

LABOR NOTES

Many iron mills are closed and about 8000 men idle in Pennsylvania.

Upholsterers in Grand Rapids, Mich., are conducting their strike successfully.

Two thousand negro wharf laborers and longshoremen at Mobile struck last Saturday.

The piano tuners of Chicago have organized a union or association and have elected officers.

Glass workers in Boston have inaugurated a movement for the Saturday half holiday the year round.

The Oakland (Cal.) Herald has asked all newsboys and carriers in its service to join the Newsboys' Union.

The California State Federation of Labor convention will be held in Fresno, commencing January 4, 1904.

A strike has broken out in the Bilbao mining district and has spread rapidly. Nineteen thousand workers are idle.

Cloak makers employed by M. Simonoff, in San Francisco, are on strike for a reduction of two hours in the week's work.

The Australia trade unions will establish union labels. They decided to do this after learning its effectiveness in the United States.

The strike of the screw men on the docks at New Orleans was ended last week and all differences were submitted to arbitration.

The National Association of Master Horsehoers has issued orders to its members to discontinue the use of the union label in their shops.

The National Cotton Spinners' Union held its annual convention in Boston, Mass., last week. Michael Dugan was re-elected president.

The International Longshoremen and Transport Workers' Union now ranks third in membership in this country. It has 142,000 members.

The percentage of wage earners who are females is: In the United States, 14; in Germany, 25; in England, 25; in Italy, 40, and in Austria, 47.

Union butchers at Los Angeles are on a strike for shorter hours and better wages. The bosses are doing their own slaughtering to prevent a meat famine.

A great strike is on at Bilbao, Spain, and martial law has been declared. Over 40,000 men are affected. Railroad and street car traffic has been suspended.

The Window Glass Workers have voted to amalgamate with Simon Burns, No. 300. This ends the fight which has rent the glass workers for several years.

The Sydney (Australia) Labor Council is now organizing the clerks, night watchmen, warehouse employes, white workers (women), theatrical employes and others.

The drivers and grippers in the Galt coal mines, at Lethbridge, N. W. T., who have been on strike the past week, surrendered unconditionally and have returned to work.

Representatives of the Builders' Exchange and of the Allied Building Trades Council of Philadelphia, Penn., have conferred on the subject of doing away with sympathetic strikes.

By a referendum vote the Bakers' Union has decided to charter the helpers and packers in candy and cracker factories, as well as the bakery wagon drivers or salesmen of bakery goods.

The American Window Glass Company, notwithstanding its intention to manufacture three-fourths of its production by machines, will give its employes a 10 per cent increase in wages.

A committee from the machinists of the Union Pacific are in New York in conference with E. H. Harriman for the settlement of the minor differences not yet adjusted from the recent strike.

Since its establishment, in 1891, the New Zealand Department of Labor has assisted 32,382 men to obtain employment. These men had 70,770 dependents, so that the total number benefited is 103,152.

Members of the Bakers' International Union will wear a lapel button with the motto, "For Day Work and Eight Hours." They prefer not to mix the doughs of day with the doze of night.—Washington Trades Unionist.

A leading department store in Pittsburgh, Pa., has decided to inaugurate an early-closing movement, closing at 5:30 on week days and 6:30 on Saturdays. During the hot months of the summer the closing hour will be 5 P. M.

Canning establishments on the Fraser River, British Columbia, employ over 2000 Japanese. A few years ago they established a hospital, and that institution has been entirely supported by contributions raised among themselves.

The Queensland (Australia) Government Labor Bureau report for 1902 is a dismal record of misery, destitution, and want of employment among the workers, from Burketown, in the Gulf, to Benleigh, on the New South Wales border.

Grand Master Hanrahan, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, and Grand Chief Stone, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, deny that a movement is on foot which contemplates the amalgamation of the two organizations.

It has come out in court that the real force behind the injunction suit of Stiles against the Chicago unions is the Anti-Boycott organization. Stiles was once a union man, and later joined forces with the employers' combine, sharing in its gains.

Machinists employed by the Edison Company, at West Orange, N. J., went on strike for a nine-hour work day and a minimum wage of \$18 a week. The men were employed about four months ago to take the place of union men who were out on strike.

The Building Trades Council of San Francisco has reinstated Sheet Metal Workers' Union, No. 104, to membership, in accordance with the laws of the Council. This union was suspended last January for violation of the constitution of the central body.

In Australia, under a new law, no contract can be made for the carrying of mails by any steamship line which allows a colored man to work on any of the ships. The mail steamers hitherto have been largely manned by dark-skinned British subjects from India.

Charles L. Conine, national secretary and treasurer of the National Brotherhood of Leather Workers, has been convicted in the Kansas City criminal court on the charge of embezzling \$5679 from the order, and was sentenced to two and one-half years in the penitentiary.

The New Zealand Inspector of Factories says the average wages in the Westport district are: Carpenters, \$3 per day; bricklayers, \$3; blacksmiths, \$2.50 to \$3; butchers, \$2.50; engineers, \$2.75 to \$3; miners, \$2.50 to \$3.75; painters, \$2.50 to \$3; bakers, \$2.50, and laborers, \$1.75 to \$2.25.

Consul-General Gunther, at Frankfurt, Germany, reports that successful experiments have been made in various forests of France by cutting trees with electricity. Platinum wire heated white works as a saw. It requires one-eighth the ordinary time and no sawdust or charred ends are results.

Arguments before the arbitration commission sitting in New York City to decide the wage and hour question of the United Railways of San Francisco and its employes were concluded last week. Both sides are to submit printed arguments within five days, and a decision is expected a short time thereafter.

A general strike of the union plumbers in the Pittsburg district went into effect and 700 journeymen and about 400 apprentices are idle. The new wage scale calls for an advance of 50 cents and an eight-hour day. Several small firms, not members of the association, have signed the scale, but only about 100 men are working.

The Central Labor Union of Washington, D. C., has adopted a resolution pledging fealty to organized labor above political parties and indorsing the sentiments expressed in the recent address of a sub-committee of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, opposing the anti-trade union policy of the "open shop."

Three thousand employes of the canning departments of the Chicago stockyards packing houses have presented demands for wage increases varying from 10 to 25 per cent. About 2000 men and 1000 women and boys are affected. Negotiations will be taken up as soon as the scales of the sausage makers and the pork butchers are disposed of.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners are to be merged into one national organization on January 1, 1905. The new organization shall take the name of the brotherhood. A temporary trade agreement in 1904, commencing January 1, is provided for by which each organization shall recognize cards from the other.

E. J. Baldwin, a real estate dealer, of Chicago, is planning the formation of a \$2,000,000 company to erect buildings in Chicago by nonunion labor exclusively. It is the professed purpose of Mr. Baldwin and J. W. Stiles—the last named is the plaintiff in damage suits which have been begun against several unions in the building industry—to incorporate a new company for building promotion and then find 25,000 workmen not affiliated with any trades union and start building where development of land has been retarded in the past.

Suit for \$30,000 damages against Franklin Union, No. 4, of Pressfeeders was filed in the Cook County Superior Court by Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago. The claim is based on alleged losses laid to the present labor troubles. Franklin Union is incorporated and the funds of the union, said to be \$40,000, can be attached on judgment by the court.

For the first time in 21 years a general strike has been decided on by the Piano and Organ Workers' International Union of America in the piano factories of Steinway & Sons to compel the firm to employ only union men. This strike will be only a prelude to a series of strikes throughout Greater New York for recognition of the union, involving 6000 or more men as most of the firms have open shops.

Secretary Harry B. Waters, of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, is sending out a call to all the state federations in the United States for a national convention to be held in Denver beginning January 11, 1904. It is believed that 300 or more representatives will be sent as delegates to this gathering. Their purpose will be to organize the unions affiliated with the various state bodies in a system similar to the United States Government.

The New York Tribune says that the Tenement House Commission has found at least 325,000 rooms into which the sunlight never penetrates. In other words, says the Tribune, 500,000 persons live in rooms which ought to be considered absolutely uninhabitable, dark and without any window or ventilation. The Tribune prints a picture of one of these black holes, "so dark that a flashlight picture could be taken in the day time," for which a rental of \$6 a month is received.

The American Federation of Labor has informed the officials of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, New York City, that that company cannot employ members of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employes to operate the trains of the Manhattan division of the elevated lines in the places of the motormen in the event of the latter declaring a strike. The action of the American Federation of Labor materially strengthens the position of the men.

The Illinois State Board of Arbitration has been asked by President Modie, of the Brotherhood of Railway Expressmen, to investigate the cause of the refusal of the respective express companies to treat with a wage committee of their employes. This may result in the constitutionality of the law being questioned, and that would have to be decided by the Supreme Court. Should either party to the controversy refuse to comply with the summons of the board under the law it has the power to compel appearance.—Cleveland Citizen.

C. K. Kennison, of Cripple Creek, has filed suit in the District Court against Governor Peabody, Sherman Bell, John Chase and T. C. McClelland for \$100,000 damages. The complaint recites that on September 18 plaintiff was thrown into the bullpen at Camp Goldfield and confined against his wishes, and was compelled to sleep on the bare ground with a guard constantly watching him; that the said arrest and imprisonment was false; that he was also deprived of his liberty, which greatly humiliated him in mind, and he also suffered exposure. W. F. Davis, another prominent union man, who was confined at the same time, also brings suit for an equal amount. His complaint is virtually the same as Mr. Kennison's.

MAIN FACTOR OVERLOOKED.

Our Foreign Trade Due to Superiority of American Labor.

In the claim that the rapid growth of this country's foreign trade is due to trusts no account is taken of the superior workmanship of American labor.

The main factor in the increasing popularity of American products is entirely overlooked. The truth is that American goods in many lines are the best in the world because made by the world's best workmen. They win their way through their own merit. The fact that an American manufacturer of gas engines is receiving important orders from Belgium, a country which has itself achieved considerable success in the manufacture of such engines, furnishes the New York Journal of Commerce with a text for a lecture on "How Trade Is Worked Up."

Not help him a particle in a foreign country and could hardly fail to handicap him by adding something to his costs of production. The politicians know only three ways of promoting trade—the tariff, some concession of a foreign tariff and steamship subsidies. None of these gave any assistance to the builder of gas engines."

That the sales of this particular American manufacturer in protectionist Belgium are due to intrinsic superiority of his goods either as to price or quality is, of course, quite certain.

The men whose superior workmanship produces the best engine at fair cost are the real monarchs of the engine trade.

Trust magnates have merely seized upon the brain and brawn and skill of the workmen as capital to be manipulated.

That the manufacturer has employed energetic means and effective means of compelling the attention of Belgian users of engines to the advantages of his product is equally certain. But here again it is the characteristic push of the American people, and not the result of capitalistic combination, which has done the work.

The claim of the trusts that it is they who have conquered foreign markets for American goods is an insult to American labor. It is an insolent attempt to take to themselves the credit that is due to workmen.

Trusts never created the superiority of workmanship. On the contrary, the superiority of workmanship has created a trade advantage that has made the great combinations of capital possible.—Kansas City World.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

The Unions of Los Angeles to Form Strong Central Organization.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 29.—(Special Correspondence.)—The various unions of this city identified with the building industry soon will be formed into a strong Building Trades Council, officers of the State Council having recently been in Los Angeles and perfected plans to this end. This determination is very timely, and as the fact has developed at a recent meeting of the Boss Builders' Association it was decided to adopt "a uniform scale" on and after November 1, meaning that the "bosses" would attempt to enforce a scale lower than those of the various unions. Of course, this latest move to fight the unions is backed by the notorious Los Angeles Times, whose mission is to organize every union-hater into one camp, and then use the camp in the interest of Otis. But from present indications, it appears that the Building Trades Council will be more than a match for the scab contractors, notwithstanding the fact that they are endeavoring to flood the city with idle mechanics, to be used when the "uniform scale" goes into effect.

The Building Trades Unions are being aided and encouraged by every union in Los Angeles, as organized labor in this city has learned that "an injury to one is the concern of all."

Union men and women everywhere can render great assistance to organized labor in Southern California by rapping the infamous Times at every opportunity. Let every reader of the Labor Press write one letter to each of the following advertisers in the Times:

- Carrara Paint, 811 Carrara Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- "Santal Middy"—E. Faugera, 26 N. Williams St., New York, N. Y.
- Royal Baking Powder Co., 100 Williams St., New York, N. Y.
- Philo-Hay Specialties Co., Newark, N. J.
- "Castoria"—The Centaur Co., 77 Murray St., New York, N. Y.
- "Cuticura"—Potter Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.
- "Postum"—Postum Cereal Co., Battle Creek, Mich.
- Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.
- Scott's Emulsion—Scott & Bowne, 409 Pearl St., New York, N. Y.
- Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate—D. Ghirardelli, San Francisco.

Tell these advertisers that organized labor does not look with favor upon any person or firm that is aiding labor's meanest enemy, the Los Angeles Times.

NEW DAILY PAPER.

Hearst Installs Large Plant at Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Union Labor News says that William R. Hearst is to have a newspaper in Los Angeles on a par with San Francisco, Chicago and New York dailies operated under his able and progressive management. The arrangements have been made this week for permanent quarters and contracts have been entered into with all of the printing trades unions whose members will be employed in the new enterprise.

The new newspaper will have its home in the Billeck building, now in process of construction on Broadway between Fifth and Sixth streets. A lease for 10 years was negotiated with the owner this week by Mr. Dent H. Robert, the representative of Mr. Hearst. Mr. Robert has been in Los Angeles for the past two weeks making arrangements to start the new paper, and for the past few days the mechanical superintendent of the San Francisco Examiner has been here altering the original plan of construction of the building to accommodate the new paper.

Union labor will be employed entirely by the new paper. This is in line with the policy pursued by Mr. Hearst in the other cities, where he has established himself and where he has learned that union labor is the most reliable and efficient. Agreements, therefore, have been signed already by the Typographical Union, Pressmen, Press Feeders, Stereotypers, Photoengravers and Mailers—all the printing trades unions that will be employed in getting out the new daily. These agreements are for a term of five years.

Not only has Mr. Robert shown his friendliness toward the printing trades unions by entering into these agreements, but he has consulted the officers of the Building Trades Council, relative to the labor and material to be used in making the necessary changes in the building. Union labor has not been overlooked in the slightest detail.

The paper will be called the Los Angeles Examiner, but it has not yet been decided when the first issue will appear, but it is safe to predict that it will be out by the first of the year. Seventeen linotype machines, a full outfit of type and other typographical necessities and two large presses have already been ordered. One of these presses will be the largest in Los Angeles and the entire equipment of the mechanical department will be first-class and up-to-date.

Los Angeles people of all vocations have reason to be proud of the fact that of all cities which offer inducements to Mr. Hearst to enter with one of his progressive newspapers, this city has been selected first. Comments in professional, business and labor circles are very favorable to Hearst's paper and there is no doubt that all fair-minded citizens will give it their hearty support.

New National Labor Body.

Secretary Harry B. Waters, of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, is now sending out a call to all the State Federations in the United States for a national convention to be held in Denver beginning January 11, 1904. The Colorado Federation is behind the movement. Some months ago the Federation decided to find out the feelings of the other Federations in the various states for a reorganization of organized labor in this country along national lines.

Letters were written to each body, and the answers came back which justified the Colorado Federation in calling the convention next year. It is believed that some 300 or more representatives will be sent as delegates from all over the country to this gathering. Their purpose will be to organize the workingmen and unions affiliated with the various state bodies in a system similar to the United States Government. It is proposed that each State Federation be supreme in its particular state while working under national laws and rules governing a national body to be controlled by representatives of a board chosen from the state bodies.

What Organization Means.

Some people in the labor movement do not know when they are doing something that will injure it, because they have been narrowed in their views—narrow in their experience with other labor organizations but their own, and should not attempt to represent labor until they had some real experience in other trade lines. Trade unions are not organized to strike; not organized to bring about difficulties with their employer; not organized just for the purpose of getting into trouble, but they are organized to better their own conditions, at the same time giving due recognition to their employer for his side of the case. Organized labor is an educational institution, where men are taught to respect the rights of others; taught that every man has the right of his opinion, with the lesson standing before them that all men have the right to a fair part of his production.—Galveston Journal.

Facts for Advertisers.

Printers' Ink, the recognized authority on advertising, after a thorough investigation on this subject, says: "A labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison to circulation. A labor paper, for example, having 2000 subscribers is of more value to the business man who advertises in it than an ordinary paper with 12,000 subscribers."

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