

LABOR NOTES

The tack makers have organized a Tack Makers' National Union.

Mechanics' and laborers' wages at Little Rock, Ark., have increased from three to five cents an hour over last year's scale.

The Vancouver (B. C.) Independent, a straight trades union paper, has changed from a weekly publication to a monthly.

Iron molders are voting on a proposition to remove the headquarters of their international union from Cincinnati to Washington, D. C.

Labor unions of Everett, Wash., have picked out a ticket for the coming municipal election. They will support business men as candidates.

The average wages received by each laborer in Iowa per annum have increased from \$352.71, paid in 1896, to \$428.41, paid in 1902, a gain of \$75.70.

The labor unions of Los Angeles are preparing a monster celebration on the day that Hearst's new paper, the Los Angeles Examiner, opens up for business.

The Socialists have decided to withdraw their ticket for the coming city election at Astoria, because of the inability to get candidates to make a race.

The executive officers of the Bricklayers' and Stone Masons' International Union have selected Indianapolis, Ind., as the headquarters for the international officials.

Frank P. Sargent, Commissioner of Immigration, suffered an attack of paralysis of the left side last Sunday and for a time his condition gave his family considerable concern.

In Pittsburg, Pa., it has been officially announced that the Window Glass Workers' Association loaned the Federation Window Glass Company \$75,000 without interest, to enable that company to carry its stock of glass.

A campaign to thoroughly organize the women workers in all crafts was one of the most important measures considered at the convention of the Massachusetts branch of the American Federation of Labor held recently at Worcester.

Because the Butchers' Union of Spokane permitted its members to work in the Sloane-Paine Company after it had been declared unfair by the Central Council, the Butchers' delegates were requested to withdraw from the parent body.

Members of all printing trades unions are elated over a decision made by the officials of the Chicago General Street Railway Company that the Allied Printing Trades label shall appear on all tickets and transfers handled by the union employees.

The efforts of organizers for the American Federation of Labor to form the farm hands of Indiana into unions, with the avowed purpose of increasing farm wages and systematizing the work done by their members, have been attended with success.

A proposal franchise to the St. Paul (Minn.) Gas Light Company for a period of 25 years, has awakened public spirit in the union labor ranks, and at a recent meeting of the Trades and Labor Council resolutions were passed declaring for municipal ownership.

The big sawmill of the Potlatch Lumber Company, at Palouse City, Wash., has closed for an indefinite period, on account of the strike of the men employed in the logging camps, and 250 men, earning an average of \$2.50 per day, each, are out of employment.

The Western Federation of Miners and the United Mine Workers of America are planning a merger for the purpose of combating all opposition to organized labor. Such a combination will bring into one great organization nearly one million men. The terms have not been made known, but it is said both organizations will remain intact, having one joint committee working in the interests of each of the national bodies.

The convention of the American Federation of Labor has been requested by the United House Smiths' and Bridgemen's Union and Iron League to settle the troubles existing in the structural iron industry and bring about the signing of an arbitration agreement.

Members of the Milwaukee (Wis.) coopers' unions recently retired from the shops individually. Demands for higher wages had been presented, the employers refusing to grant them. It is supposed that the action taken by the men was to avoid the appearance of having struck or walked out.

The marble setters and their assistants, who are employed in the general reconstruction of the Senate chambers and barber shops at Washington City, have gone on strike in sympathy with the marble cutters, who are locked out in the principal cities of the country by the manufacturers.

Steam fitters and helpers to the number of 1600, who have been on strike at New York for several weeks, have signed the arbitration agreement of the Employers' Association, and taken in as members of the union 139 men who had been employed to fill their places. They will get \$5 a day.

After a long debate the New York Central Federation Union suspended the Blacksmiths' and the Blacksmiths' Helpers' Union for failure to obey an order of the central body issued three weeks ago, to repudiate an agreement which they signed with the New York Metal Trades' Association.

The executive boards of the K. of L. and the American Window Glass Workers met in Cleveland last week for the purpose of amalgamating the two organizations. Propositions submitted could not be agreed upon and they departed without having accomplished anything. It is possible that another conference will be held in the near future.

Machinists on the Southern Pacific Railway system have made a formal demand for an increase of pay from 35 cents an hour to 37½ cents, the advanced wage to go into effect at once and be general among all the company's machinists on the lines from this city to El Paso, Portland and Ogden.

The independent cigar dealers of the country have adopted a plan to secure \$200,000 a year with which to fight the trust. This plan will remain in effect until the independent dealers have accomplished some results, according to the statement of M. W. Duffley, chairman of the executive committee of the board of directors of the Cigar Dealers' Association of America.

More than 2000 foreigners have left the Pennsylvania coke regions for their former homes in Europe within the past few weeks. Thousands of others are going West and South. During the last week about 2000 coke ovens were closed, owing to the falling off in the demand. There are more idle coke ovens in the Connellville region now than there have been since 1900.

The strike of the typefounders all over the country for a renewal of their agreement promises to be a long drawn out battle. While only about 500 men are involved, and 95 per cent of these are members of the union, the union itself is a component part of the International Typographical Union, which organization, at its annual convention in Washington, D. C., endorsed the proposed strike.

It is unlawful for the Allied Building Trades Council of Philadelphia to order a strike on any building operations in order to force workmen not affiliated with the Council to join it. This declaration was made by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania at Pittsburg, when it handed down an opinion in the case of certain members of the Plumbers' League of Philadelphia against the Allied Building Trades Council.

The general lockout of the Seattle painters and decorators, which has been in force for many months, has been declared off. The union was able to do this because, through the persistent work of its members and the assistance of the Western Central

Labor Union, every establishment of any consequence in their line in the city has been thoroughly unionized, with the exception of the Globe Wall Paper Company.

An attempt to bring 12 English flint glass workers to this country under contract was unsuccessful owing to the prompt action of President Thomas W. Rowe, of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union. Mr. Rowe was warned two weeks ago by J. Husselbee, of the National Flint Glass Makers' Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and immediately forwarded the description of the men to Commissioner of Immigration F. P. Sargent.

Union web pressmen are locked out from the press rooms of the Evening Telegraph and Philadelphia Inquirer, and they are on strike on the North American and the Philadelphia Record. The proprietors of the Telegraph and the Inquirer broke contracts they had with Pressmen's Union. The North American is lodging the strike breakers it has seduced by bribery to become traitors to the working class on the top floor of its building.

The International Textile Workers' convention Wednesday adopted a resolution that all organizations connected with the Central Textile Union should become affiliated with the American Federation of Labor through the international body. In speaking on the resolution Edward J. McNulty said the recent strike of 90,000 textile workers, which failed, would have been successful had they had the support of such an organization as the American Federation.

Massachusetts comes to the front with a new law which seeks to prevent strikes by publicity. This law, just enacted, gives the board of arbitration of that state power to investigate all strikes and lockouts and to compel employers and employees to appear and lay before the board their respective sides of the case. After hearing both sides the board issues a statement to the public giving an unbiased version of the controversy and containing its recommendations.

A remarkable strike was inaugurated November 9 by the crew of the Dominion Government cruiser Kestrel. Every jack, from first officer down to stoker, has forwarded his resignation to the Minister of Marine at Ottawa. Captain Newcombe is the only man to stay by the ship. The second officer is said to be at the bottom of the trouble. He is strenuous in discipline ideas, and believes in old-fashioned methods. The first officer tried to reason him out of these views and a row resulted. The only method that occurred to the crew to bring things to an issue was the one taken.

Evidence has been collected by the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Commerce and Labor, of a systematic and extensive violation of the contract labor law. Commissioner-General F. P. Sargent has submitted the evidence to the Department of Justice and has requested the Attorney-General to institute proceedings against the alleged violators of the law. The case in hand involves hundreds of men, many of whom are now in this country. Others are en route to the United States and are expected to arrive in a few days. The men are Welsh coal miners and came to the United States under an alleged agreement to work for the Ellsworth Coal Company, of Ellsworth, Pa.

Good Example of Co-operation.

Billings, Mont., constitutes one of the best examples of co-operative irrigation to be found in the country, writes a correspondent of the Chicago Journal. Every water right in the valley is owned by the farmers themselves; there are no water lords and no water tenants—a system which has proven so disastrous in many sections of the West. The man who owns the land which he farms also owns a share in the ditch from which he irrigates. This fertile valley is, roughly speaking, a great feeding center. Alfalfa is grown as far as the eye can reach, fields of emerald green from which three heavy crops are cut annually. Yet the correspond-

ent, who was driven about saw practically no livestock; they were out upon the vast open range above and surrounding the valley. In October they will be brought in and fattened through the winter from the thousands of enormous alfalfa stacks. Co-operation among the Billings farmers extends beyond the ownership and management of the irrigation ditches; they range their herds and flocks during the summer months upon the same plan. Instead of a farmer who owns 150 head of cattle or 300 head of sheep sending his own men out on the free range with them, he puts them in with the stock of a half dozen other farmers, very largely reducing the cost. Then he can devote himself all during the growing season exclusively to farming and preparing for winter feeding. Alfalfa is a wonderfully nutritious plant, altogether the greatest forage plant in the West, and but little grain is needed additional to finish stock for killing. Everything will eat it. At Billings the cattle, sheep, horses, hogs and even turkeys and wild ducks get fat upon it.—Maxwell's Talisman.

Gompers Criticizes Wright.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, severely criticizes Carroll D. Wright in the November number of the American Federationist because of his decision as umpire in the case of William Mowery.

Mowery had been discharged by a foreman in the course of an altercation. The case was brought before the conciliation board of the anthracite strike commission, and on a tie vote reconsideration was refused. The case was referred to Colonel Wright as umpire, who sustained the action already taken.

"This decision," said President Gompers, "stands in the way of the most important reform, aside from increase in wages, which the anthracite mine workers hoped to gain through their union, namely, the prevention of petty despotism of foremen and bosses. According to Mr. Wright's decision, this despotism is allowed to continue in its worst form, namely, the power to deprive a man of his means of livelihood. The foreman and superintendents are not the real employers, as seems to be taken for granted by Mr. Wright; they are the agents and satraps of the employers. The object of trade unionism, as well as the true spirit of an arbitration system, is to get an appeal over these agents and to bring home responsibility for the treatment of employees to the real employers—the stockholders and directors.

"As long as the stockholders throw over to the subordinates the responsibility for the just treatment of their workmen, so long will subordinates abuse those powers."

Labor Unions in Canada.

The Labor Gazette, published by the Canadian Government, has the following data about organized labor in the Dominion: "Ontario heads the list of provinces in respect to the number of labor unions, with 853; British Columbia follows with 216, Quebec coming third with 202. Nova Scotia has 93, New Brunswick 56, Prince Edward Island 14, Manitoba 63, the Northwest Territories 46, and the Yukon 13. The grand total for the Dominion is accordingly 1551. Reckoned by cities, Toronto, with 134 unions, contains the highest number of labor organizations, Montreal standing second with 102, and Vancouver third with 61.

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Judge Smith, of Cincinnati, was forced to modify his injunction against the striking molders and core-makers which restrained them from gathering upon the street or approaching the employes of Lane & Bodley. The court conceded that men have a right to picket and gather on the street so long as they confine themselves to peaceable methods.

At the annual convention of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association in New York City resolutions were passed declaring that nothing in the existing condition of the steel trade warrants a reduction in prices of machine tools, yet they notified the machinists a short time ago that a reduction in wages would have to be declared because they were compelled to make a cut in the prices of tools.

Strong resolutions have been passed by the Chicago Federation of Labor for the municipal ownership of the city's street railway system, in order that better wages may be paid, the prices of fares reduced, and the extortions of the private traction companies done away with. At a municipal ownership meeting in Mandel Hall, resolutions were also passed demanding the instant possession of the street railway system of the city.

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