

ABOUT THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

What It Has Done and Is Doing, and What It Has Before It in Its Annual Session That Opens Today— The Labor Union and the Strike, in America.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.
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Washington, Nov. 9.—The American Federation of Labor opens its annual convention at Denver today. This is the twenty-eighth time this great organization has met in annual convocation to consider the many questions of paramount importance to the man who literally earns his bread in the sweat of his face. Opinions differ widely as to the part labor actually played in the recent presidential campaign, and even more widely as to the expediency of labor, as an organized body, taking part in politics. But there can be no difference of opinion among thinking men as to labor organizations being a boon to the workingman, or as to the good results accomplished by the American Federation of Labor.

Whether it has been in advocacy of a law against child labor, or in championing the cause of factory sanitation, the federation has always been identified with movements whose aims have been for the general good. Sometimes it may have lent itself to the promotion of what seemed to be selfish objects, sometimes it may have supported causes more for the good of labor than for that of the country, but on the whole it has contributed largely to the better understanding that exists between capital and labor, and to the more elevated position the workingman has taken in the United States. It must be remembered that the day was when all laborers were slaves. Today such men as John Mitchell are regarded as the peers of the best of our statesmen and citizens.

Growth of the Federation.
In the Washington headquarters of the American Federation of Labor there is a big chart posted in the vestibule. It tells the story of the federation so plainly and so succinctly that he who runs may read. There is a series of big red lines, the length of each line showing the numerical strength of the organization each year. It starts with a line that is little more than a big square dot, representing a membership of 50,000. That was in 1881. The line gradually increases each year until the one for 1893 is over five times as long as the one for 1881. Then there is a standstill until 1899, when the gain for the year is about double the number of the original membership. From that time forward, the line for each year has grown longer, the annual growth being greater than the entire growth during the first 18 years of its existence.

There is another chart which appeals to the eye with great force. It is a big circle which represents the national and international labor unions of the United States. Considerably more than three-fourths of that circle is black. The other little section is gray. The black part represents the organizations affiliated with the federation. The gray portion represents the organizations of labor not so affiliated.

What the Federation Stands For.
The federation has always been an advocate of free schools, free text books, and compulsory education. It has fought for the nation-wide establishment of the eight-hour day, and has almost completely won that battle. It has put forward labor's claim to the one day of rest in seven enjoined by the scriptures. It has fought the sweatshop system until it is on its last legs. It has demanded and secured employers' liability legislation, which was once deemed unfair to capital, but is now regarded as but just to labor. It has, in season and out, opposed child labor, and advocated the betterment of the condition of working women. It has lent its support to the movements for public baths in all cities, and for the compulsory incorporation of bathing facilities in all houses or com-

partments used for human habitation. It has striven persistently for the securing of proper playgrounds for city children.

The History of Strikes.
It is only since the beginning of the eighteenth century that labor has not been in a condition of serfdom. After that date began the movement of self-emancipation, which has been going on to this day. Yet it is said that there have been more strikes and lockouts within the past 20 years than in all the Christian era before. The first recorded American strike occurred among the bakers of New York in 1741. There was a series of strikes among the boot and shoemakers of Philadelphia, beginning in 1796, and again in 1798 there was a "turnout," as a strike was then called, ordered by the journeymen-shoemakers of that city. Up to this time all strikes were for increased wages, and were at least partially successful.

First Great Strike in America.
The sailor's strike has been generally considered the first important strike in America. It happened in New York in 1805. It was unsuccessful, the constabulary having arrested the leaders of the strike. The next important one was in 1809, among the cordwainers. It was in this labor battle that the vocabulary of strikes had its start. A strike itself had been known as a general "turnout." The expression "scab" was first applied to a strike-breaker in this fight. In 1817 a Massachusetts shipbuilder decided to abolish the grog privilege at his establishment, it having been customary in those days to furnish workmen with rum at certain hours. The strike was continued for some time, but the employer won. This is said to be the only case in the history of American labor where a strike came about over the liquor question. This shipyard was long known as the "No Rum" yard.

"8 to 6" Day Once Looked Good.
In 1835 there were a number of strikes, most of them for shorter hours. One was for a day "from 8 to 6," which shows that progress has been made in the hours of wage earners. It was from "sun to sun" against which they were striking. Taking the whole period from 1741 to 1890, the investigations of Carroll D. Wright show that there were 1,941 strikes and lockouts, of which 1,085 related to wages. Only 218 were outright, while 172 were compromised.

The loss to employers and employers from strikes and lockouts from 1880 to 1900 amounted to \$500,000,000, to say nothing of the vast economic losses sustained by the public. Labor lost more than double as much as capital as a result of these struggles. There were more than 23,000 strikes and lockouts, and nearly 12,000 establishments were involved. Since 1900 there has been a decreasing percentage of strikes, but some of those which have occurred have been serious. The great coal strike of 1902 cost over \$100,000,000. The loss in the amount of coal mined reached \$25,000,000 in wages. The losses to the railroads in freight receipts, as a result of the strike, are estimated to have been over \$47,000,000.

Why Hewitt's Men Didn't Strike.
A pretty story is told of Abram S. Hewitt in his relation to labor. He was at one time running his establish-

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In less serious skin affections, such as pimples, rash, herpes, blackheads, acne, barber's itch, etc., results show after an overnight application, only a small quantity being required to effect a cure. Those who use posium for these minor skin troubles can now avail themselves of the special 50-cent package, recently adopted to meet such needs. Both the 50-cent package and the regular \$1 jar may now be obtained in Portland at the Skidmore Drug Co., and other leading drug stores.

Special experimental purposes may be had free of charge by writing direct to the Emergency Laboratories, 22 West Twenty-fifth street, New York City.

ment at a loss and was forced to reduce wages 10 per cent. His men went to him and protested. He replied: "Boys, it is your right to know the facts and to know why we cannot meet them. Therefore, if you will send an accountant around here he shall have access to all our books and we will abide by his report."

The laborers accepted the proposition and sent their accountant to go over the books. When they received his report they waited on Mr. Hewitt again and not only withdrew their request, but asked that a further reduction of 10 per cent be made until such time as the establishment got back to a paying basis again. This was refused, and Mr. Hewitt always declared that it would be impossible for anyone to get up a strike in that establishment.

Decline of Knights of Labor.
The recent activity of organized labor in politics is but a case of history repeating itself. The most interesting chapter of American labor history is that which deals with the meteoric rise of the Knights of Labor. That organization grew from a little local union of seven garment cutters in 1869 to a vast amalgamation of more than 600,000 members in 1886. In the year of the zenith of its fame and influence, in government it was the most highly centralized of any organization at its height. It was listed, it discouraged strikes and boycotts, and sought to use the ballot as its weapon of offense. It was extremely active, and took strong partisan grounds on all issues of the day. After passing its zenith the decline was rapid, and today it is only a small organization. Its career was a temporary victory for the trade union idea over the labor union principle. Its spirit was that of amalgamation and centralization, while the moving force of the American Federation of Labor is federation and autonomy.

READY TO LAUNCH BIG BATTLESHIP
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Quincy, Mass., Nov. 8.—The yards of the Fore River Shipbuilding company here arrangements are all completed for the launching tomorrow of the North Dakota, the first battleship of the Dreadnought type to be built for the United States navy. Miss Mary Benton of Fargo will christen the vessel. A distinguished delegation from North Dakota, headed by Governor John Burke, has arrived to attend the launching. The navy department will be represented by Secretary Metcalf and other high officials.

A HAIR'S BREADTH ESCAPE.
Do you know that every time you have a cough or cold and let it run on thinking it will just cure itself you are inviting pneumonia, consumption or some other pulmonary trouble? Don't risk it. Put your lungs back in perfect health and stop that cough with Ballard's Horchard syrup. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle.

CHINA GAMBLEES FIGHT OFF POLICE

Anticipating Court Decision That Will Keep the Police Out of Them.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Francisco, Nov. 8.—Anticipating favorable action in the courts on their application to prevent the police from entering their places of business, several of the Chinese "social" clubs, conducted as a mask for gambling dens, have today begun the re-fitting of their rooms.

The action of the Chinese follows the order of Judge Clegg, who has appointed Police Biggy to show cause why the members of the department should not be restrained from entering the apparently respectable places of business of Chinatown merchants.

The order of the court is equivalent to protection from police interference, according to the oriental mind, and gleeful preparations are under way to open five new gambling houses with all the accessories.

These clubhouses are being fitted with traps and devices for the secreting of chips and other evidence, and "get-aways" and electric bells. All the doors are heavily barred.

OPENING OF OPERA SEASON, NEW YORK
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
New York, Nov. 9.—With a list of high-priced song birds and a repertoire well calculated to attract music lovers though with fewer voices than last year, the Manhattan Opera house again opens its doors tonight for the opening of its grand season of grand opera. "La Tosca" will be the introductory opera, and the occasion will mark the American debut of Mme. Labia, a young soprano who has made her way as a singing actress in Germany. Mme. Labia will sing the title role. In the cast will be the French baritone Maurice Renaud and Signor Zenatello, who is to be Mr. Hammerstein's principal tenor this season.

With the exceptions of Mme. Labia and Mme. Melba, the latter being engaged for ten performances at mid-winter, the principal names on the roster of the Manhattan Opera house are virtually the same as those of last year. Included in the list are Miss Garsden, Mme. Trazzini, Mr. Dalmores, Signor Zenatello, Signor Colombini and M. Gilbert.

END OF A FAMOUS STATE DEBT CASE
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Richmond, Va., Nov. 8.—After dragging along for years the end of the famous Virginia-West Virginia debt question is now in sight. Eminent counsel representing the two states assembled here today for the first formal hearing in the case, before Charles E. Littlefield, of Maine, who has been appointed master in the proceeding.

The Virginia-West Virginia debt dispute arose out of the creation of the state of West Virginia out of the original domain of Virginia, and the proper apportionment of the then bonded indebtedness of the latter state. A suit is pending before the United States supreme court, and upon the ultimate report of the master, Mr. Littlefield, depends the adjudication of the matter. Just what amount is involved cannot even be estimated. The original one-third which the Virginia contestants get apart as the portion of West Virginia was between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000.

The settlement of the amount of interest to be paid is one of the most important features of the suit.

SIXTH JAIL BREAK IN TRINITY COUNTY
(United Press Leased Wire.)
Red Bluff, Cal., Nov. 9.—Garfield Ruth and John William saved their way out of a cell in the Trinity county jail last evening. The jail break is the sixth within a year in Trinity county and it is intimated that a searching investigation will follow. Ruth was awaiting trial on a charge of grand larceny and William was charged with burglary. They sawed the lock off their cell door during the afternoon, and after supper swung the door open and escaped. Their departure was not discovered until an hour afterward and a posse was sent in pursuit.

Anyone who would have taken advantage of the break were Deputy Game Warden Bond and Carpenter O'Leary, who are held on charges of murdering an Indian hunter. This is the third time these men have refused to avail themselves of a chance to escape.

SUSPECTED OF BEING THE GENTEEL THUGS
(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Francisco, Nov. 8.—Suspected of being the well dressed thugs who held up Wilsey Edwards of Los Angeles several days ago in the shadow of the Fairmont hotel, two men are held at the city prison. The names of the two suspects are not given because the authorities hope to arrest two women who are believed to be their confederates.

In addition, the police claim to have uncovered the den where they secreted the loot accumulated in their night raids. In an apartment on Clay street the detective found skeleton keys, a burglar's kit, an opium layout and many articles of feminine wear.

OLD MAN SUCCEUMS UNDER DESPONDENCY
(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Jose, Cal., Nov. 9.—Leaving no one but an infant to mourn his death, Thomas F. Maloney, an enfeebled inmate of the Pratt Home for the Aged, cut his throat and wrists with a razor in his room at the institution last night. He died early today.

Maloney's act followed a fit of despondency resulting from a visit to his sister, who is an inmate of the Agnews asylum for the insane.

Little is known of Maloney here. He came from San Francisco three years ago and paid the required deposit for his support. The sister, Mrs. Carroll, was committed to Agnews from San Francisco.

Want Inland Waterways.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Columbus, Ga., Nov. 9.—The Gulf Coast Inland Waterways convention, which assembled in this city today for a two day session, promises to be a large, influential and highly interesting gathering. The convention, as its name indicates, aims to promote the commerce and industry of the southern coast states by the improvement of the rivers emptying into the gulf and the construction of canals. The states chiefly interested in the movement, each of which has contributed a good sized delegation to the present convention, are Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Change in Potter's Schedule
Effective at once, the O. R. & N. steamer T. J. Potter will leave Portland for Astoria every night except Saturday. The steamer will leave Sunday night instead of Saturday night.

Specialties \$1 at Meisner's.

DISMEMBERED BY WHEELS OF CAR

Aged Woman Horribly Mangled and Conductor Rushed by Mob.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Francisco, Nov. 9.—Miss Maggie Melin, an aged woman, was struck last night by a Valencia street car, dragged 40 feet under the trucks and literally cut in half by the wheels. The sight of the gray-haired woman lying lifeless under the car while the wrecking crew was on its way to the scene, so angered the crowd that gathered that the motor-man, J. H. Lance, was attacked and but for prompt action by the police would have been lynched. After a rope had been secured a rush was made for Lance, and he and two policemen were knocked down and trampled. At that instant the wrecking crew and two additional policemen arrived and Lance was rescued.

The body of Miss Melin was mangled beyond recognition. All the limbs were broken, the skull fractured and the legs severed away from the body.

Truth in Politics.
"Follow citizens," shouted the candidate. "If I am elected for this district I shall endeavor to make you glad that you did not elect another."

"That's right," yelled the drygoods box philosopher. "I reckon you would be a plenty."—Fudge.

Metzger fits your eyes for \$1.

Silence!

The instinct of modesty natural to every woman is often a great hindrance to the cure of womanly diseases. Women shrink from the personal questions of the local physician which seem indelicate. The thought of examination is abhorrent to them, and so they endure in silence a condition of disease which surely progresses from bad to worse.

It has been Dr. Pierce's privilege to cure a great many women who have found a refuge for modesty in his offer of FREE consultation by letter. All correspondence is held as sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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