

NOTES HERE AND THERE

News and Comment About Happenings of Interest in Labor Circles

Every man has an equal right to the earth. Every man is entitled to all he produces.

Organization of women workers is planned in Spokane.

Cincinnati has an eight-hour day for all city employees.

Street-car men and street sweepers have struck in Rome, Italy.

Strong efforts to organize the grocery clerks of Spokane are being made.

The Oakland, California, Central Labor Council is to have an Industrial Exhibition.

Garment Workers in Sedalia, Mo., have opened a cooperative factory of their own.

Chinese-owned laundries in Oklahoma City are said to be white-slave trade stations.

Railroad contractors near Spokane have followed the city in raising wages of laborers.

Women in the breweries in the East working at bottling receive but 75 cents a day.

Organized laborers in Spokane have a man devoting his entire time to organization work.

The Building Trades Council of San Francisco is once more in accord with the Labor Council.

New York railway telegraphers have received an increase of over 10 per cent in their wage scale.

Denver unionists pride themselves on having the most efficient union label league in the United States.

The Chartered Society of Amalgamated Lace Operatives of America will convene at Philadelphia on May 2.

The prosecution of the unfair barber shops in San Francisco by the union is being vigorously carried on.

The Artizan, of Holyoke, Mass., says times are so flush that landlords are raising the rents of the tenements.

The cost of a battleship would redeem and irrigate land sufficient to provide homes for 12,000 families.

More than \$12,000,000 worth of workmen's shorts and overalls are produced annually in American prisons.

No matter how much an "open" shop may make for its owner, there is never a raise until the men get together.

Some suburban street-car lines have advanced fare to ten cents, instead of reducing to three, as was expected.

A large number of girls striking in the potteries of East Liverpool, Ohio, have won an increase and other betterments.

A bill has passed in Maryland forbidding any candidate pledging himself to support any measure in the legislature.

In Bosnia, suffrage has just been extended to women who own a certain amount of land or of personal property.

The annual convention of the International Association of Fur Workers will be held at St. Paul, Minn., on April 4.

The fight of labor is with monopoly. Laboring men should learn this lesson thoroughly, even if it makes their head ache.

Last year Leather Workers on Horse Goods made a gain of ten new locals and increased the general membership by 2,000.

Statistics show that in the City of New York there are 25,000 women who by their labor support their husbands and families.

Senate Bill No. 13,915, which has already passed the Lower House of Congress, is the bill to create a Bureau of Mines and Mining.

Printers and employers in Spokane are working together to increase the printing done in that city. Much is now sent to Eastern points.

There have been thirty thousand coal miners killed in this country since 1889, fully three-fourths of them through preventable accidents.

In England an injured workman receives during his period of disability one-half the wages he would have earned had he not been injured.

Photo Engravers of Spokane are seeking to effect an agreement with their employers. The wage scale is all right, but it is not signed up.

Lincoln, Nebraska, labor unions have been so busy debating "wet" or "dry" that they have little time or energy to debate or consider anything else.

A committee on organization has been formed by the Women's Trade Union League to organize the Jewish workwomen of the East Side in Manhattan.

California was always a land of fat grafts. One is six fish and game commission, at a cost of \$200,000 a year, which renders no accounting of its money.

The policeman's club will make your head ache if you do not study economics, my working and producing brother, which latter you say give you the headache.

There was but one strike in Seattle, Wash., during 1909, that of the elevator constructors, who struck for 50 cents a day increase, and obtained it in a very short time.

The Hoe Printing Press works are now union throughout. Every once in a while the field men found the loss of a sale by reason of the trouble with the unorganized and organized mechanics.

For peace at home and abroad, for the need of competent help in the works, and friendly greetings "down the line," the Hoe Press is fair once more.

Several candidates of the Social Democrats were elected to be Mayor, as well as a number of minor offices, in other cities besides Milwaukee in various parts of Wisconsin.

The headquarters of the Carriage and Wagon workers' union is to be moved from Washington, D. C., to Buffalo. More attention is to be given to organizing work in Canada.

Of the ten so-called anti-injunction bills that have been introduced in Congress nine are in reality so worded that they would legalize their pernicious use in labor disputes.

The Sacramento Bee says the weakest point in the California direct primary law is the absence of a Statement Number One pledge. And then it proceeds to advertise Oregon.

Even in plutocratic Alabama the organized workers have maintained their wages during the trying times of the past three years, but the unorganized have suffered relentless reductions.

The British consul in New York has issued a circular showing to British workmen that the cost of living is higher in proportion to wages paid in the United States than in England.

The Co-operative Society of Workers in Belgium has attained great proportions, and has aided materially in the advancement of the people along representative, social and economic lines.

In Illinois the employers have a Liability Association. Its object is to give the workers as little protection as possible, and what they do get to make them pay for out of their wages.

The strike of the New York Pants Makers, extending over a period of two months, and involving nearly 8,000 men, has been settled, the contractors having acceded to the demands of the union.

The San Francisco, Cal., Garment Workers' union is giving a practical demonstration of its work in the show window of a large store to help the union label and create a demand for goods bearing the same.

"The fundamental defect of our civilization is the mistake of applying to land, which is the gift of the Creator, the same law of private property that we apply to things which man creates by labor."

A banker in Pittsburgh has confessed to bribing the City Council to the extent of \$20,000, in order to secure deposits of city funds. You don't suppose Portland bankers would do such a thing, now, do you?

Many labor bills have been introduced in Congress during the present session, but nearly all of them will be permitted to sleep in the pigeon holes of the various committees to which they have been referred.

Laboring men cannot draw their little savings out of the banks with any safety unless they have postal savings banks in which to place them. They might buy bonds, but the banks would have the bonds to sell.

As a result of the agitation carried on by the unions of the San Francisco Labor Council against Asiatics, two of the large downtown cafes, Jellison's and Seward's, have discharged their Chinese and Japanese employees.

Among the unorganized trades that have recently formed unions in Colorado are the plate printers, brickmakers, meat cutters, and school teachers, all of whom have affiliated with the Colorado State Federation of Labor.

The loan sharks have the laws for the collection of debts in the State of Washington made to suit them, and the result is, they are able to force wage-earners to pay unjust debts rather than fight them in the courts.

Hereafter, as a secondary result of the Pittsburgh "shake-up," all employees of the city must be union men where possible. We need a "shake-up" in Portland, for our city authorities look with contempt upon union men.

In European countries old age pensions are the most popular measures, and in spite of enormous aggregate cost are being extended. In this country the politicians have not yet found out what a mine of glory there is in it.

Pennsylvania has a law against a paper being published without its editor's name. Never in forced against any paper until two Socialists butted in and told the truth. Jails and fines for them. Old Penny is a great state.

Talk about high prices and jubilant farmers. In Colorado in some sections farmers have had to sell potatoes recently for fifteen cents a hundred. Somebody makes a clean-up, but he is no farmer. Farming the farmer beats farming.

"Do hogs pay?" inquires an agricultural exchange. There are some kinds who do not. They will take a paper for eleven years without paying a cent, and then stop it because it publishes some article that opposes their pet hobby.

Cattle from South America are to be admitted to British markets to help break down the American beef Trust. We believe in protecting the Trust in the United States, we do. No cheap, pauper-fed beef from Argentina for us!

The "Farthest North" union identified with the A. F. of L. is that of the Maintenance-of-Way Employees on the Canadian Northern Railroad, which is situated in Minnesota, on the boundary line near Lake of the Woods. It has 150 members.

Trade unionists, especially members of the building trades, are warned to stay away from Salt Lake City. Surplus labor has reached alarming proportions in that city, and destitution is most keen, while the avenues of employment are congested.

Jack London says: "Without a quiver, a member of a capitalist group will run tens of thousands of pitiful child laborers through his self-destroying cotton factories, and weep maudlin and constitutional tears over one scab accidentally hit with a brick."

It is said that several judges have been found in Eastern States to hold shares in convict-hiring companies. Some enterprising newspaper reporters figured out that one judge made \$125 a month from each one of his convicts. This is all surmise, however.

Cheap labor, inefficient, poorly supervised, rotten boilers, rotten ties, overworked men. These are the causes of three-fourths of the railroad wrecks in this country, according to investigations made by coroners' juries, labor experts, and other investigators.

Do your own thinking. Don't let your boss, or your minister, or your lodge, or your church, or anybody r bodies to think for you. T-H-I-N-K is about the most important word in our language.

But it has been on strike—has not been working. When it does get to work, when men THINK FOR THEMSELVES and reason things out, we will be on the road to better things—Only Way, Philadelphia.

The San Francisco Labor Clarion recently paid a dividend of \$250 to the treasury of the Labor Council. As a medium of communication, as a defender of organized labor, as an educator, the Clarion has proved a good investment without any cash dividends.

Of the \$100,000,000 paid out by employers of labor in the United States to reimburse the victims of accidents only \$14,000,000 reaches the workmen, and they in turn pay fully one-half of this sum in attorneys' fees. The remaining \$86,000,000 go to liability companies.

Contractors in Humboldt County, California, have been, and are, working men in tunnels more than eight hours a day, contrary to the law of the State. Organized labor put forth strong efforts to secure this law, but it is being violated apparently with impunity.

Labor unions have been the greatest and grandest force in recent history in developing manhood, and raising the standard of living. They have done more REAL CHRISTIAN WORK in the last twenty-five years than any other portion of our people—Only Way, Philadelphia.

In Maryland the state makes \$15 a year from the contracted labor of its convicts. What the convict labor trust makes is not known. Recently a New York firm closed a contract for the hiring of 200 convicts in Maryland and discharged 200 women garment workers.

As one result of the strikes and agitation against it, the Steel Trust is stopping the work on Sun days in all its plants. Its mouthpieces of the press not long ago were showing that this was an impossibility, but, as the French say, "the impossible is always being performed."

Boston Garment Workers have secured a raise of from 10 to 30 per cent in wages, recognition of the union and betterment of conditions. So much for organization and the label. The above facts are why our Portland Employers' Association wants no unions and the "open" shop.

The union label is the silent, but eloquent monitor for the consistent trade unionist. It never sleeps. Its power for organized labor is so strong that it must be said we, as unionists, haven't grasped the possibilities at hand. Let us be up and doing—S. F. Labor Clarion.

Building men in Sacramento have discovered that the S. P. charges the Western Pacific \$28 a car for switching mails seven blocks. The S. P. wants vacations of streets in Portland, so that it can shut out any road, or pinch it—and the people—if it does manage to get in.

A State Senator has been expelled from the New York Senate for accepting one little bribe 15 years ago. Just supposing every member of all the legislatures and of Congress was expelled who accepted a bribe 15 months ago, or less. What a lot of special elections there would be!

Until recently New York City has had its building trades split up into two bodies. Both of these organizations have now taken the sensible step of burying past differences, and getting together for the purpose of devising plans for the merging of these organizations into one.

The worry about the farmers and wage-workers getting together politically may have some foundation in fact. With the better understanding between the two classes, comes a knowledge that their interests are identical, and he will indeed be a courageous man who will try to stem the tide of such a move, should it start.—Colorado Industrial Review.

Since the shock of the adverse Cannot vote in Congress, the election of a M. C. in Massachusetts who was a Democrat, and the Socialist-Democrat victory in Milwaukee, a number of labor bills in the committee holes at Washington have had an inch of dust shaken off them, and great promises are made.

Charles Glidden, one of the organizers of the United Mine Workers, recently came across a miner who, in the 22 years that he has worked for a company at Hazleton, Pa., has received a pay envelope but twice. In that time he has been in debt to the company every month, except the two instances mentioned.

The state law enacted at the last Texas legislative session fixing an eight-hour workday for telegraphers has been declared invalid in a decision by the court of civil appeals, sitting in Galveston. The court contends that the state law conflicts with the national statute, which provides a nine-hour day for dispatchers.

Some years ago the Sugar Trust weeded out from its refineries near New York all American workers possible, because their standard of living was high, and they were inclined to try on forming a union every little while. Now the low-browed foreign labor employed for its docility and economy has closed up the plants and demanded recognition of the unions.

Under the plea of protecting the Yosemite Valley, nature-lovers are being used to prevent San Francisco from securing the Hetch-Mechey Valley for a reservoir for its municipal water system, ordered recently by a 20-to-1 vote. The local water trust does not tell about the two valleys being 15 miles apart in an air line, and in no way connected.

The Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council of San Francisco have joined hands in carrying on a campaign to defeat the interests in their attempt to prevent the City of San Francisco from securing the Hetch-Mechey water supply for the improvement of which the people recently voted the expenditure of ten million dollars.

At the close of 1908 the membership of the tradeunions of New South Wales, Australia, was 113,918. The total population of the state is about 1,600,000, so that about one in every fourteen persons is a member of a labor organization. If the same ratio prevailed in the United States, the membership of our labor unions would be between six and seven millions.

One of the peculiar instances of fate and retribution has overtaken the merchants of Cripple Creek, Colorado. In the troubles there a few years ago the business men did a lot of dirty work and mob work against the union men. The companies established "pluck-me" stores and ran the merchants out, one and two at a time, as the merchants had (only with violence) helped run out the union miners.

The smouldering discontent that flares up into strikes and quittings at Pullman, Ill., brings to mind the fact that a few years ago the company drove out all its American workmen because they wanted living wages, and imported foreigners. The difference between life in Pullman and that in the Illinois penitentiary is, that the cons, have the best of it. The "open" shop of Pullman is a tightly closed shop to any man with a backbone and a knowledge of American principles.

DON'T GIVE UP THE GUN

Ballot a Valuable Weapon That Can Be Used by Organized Labor

By A. D. Cridge.

In England the courts and parliament jumped on organized labor. "The beastly labor unions think they have a right to live," said John Bull. "Drat their hides! Hang 'em on the fence!"

The courts declared them illegal and swiped their funds for damages done with their boycotts and strikes. The British Parliament was too busy to notice them.

Then the unions went into politics. They did not have to elect a majority, only about five per cent of the members were sufficient. The judges and their fool decisions came down from the bench and begged Organized Labor's pardon. The obnoxious acts and decisions went by the board. No party could afford to antagonize Organized Labor after it couldn't be fooled. The Labor men demanded old-age pensions. Certainly, certainly! The old parties had always wanted old-age pensions.

Labor demanded taxation of land values. U-m-m! This was too much for the landlords' particular party; but it was live or die for the Liberal party, and it referred to live.

Labor demanded the ending or mending of that aggregation of boneheads called the House of Lords. It looks as if that pile of lumber will have to be cut loose from the decks. It appears as if it will be both mended and ended.

Of course, if Labor forgets or does not keep in politics, it will not get its demands; but at present the politicians in England are as subservient to Labor as their predecessors were to kings. They stick their tongues out at Labor, and so they did at the kings—when their backs were turned. In this country the politicians hardly take the trouble to conceal their contempt for Organized Labor. A little taffy about election time. Klebs, insults, injunctious, judicial decisions, the rest of the time.

If Organized Labor will go into politics and meet with 300 defeats in as many Congressional districts, and win fifteen victories in as many other districts, who a change will come over the countenances of the corporation judges, corporation steammen, corporation district attorneys! Wow! Even the infamous Wright, who can't stand to be on the windward side of a labor leader, because he is appointed for life on a subordinate U. S. Court—even such as he will seek to ingratiate himself into the good will of Organized Labor.

The Supreme Court would be promptly amended as fast as the English Lords are being amended. Its power to set aside the will of the people, as have a handful of British Lords, would be restricted, or absolutely done away with.

The Taft injunction idea would be pitched into its grave. The big trust would speedily sell out to the government, or walk a straight path. The people would be given the direct power to express their will on National matters, as they have in Oregon on State matters.

All this can come about by Organized Labor using its ballots in the United States, as has been done in Great Britain.

The ballot is a weapon to be used on the enemy. If given to the enemy to use, its owner may expect to be mad as a hatter. You and I, Neighbor, have a ballot in our hands very frequently. When we give it to the corporations and to the politicians we give them part of ourselves.

Why should we be beggars of special privileges with ballots in our hands? God made the earth for its people!

The Girl Striker
(Hebe, in the New York Call.)
Pale little girl, frail little girl,
With the tired look in thy face,
With the line of care on thy young, white brow,
Sadly sweet in the girlish grace;
In thy eyes I behold a radiant light
That never before shone there,
A determination to stand for thy right,
To struggle and do and dare.

Thy battle is not for thyself alone;
It is part of a world-wide strife;
It is fought for all who suffer and toil
In the bitter struggle of life.
For the disinherited children of men,
That in poverty come and go
For generation still unborn
Thou art striking a fearless blow.

Pale little girl, frail little girl,
Thy suffering and thy pain,
Thy service and thy martyrdom,
Thy shall not be in vain.
A monument thy toil shall be,
A'd a dem thy sorrow,
Thou art the outcast of today,
But the pioneer of tomorrow.

Some four thousand acres of timber land in Clatsop county was recently sold for seven hundred thousand dollars. This is at the rate of about \$250 per thousand feet for the timber, as reported by cruisers. What is this property assessed for? The Astoria papers do not report this interesting fact. Probably it is assessed for a shamefully small sum, as compared with the little improvements and livestock of the scattered farmers in Clatsop county. No timber land in Oregon is assessed for \$175 an acre. This land sells for that sum, and there are tens of thousands of acres more in Oregon worth as much. Farmers in Oregon need to form organizations to demand equal taxation under the law.

The found hundred Russians recently brought to Honolulu by the territorial board of immigration to work on the sugar plantations, but who have refused to accept employment at the wages offered, have cabled to the Russian Ambassador at Washington for assistance to enable them to return home. They claim they were promised double the amount of wages actually being paid plantation laborers.

Assessor Strain, of Umatilla County, recently had a conference with a number of taxpayers of that county, and explained things to them. He is a very progressive and upright man, who is famous all over the state for his thorough knowledge of taxation.

The people can vote with more certainty and knowledge on twenty measures than on twenty candidates.

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