

LABOR NOTES

Toronto's labor temple was formally opened on December 21.

About 12,000 men are on strike in the West Virginia coal fields.

W. H. Williams, the new labor commissioner of Minnesota, is an old-time member of the Minneapolis Typographical Union.

William M. O. Dawson, whom the Republicans of West Virginia elected governor November 8, began active life as a union printer.

The threatened strike of the 10,000 men employed in the thirty mills of the International Paper Company of Glens Falls, N. Y., has been averted.

It is announced that no action will be taken in the senate on the national eight-hour bill until a report has been made of the investigations by the Department of Commerce and Labor.

The National Labor Tribune of Pittsburg, Pa., the oldest labor paper in the United States, with its issue of December 15, began the thirty-third year of its journalistic career.

The Canadian Association of Steam Engineers intends to petition the Ontario legislature to pass an act requiring every man in charge of a steam engine of over twenty-five horse-power to have an engineers' certificate.

The laundry workers of California have started a campaign for complete organization that will embrace as nearly as possible, every member of their craft in the state, the Chinese excluded, and that will have a local union in every town and city.

Out of respect for the Clerks' Union the leading jewelry establishments of Aberdeen, Wash., have decided to close their stores at 6:30 p. m. excepting Saturdays. The movement was made by L. H. Burnett, of Burnett Bros., and followed by Emil Pfund.

The labor organizations of Montana are going to start a co-operative broom factory in the city of Helena. No labor union or other member can hold and vote more than one share of stock. The unions now run a co-operative laundry and in two months it has cleared more than \$500.

Trades unions of Jacksonville, Ill., have completed their "Labor Temple." It has three stories and a basement, and is built of brick. The work of construction was done free of charge, while the trades not connected with the building industry furnished the money for the material.

Two thousand waiters met at the Labor Exchange in Chicago a short time ago and unanimously adopted a resolution in favor of abolishing tips. They protested against their employers refusing to pay them wages sufficient for a livelihood, thus compelling them to degrade themselves by accepting tips.

Judge Carter, in the Supreme Court at Indianapolis, Ind., has granted a restraining order against the trust composed of the plumbers' supply houses of that city. Joseph Miller complained that the supply houses would sell goods only to members, and that he was refused the privilege of purchasing.

The New York unions affiliated with the International Seamen's Union have received instructions from the international officers to watch out for attempts to ship Chinese on American vessels as cooks or stewards. The union holds that their employment on the vessels is a violation of the Chinese exclusion act.

Nearly all the wage agreements of the workmen employed in the building trades in Pittsburg, which expired December 31, with the exception of three trades, are being continued on last year's basis. The painters, plumbers and plasterers are the three unions arranging wage conferences with the contractors, covering wage scales for the coming year.

The National Alliance of Amalgamated Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers, recently in session in New York City, is in favor of amalgamating with the Brotherhood of Painters. Action looking to this end was taken when a committee was appointed to arrange a conference with the brotherhood to settle all differences and bring about amalgamation.

Is your home swept with a union-label broom? If not, call the attention of your wife to the fact that a vast quantity of Chinese and convict-made brooms are sold on this market, and that the product of union broom-makers bears the label of the International Broom Makers' Union (a circular label, printed on blue paper), placed under the wire at the finish of the broom.

A dispatch from Constantinople reports the first labor strike in the history of Turkey. The workmen in a tobacco factory became enraged by the introduction of machinery, attacked their superiors and threatened

to strike unless their wages were increased. The police decided that a strike would be equivalent to a revolutionary movement. As a result 220 persons are now in prison.

The wages of all the union tin plate workers in the employ of the United States Steel Corporation have been advanced 2 per cent following automatically the \$2 a ton advance on tin plate, per cent with every 10 per cent advance. Under the agreement with the Tin Plate Workers' Association, wages advance 2 per cent, with every 10 per cent advance in the price per ton of tin plate.

The labor unions of Utah will support a lobby at the coming session of the state legislature. They are after a steam boiler inspection law; a metalliferous mine inspection law; and an employers' liability law. Utah already has an eight-hour law. They will also insist that the legislature enact the direction legislation law, which was elected by the people of the state in 1900, as an amendment to the constitution of the state, by a decisive vote of 10,219 to 7786.

The latest union to organize an auxiliary is the bricklayers. It was organized October 8, 1904, in Coffeyville, Kan. The membership is made up of the mothers, wives, daughters or sisters of members of the bricklayers' union. It is proposed to have an insurance feature to the auxiliary. The Bricklayer and Mason prints a fac simile of the auxiliary charter. Mrs. Joseph Dagle, 604 East Fourth street, Coffeyville, Kan., is president of the Ladies' International Auxiliary to the B. & M. I. U. of A.

A reduction of the wages of the tonnage men employed by the Howard axle works of the Carnegie Steel Company, took effect January 1. The cut ranges from 16.2-3 per cent down to 5 per cent. The greatest reduction is made in the scale of the heavy axle makers and ranges through the helpers, hammer men and forgers to the men working on light axles, who received the 5 per cent. The tonnage men are alone affected by the reduction. Two department foremen of the Homestead works stated that in their opinion the reduction at the Howard works would have no bearing on the prospects for an increase for the workmen of the Homestead works proper.

The National Founders' Association adopted a resolution disapproving of strikes and lockouts and favoring arbitration "whenever and wherever it will enable them to establish and maintain just and equitable relations between members and employees." What is termed an "outline policy" was adopted and will be issued in pamphlet form soon from the headquarters in Detroit. It is in conformity with resolutions adopted abrogating the New York agreement, which provides for arbitration with the president of the National Founders' Association and the president of the Iron Molders' Union of North America as two of the fixed members of the board, with power to select the other.

Valuable statistics regarding strikes and lockouts in the United States for the past twenty years have been published by the house committee on labor. They were secured during the hearings on the bill to create a national arbitration tribunal. The total number of workmen thrown out of employment in that period on account of strikes amounted to 6,105,094, and a loss in wages of over a quarter of a billion dollars. More than 127,000 establishments were involved. There was an average loss of \$46 to each person involved. New York came first in the number of strikes and Pennsylvania second, the former having over 20,000, and the latter having over 18,000 strikes. The coal industry experienced more strikes than any other.

CLIPPINGS.

A word to you all. Post-mortem praises and love are in the air. People kiss their dead who never stoop to kiss their living; they hover over open caskets with hysterical sobs, but fail to throw their arms about their loved ones who are fighting the stern battle of life. A word of cheer to the struggling soul in life is worth more than the roses of Christendom piled high on the casket covers. The dead can not smell the flowers, but the living can; scatter them broadcast in their pathway therefore, and pluck out the thorns before it is too late.—New Brunswick (N. J.) Federationist.

Man never fastened one end of a chain around the neck of his brother that God did not fasten the other end round the neck of the oppressor.—Lamartine.

J. L. Russell, Sr., and his son, J. L. Russell, are working in the state printing office. The former is eighty-three years of age, and shows not the least signs of the long period of time he has lived. A more vigorous man, considering his age, could not be

found. Mr. Russell is desirous of rounding out his seventieth year at the printing business in harness, and the prospects are good that his wish will be complied with, for he has already worked over sixty-nine years.—San Francisco Labor Clarion.

If half the energy used by some unions in organizing a strike were exercised in unionizing the outsiders in their craft they would be fewer "lamented failures" in the strike business.—Seattle Union Record.

Too many unionists interpret conservatism to mean servility. As applied to unions conservatism means being right in the first place and then sticking to it; not starting wrong and then receding from the position. When making a contract with your employers, see to it that it covers his rights and yours—then stick to that conservatism. Don't force a contract that is unfair—and then strike to maintain it; that's not conservatism, it's damphoolishness.—Seattle Union Record.

We believe the day will soon come and the sooner the better, when all unfair lists will be killed and in their stead a "fair list" published. It looks like a pity to give so much space to advertising unfair firms, and we believe that only the names of the fair should be published.—Galesburg Labor News.

Injunctions against everything but purchasing union goods have been sustained. If we will hew to the line on the union label question there will be little opportunity for injunctions or any other obstacles being sought to impede the progress of labor. How best to educate the women on the union label issue, the trade union issue, should be the question for consideration. Once the weapon of the union label is intelligently handled by the wives of American wage-earners and the force of our enemies will have lost its source of generation; injunctions, strikes and lockouts will be conflicts of the past.—Niagara Toiler.

GET SHORTER HOURS.

Eight-Hour Day Established in San Francisco Without Friction.

On January 4, the eight-hour work day became effective in all the book and job printing offices in San Francisco. The shorter work day in the printing trades was agreed upon by the Typothetae and Typographical Union No. 21 two years ago. The agreement provided that the reduction from the nine to the eight hour day should be accomplished in four semi-annual periods, the time to be reduced fifteen minutes at the end of each six months. An increase of 50 cents a week was also to be paid at the expiration of each half year until the wage scale for book and job printers should be \$20 a week on and after January 2, 1905. The minimum wage for foremen was also increased likewise, until the weekly wage should be \$23.

Secretary White of the local Typographical Union said that the change had been made without friction and all reports received at his office were favorable, indicating that the employers had generally respected the agreement.

Regarding the shorter work day the sentiment of the printers is voiced in the following article appearing in the Typographical notes in the last issue of the San Francisco Labor Clarion:

"For the first time in the history of the oldest trade union of the Pacific Coast—San Francisco Typographical Union, No. 21—the book and job printers started work at the beginning of this week on an eight-hour basis, with a minimum wage scale of \$20 a week. While, at this writing, it would hardly be conservative to state that not the slightest hitch occurred anywhere, at the same time the agreement has been lived up to by both sides—the Typothetae and the Union. Certainly the latter is to be congratulated on the improved conditions. When we look back to the drudgery of the ten-hour day, the change is more than appreciated by those who have worked under both systems. The clipping of fifteen minutes every six months, proposed by the Typothetae, was not favorably received at first by our members, but now that the two years have passed the good business sense that prompted No. 21 to accept the proposition becomes apparent. The normal work-day is here. Let us not only enjoy its fruits, but strengthen in every possible way the international movement to the same end. When the eight-hour day becomes universal—as it undoubtedly will—our fellow-craftsmen will hail the time, and there will be no opportunity for employers to complain of a variance of working time in different parts of the country. Give cheerfully and put every shoulder to the wheel."

Labor Saving Machinery.

An automatic packing machine has been invented in Paris. "By means of this apparatus, which is almost human in its action," says Scientific American, "it is possible to fashion the package, charge it and then seal it, ready for transit. The appliance is a combination of a weighing machine and a packer. First the machine cuts off the requisite length of lead, paper, or whatever is utilized for the envelopes, from a continuous traveling band, pastes and folds into shape, leaving the mouth of the bag open. The package then passes along, stopping in its passage for a moment to receive its contents of tea, sugar or cereals through a funnel. It makes another forward movement, and an electric pressure piston comes into action and rams down the contents to the minimum volume. By a further series of operations the bag is shaken into shape, pressed, and the ends are folded down, pasted and then labeled. Not once during the operation is the bag or its contents touched by hands. The inventor has been engaged for three years upon the device. When perfected it will perform the work of seventy people and complete the whole cycle of operations at a speed of forty packages per minute, thus effecting remarkable saving in time and expenses."

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