senator McMillan has introduced, among other measures, a bill to provide for an investigation into the sanitary conditions of the manufacture and sale of clothing in the District of Columbia. It authorizes and directs the health officer to investigate this matter in relation to public health, and to report the result of the investigation at the next session of Congress.

The Philadelphia Letter Carriers' Association has decided that the tailor who secures the order for their spring and summer uniforms must insert a clause in their contract to the effect that each suit will bear the union label. Postmaster Hicks, who acts as their agent in contracting for the 1,200 uniforms, approves of the clause and will insist on compliance with it.

A resolution introduced in the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union convention at Milwaukee calls upon the unions throughout the country to wait upon city councils for the purpose of inducing those bodies to pass such legislation as will do away with the letting of contracts by cities on all municipal buildings and repair work, the cities employing men direct-per diem.

It is reported that the Great Northern will discharge all Japs in the employ of the road because their cheap labor has proven a failure. These yellow men cannot do as much work as a white man, and they are said to waste raw material. In the long run the company is out of pocket in employing them, and now wants to get rid of them. The question remains, What will these men do when they are out of jobs? The unions should see that they are not employed on local work.

The oldest union retail clerk in the United States is said to be Jacob Koplin, of Akron, O. He is 73, and has been in actual service as a salesman since 1849, excepting three years, during the Civil War, when he served in the 49th O. V. I., and one year when he was Marshal of Akron. Koplin was born in Chippewa township and moved to Summit county when five years of age. Since 1878 he has been employed by J. Koch & Co. He is treasurer of Clerks' Union, No. 100, of Akron, and is also a member of Buckley post, G. A. R. Koplin has also served as infirmary director.

Prominent labor men claim that the eight-hour day has made a radical change in the desire for strong drink among members of trade unions. To prove their claims they point to the disaster that overtakes all who open saloons in "Labor Row." Several years ago there were six saloons within 100 feet of the Building Trades Council headquarters. At the present time there is only one. While on an average 10,000 men meet at 187 Washington street every week, it is said to be a rare thing to find a half a dozen in any of the saloons in that neighborhood.—Chicago American.

James Ridpath, the historian, said: "I favor the eight-hour workday, whether or not it will increase the cost of production. The cost of producing goods is of infinitely less importance to a democratic civilization than the more equitable distribution of wealth, leisure



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A prominent Seattle shoe dealer said recently: "At first I could not look favorably upon the Clerks' Union. For ten years in this city I kept my store open and worked my clerks and myself until 10 P. M. I thought that closing at 6, as required by the clerks, would reduce my income to such an extent that it would ruin me. A year's trial of early closing has convinced me of the error of my opinion. My clerks and myself now quit at 6, and my receipts are as large as ever. I figure that until the early closing movement was inaugurated I have practically been in a state of voluntary servitude, and I have the Clerks' Union to thank for lifting me out of it."

Under private ownership, Sacramento, Cal., population 35,000, pays \$123 per annum for each street arc. Water power is used.

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Under public ownership, Topeka, Kan., population 32,000, pays \$59.73 for the same service, which includes 5 per cent for interest and depreciation charges. Coal, \$2 per ton.

Under private ownership, Fulton, N. Y., population 5,000 pays \$60 per annum for street arcs. Water power is used. The price is too high because under public ownership, Niles, Mich., population 5,000, pays \$25.48 for the same service, which includes 5 per cent for interest and depreciation of plant. Water is the power used.

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