

LABOR NOTES

In New Brunswick, N. J., organized labor is very much dissatisfied with the party in power, and propose to put a ticket in the field at the next election.

The Seattle Labor Temple is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy by Labor Day. The contract for furnishing the building has been let.

Street railway employes of New Orleans have signed a five year contract, and will receive a gradual increase in wages from one-half to one cent per hour each year during the life of the contract.

The people of Hawaii wearied of the increase in the Japanese population of the Islands, will, it is said, ask congress to exclude Japanese coolies, and fortify the islands against possible war with Japan.

All the mines of the Western Fuel Company on Vancouver Island, B. C., have been closed down. The issue between the miners and company has been shifted and from now on it will be a straight fight for recognition of the union.

A Kansas firm has commenced the manufacture of a farm auto-motor that will do the plowing and harvesting formerly requiring 36 to 48 horses and a score or more of men. It is confidently expected that the harvesting problem will be solved by next year.

Switchmen employed by the San Pedro, Salt Lake and Los Angeles Railroad in Los Angeles, San Pedro, Las Vegas, Nevada and Calientes, Cal., who are members of the Switchmen's Union of North America, went on strike on July 4 for an increase of wages.

At the closing session of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, held at Scranton, Pa., recently, the anthracite miners were urged to organize in order to secure a working agreement with the operators to replace the arrangement which expires next April.

Indiana miners had their funds tied up in the Terre Haute bank that failed because of the robbery of a high-toned thief. They had about \$80,000 in the institution. But a few days previous to the failure a bank examiner, after an "examination," showed the bank to be in a solvent state.

A convention of stationary engineers, held at Santa Barbara, Cal., has decided to work for a state license law which would license engineers and provide for a further inspection of boilers. A committee was appointed to draft a bill and have it presented at the next session of the Legislature.

Printers of Rochester, N. Y., have entered into a contract for the eight hour day after January 1, 1906, and secured an increase of wages of \$1 per week after May 20, 1907. The Typothetae strongly objected to its Rochester members signing this scale, but the eight hour day is winning right along.

Six hundred boilermakers, shipfitters and apprentices went on strike recently from the yards of the John Robins Shipbuilding Company and the Robert White Shipbuilding and Repair Company, Brooklyn, N. Y. The apprentices demanded an increase in wages and the journeymen joined them from sympathy.

The Byrd Printing Company of Atlanta, Ga., has signed an agreement for a strictly union office. This is one of the results of the recent convention of the "open shop" Parryites in Atlanta, and disposes of about the only large concern left outside of the union fold after the general lock-out of two years ago.

Recently an inspector of factories in New Zealand detailed a number of Oamaru employers systematically dodging the Arbitration Act. In two cases sums of £37 and £35 respectively had to be paid by firms to girls for arrears of wages improperly withheld, or never credited, extending over a number of years.

Reports indicate that John R. O'Brien, international president of the Retail Clerk's Protective Association, has been defeated for re-election by at least 1500 votes. H. J. Conway is the new president. Mr. O'Brien is in Galveston, Tex., to preside at the international convention

of the clerks, which opened in that city July 11th.

In Philadelphia organized labor is booming Frank Feeney, president of the Central Labor Union, for sheriff. He will run on a strictly labor ticket, but if either of the old parties want to endorse him they may do so. The labor people of Philadelphia believe it is a good time to knock out the "machine" politicians and are going to try to do it with one of the best labor men of that city.

From a report issued by the Berlin Trades Union Commission, which is practically the same thing as a trades council in this country, it appears that the German capital is one of the best organized large cities in the world. The commission shows that the membership of the affiliated organizations was 174,192 at the end of 1904, an increase of over 37,000 against 1903. The metal workers number 45,000, cabinet makers 18,700, bricklayers 13,300, transport workers 12,000, printers 8,068, bookbinders 5,856, builders' laborers 4,886, municipal employes 4,412, carpenters 4,088, tailors 3,800, painters 2,855, etc.

The coopers employed in the San Francisco breweries quit work July 17 to enforce a demand for an increase of wages. The strikers are members of Coopers' Union No. 65. They have been receiving \$21 a week and recently the union adopted a new scale calling for a wage of \$22, to become effective July 15th. The employers refused to concede the advance and the strike was ordered. There are about twenty men now involved. The brewery workers may become involved as some of the coopers are affiliated with Brewery Workers' Union No. 7. The brewery workers' organization has an agreement which runs for two years for a wage of \$21 a week. The coopers who are affiliated with Brewery Workers' Union No. 7 are still working.

REFUSED TO BE DUPED.

Mr. W. R. Hamper, manager of a large tobacco works in Detroit, said the other day that he had severed his connection with the Perry-Post Manufacturers' Association. "We were once induced to join in order to get

foreign credit reports and so on," he said; "but we soon found out that the real motive was to fight organized labor and we at once withdrew." As to the closed shop Mr. Hamper had this to say: "The closed shop is simple justice. It protects the workers. It makes the shirk pay his share in maintaining the union. For example, in dull times there are thousands of unemployed who are willing to work for a song. If you have the open shop the employer is at liberty to lay off his regular union workmen and employ the 'scabs,' as you call them, thereby bringing distress upon faithful employes. I hold that a man has no moral right to do that, and if they have not the humanity about them to do justice it is in the province of the working people to organize and force them to. I had much rather deal with the union as a whole than to deal with individuals."

DANGER OF LOW DUES.

Trade unions have been thriving to such an extent in this country the past few years that the average member of the organization has not had occasion to stop and consider where we are at, and so the unions have gone on adding new features which entailed increased expense without providing for adequate revenue to meet the increased demands on their treasury. Usually the ordinary resources of nearly all organizations are taxed almost to the limit to maintain these obligations, making it impossible to accumulate funds for emergencies that are liable to arise any time.

There is a good reason for all this. One is that neither conventions nor the referendum of any organization ever give due consideration to expectancy of life in making laws governing death benefits consequently unions attempt to pay sums that are utterly out of proportion to the revenue received. Some say the lapses make up the differences, but unions do not permit members to lapse if they can prevent it, and as organization is being perfected, unions are continually increasing their effectiveness in successfully reducing the number of lapses.

Time was when a protracted strike or series of strikes involving considerable numbers meant the beginning of the end of the organization, whether the strikes were won or lost. That time is past. A strike, big or little, won or lost, is now looked upon only as an incident in the life of an organization.

The stability of trade unions is only endangered by the desire of some of its membership to get out of the organization more than they are willing to contribute. This shortsightedness is not confined to union members in America, but seems to be universal. It is true even of Great Britain, the home of the trade union, where its highest development has been reached. Thomas Reece, the veteran labor writer of London, England, in a letter printed in a recent number of the American Federationist, observed that there are some there too, who look upon the payment of dues as an imposition, while to receive benefits is a right which should not be denied under any circumstances.

The primary function of our unions is to protect our distinct interest as workers; beneficial features may be added and maintained at less cost than in any other society, and we ought to be willing to defray that cost by payment of sufficient dues to meet it and still have means to carry on the prime purpose of organization among working people.

A few unions have fortified themselves against contingencies by providing that a certain sum per capita be held in reserve, and that amount is assured by laws making assessments mandatory. One thing is certain, union men of all trades must give closer attention to the fiscal policy of their respective organizations and provide effectual means against the possible necessity of repudiation. Of course the opponents of our movement can not ultimately triumph, but our own aims can be gained much more speedily by wise legislation and generous support of the medium through which these ends are to be achieved. — Amalgamated Woodworker.

Insist on Eight-Hour Law.

P. D. Warwick, president of the Bridge and Pile Drivers' Union, and John Kean, secretary of the City Front Federation, of San Francisco, have been gathering evidence at Marc

Island regarding the alleged violation of the eight-hour day by the Schofield Construction Company, which was recently awarded a contract to build a new drydock at a cost of \$1,000,000. The firm has been employing men to do the preliminary work, such as removing the old piles and preparing the site for the improvement. The men have been worked nine hours, while the law says that on all government contracts and work, eight hours is to be a day's labor.

Warwick and Kean will call on Schofield and endeavor to adjust the matter with him. Should he refuse to concede the eight-hour conditions, it is probable that the grievance will be placed before United States Attorney Devlin, with a request that action be taken in the United States courts against the company.

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PETITION FOR LICENSE.

To the Honorable County Court of Multnomah County, State of Oregon— We, the undersigned legal voters within Precinct No. 70, Multnomah County, Oregon, hereby petition and pray that B. C. Larson and John Larson be allowed a license to sell spirituous, vinous, and malt liquors in Troutdale, within said Precinct 70, in said County, and that in less quantities than one gallon for the term of six months.

In accordance with the above petition we, B. C. Larson and John Larson, will apply to said County Court for a license.

R. White, A. J. Vandever, L. A. Harlow, W. B. D. Forrest, M. C. Dingle, J. S. Hudson, M. C. Supplies, R. F. Hutson, John Holm, J. T. Wilcoxson, W. E. Crawford, J. T. McCreary, Fred Hood, Henry Barney, G. O. Worden, John Larson, E. Rosecrantz, C. P. Brooks, H. W. Love, B. F. Thompson, H. R. Jones, E. Johnson, F. Foth, Chas. Hummel, John Humphrey, T. W. Corder, C. J. Holm, C. McFarland, Emil Tegerstrand, Bert Williams, E. Stafford, H. M. Neilson, Thos. Alexander, Chas. A. McKenney, S. S. Logan, A. J. Richter, E. C. Ott, T. E. Harlow, J. M. Edwards, F. M. Polton, J. H. Hoyt, L. H. Hamshire, M. G. Harlow, A. Stafford, W. D. Merrill, E. W. Holt, W. J. Merchon, W. P. Bennett, John Shepherd, H. C. Bell, Jeff Shipley, John Coons, Wm. Sutherland, Henry Vanderhoof, A. P. Simon, A. Galburins, C. W. Cleland, Jacob Weiss, Pat McGuire, Sam'l McKenny, H. C. Sexton, Ed. L. Schuyler, Geo. Williams, Aaron Fox, P. Staneko, R. Latourell, G. N. Reynolds, B. C. Larson, D. B. Richardson, A. Surber, H. Richardson, Chas. E. Kefer, Chris Timm, Arthur Richardson.

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