

LABOR NOTES

The New South Wales arbitration court recently ordered defaulting members of the Hairdressers', Shore Drivers and Firemen's and Sawmill and Timber Yard Employes' unions to pay up arrears of dues.

The Amalgamated Leather Workers' Union has signed an agreement with the employers in New York and Brooklyn for a nine-hour workday, time and half for overtime, and a Saturday half holiday during June, July and August.

Grand President F. J. McNulty, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers with nine other members of the National Civic Federation has sailed for England to study the system of public utility as practiced in that country.

Announcement of the result of the referendum vote now being taken by the union machinists in the Pittsburgh district on the proposition to demand an eight-hour day after July 1 will be made next Sunday. The returns are not yet available.

The shopmen of the Pennsylvania railroad, who were reduced to 25 hours a week on April 2, were recently notified that hereafter the regular hours would be 55 a week. More than 10,000 men between Philadelphia and Pittsburg will be benefited.

A voluntary increase of 10 per cent has been granted all cotton mill employes in Danielson, Moosep, Jewett City, Wauregan and many other places in Windham and New London counties, Conn. The action of the mill owners affects 20,000 persons.

Tempelton, the strike-breaking thug imported into Cleveland, O., by the Standard Sewing Machine Company, and who brutally assaulted an unarmed union man, has been sentenced to 30 days in the workhouse and a fine of \$50 by Judge Fiedler.

Chairman Dolliver, of the Senate committee on education and labor, has reported favorably a bill authorizing the secretary of commerce and labor to report upon the industrial, social, moral, educational and physical condition of women and child workers.

THE GIANT AWAKENING.

Labor's Long Sleep Has Imperiled Free Government.

The man who fails to intelligently exercise the right of franchise places himself at the same disadvantage as is the poor victim in class-ridden lands who is denied the right to vote, when the real masters choose to wield the lash of injustice or turn on the screws of oppression. The man or the men, the class or the coterie, who represent the real power that is responsible for men in office will find the lawmakers, the law interpreters and the law enforcers responsive to their creators; not to those who are supposed to be their creators, but to the interests whose fiat actually can and does make or unmake. The recognition of this fact on the part of the great public service corporations and other monopolies and trusts or the "interests" that fatten off of special privileges and exploit labor, and the failure to recognize so vital a truth on the part of the industrial millions, constitute the true secret of the rapid advance of reactionary and class interests in this republic, the undermining of the ideals of the Declaration of Independence or the fundamental democracy of Jefferson and of Lincoln, and the dominance of the crim-

inal rich, the high financiers, the Wall street gamblers and the political bosses in national life.

The steady and aggressive advance of corporate oppression paralleling the defeat of every effort to secure effective legislation in the interests of the people and the old time legal enforcement against law breakers who are also millionaires; the steady and sinister arrogation by the judiciary of a power that was never intended or comprehended by the founders of our government, notably the flagrant abuse of the injunction power and the attempted despotic extension to absurd and menacing lengths of the contempt of court as seen in the vicious theory of constructive contempt; the steady lowering of moral idealism and the rise and prevalence of bribery, graft and corruption in the body politic—these and similar ominous influences that are destructive to democracy and inimical to the happiness, development and well being of all the people—have marked the rise of the plutocracy during the past 25 years, and they have been rendered possible only because labor, the great wealth producing and consuming millions, has failed to unite to combat privilege and class advance that must in the long run mean the virtual subjugation of the toilers to the masters of the bread and the sinking of the wealth creators to the position of the man without the vote in despotic lands.

For years labor has cried with increasing bitterness against the shameful abuse of the injunction power and other unjust and oppressive acts which have registered the wishes or demands of the great corporation chiefs who furnished the fat campaign funds for the money controlled political machines; yet all demands have been systematically ignored when not contemptuously spurned. And why? Simply because labor has resolutely refused to seize and use as a unit the one sovereign remedy in a democracy which in a single day would have shorn its oppressive masters of their power in a manner as peaceful as effective—the ballot.

The multimillionaires whose wealth has been chiefly the result of special privileges and monopoly rights that enabled them to levy unjust toll and tariffs upon the millions are as one to one hundred when it comes to a battle at the ballot box. The corrupt beneficiaries of special privilege who oppress labor and debauch government through control of political machines have exalted their tools to the seats of the mighty in all departments of governmental life only because they have been able systematically to defeat and negative the influence of the producing and consuming millions. Yet year after year labor has shrieked aloud at injustice and oppression, has struck when strikes meant almost starvation to tens of thousands of the toilers and the increase of millions upon millions of dollars of burden for the community at large, with the probability of failure for the laborers in the long run, or at least only a minimum of justice; yet on election day these same toilers have done precisely what the corrupt beneficiaries of privilege and the political bosses desired and counted on their doing—supported the men acceptable to the plutocracy that furnished the bosses with funds for the money controlled machine, with the result—the inevitable result—that every year the contempt of the office holders for the laboring millions has become offensively apparent whenever a crisis has come between the interests of the plutocracy

and those of labor or the people at large.

Time and again has the Arena pointed out that there could be no real relief for the toilers or restoration of the government to the people until the laboring millions united at the polls and used the effective and peaceful remedy which democracy places in the hands of the citizen for his protection and for the widest interests of the people at large.

The labor leaders have held otherwise. They have depended on strikes and on the promises of venal politicians who were as ready to make ante-election pledges as they were to break them when the boss or his masters commanded them to do so. This has long been to us the most discouraging aspect of the battle of the people for justice and the fundamental rights guaranteed by free government against the criminal rich and class rule. True, the Socialists in recent years have resolutely fought at the polls against the reactionary, imperialistic, militaristic and unrepentant order, but this has not been true of the great mass of organized labor.

This almost fatal inactivity in the presence of the steady advance of the three things that are absolutely destructive to democracy—militarism, imperialism and class rule—has happily not been marked by sordid corruption or moral obloquy on the part of organized labor. On the contrary, a great and fundamentally important work has been pushed forward. For years Mr. Gompers and his associates have cordially seconded the magnificent labor of George H. Shibley in his systematic campaign for the education of American workers along the lines of fundamental democracy and their instruction in regard to the simple and practical method of bringing the government back to the people and meeting changed conditions so as to effectively preserve a fundamentally free government by means of the initiative, the referendum and the right of recall. There is nothing so needed in America today as direct legislation, or guarded representative government, as Mr. Shibley prefers to call it. And through the active and sympathetic aid of Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders these practical measures for preserving a government of the people, by the people and for the people have been so luminously explained and persistently impressed on the intelligent workers that they have come to appreciate the vital importance of these fundamental democratic methods.

The waiting season, therefore, though in many respects very unfortunate for labor and for the republic, has not been lost or wasted, since it has been utilized for the most important education of which the people stand in need.—Arena.

NON-UNION PUBLICATIONS.

No magazine or pattern in this list should be in the home of any wage earner, in the home of any of his friends, or on any newstand, as they have locked out their employees for demanding the eight-hour day.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—American Inventor, American Machinist, American Museum Journal, Automobile Topics, Benziger's Magazine, Bookman, Burr-McIntosh, The Century, Christian Advocate, Country Life in America, Delinestor, Designer, Engineering and Mining Journal, Forum, Garden Magazine, Gentlewoman, Homiletic Review, Journal of the Telegraph, L'Art de la Mode, Literary Digest, Magazine of Mysteries, Marine Engineering, McClure's, Mode and Revue, My Business Friend, Nautical Gazette, Navy League Journal, New Idea, Paragon Monthly, Photographic Times, Power, Power Boat News, The Rudder, Smart Set, St. Nicholas, Tales, Tom Watson's Magazine, Trust and Country, Town Topics, Trust Companies, Typewriter and Phonographic World, Vogue, World's Work.

BOSTON, MASS.—Black Cat, Modern Priscilla, Green Bag.

CINCINNATI, OHIO—Men and Women.

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