

UNION FEES AND DUES

Cost of Maintaining Labor's Organization in New York.

EXPENDITURE OF INCOME.

The Principal Charges Against Trades Unions Are Administration, Benefits and Per Capita Taxes—Average Cost to Members.

The New York state bureau of labor statistics has been engaged in an investigation of trades union initiation fees and dues and has just issued a valuable report on the subject, a part of which is here quoted:

Generally speaking, the principal income of trades unions is derived from initiation fees and regular dues. Money thus collected are in the main devoted to administering the business affairs of the organizations, to the payment of sick and death benefits and (in cases where unions are affiliated with national or international labor associations) to the payment of capitation taxes for the support of parent bodies. Levies for special purposes are occasionally made. For example, the district council of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of Greater New York found it necessary in August, 1904, to impose an assessment upon its membership to obtain sufficient funds for the defrayal of the expenses of a trade dispute then in progress. That levy extended over a period of thirty-eight weeks, during nineteen of which each working member paid into the treasury \$1.50 per week, while for each of the remaining nineteen weeks the amount paid was \$1 per member. This netted about \$261,000. As a further illustration of the need for such exactions in an extreme emergency the action of Typographical union No. 6 of New York city may be cited here. In the year 1893 the effect incident to the introduction of linotype machines in the composing rooms of the large metropolitan daily newspapers began to be felt by journeymen compositors in this city, and statistics at that time gathered and compiled by the officials of the union showed that in a brief period 662 members had lost their positions as a result of the sudden change in the method of production. Quite a number of these printers had advanced to a stage in life when they felt unable to master what they considered to be a new trade. Many younger men were also deprived temporarily of a means of gaining a livelihood. This occurred at a time when a severe industrial depression was sweeping over the country, and the compositors thus thrown into idleness when all industries were paralyzed by the panic failed to obtain employment at other occupations. As a consequence there ensued the greatest suffering ever experienced in the printing industry. It therefore devolved upon the local typographical union to devise measures to relieve the distress occasioned by this displacement of hand labor, and on Oct. 1, 1893, a plan to create an unemployment fund was put into execution. Members at work were required to contribute a certain proportion of their weekly earnings for this object. The assessment then inaugurated continued for exactly fourteen years, during the greater portion of which it consisted of 1 per cent of the wages earned, and the aggregate amount realized and disbursed was \$532,551.55.

Ninety-five per cent of the 2,459 unions in New York state sent in answers to the questions propounded by the statistical bureau of the state department of labor as to initiation fees. The figures ranged from 25 cents, charged by a few organizations in the clothing industry and public employment, to \$200 fixed by two unions in the constructive industry. During a single year 74,778 new members were accepted by 2,223 unions, and these initiates paid \$675,105.85 for admission, or an average of \$0.03.

Every trades union has its own method of collecting dues, some organizations requiring payments weekly, others monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

The lowest amount of dues demanded was 50 cents per year by an association of stationary engineers, while the maximum reached \$10 monthly, which an organization of flint glass cutters and workers required to be paid. The average monthly rate for the 403,032 members affiliated with the 2,329 unions reporting in the combined industries was 65 cents.

An interesting fact developed in the inquiry was that the percentage system of levying dues has gained some favor in this state, fourteen unions having successfully inaugurated this plan of gathering their revenues on a certain basis of the earnings of their 2,577 members, whose payments varied from 1 per cent to 3 per cent of the wages earned. Among them were three unions of hatmakers, one of gold pen makers, eight of compositors and two of glass workers.

Accidents to British Workers. According to the annual report of the British chief inspector of factories and workshops for 1908, the total number of accidents occurring that year throughout his jurisdiction was 122,154, a decrease of 2,171 as compared with 1907. Of these 1,042 were fatal accidents, a decrease over the previous year of 137.

Machinists Plan Boom. Thomas L. Wilson, international vice president of the Machinists' union, announces that several new and big lodges are to be soon formed in the immediate vicinity of Boston.

ALL IN WHITE BEDROOM.

The Latest Expression of the Modern Sanitary Craze.

Nothing is prettier or more dainty than an all in white bedroom. It is not entirely practical if the room is of that convertible type used as sitting room and sleeping apartment alternatively. But when the dear little bedroom is used to sleep in only or perchance as a dressing room there is no more perfect scheme than white furnishings.

Cottage furniture has returned, and a white enameled bed will look well with a bureau and washstand that have been retouched with wood enamel in white. Even the washstand china may be an all white porcelain of a more than usually shapely design. The woodwork may be whitened, even if it first requires the application of a paint remover and the work that entails.

Curtaing and wall paper will present no difficulty, since the decorator can now supply both plain and glossy white papers, and the qualities of swiss for sash curtains are practically numberless. That paper having a satiny surface or an invisible pattern will prove less monotonous, and the drapery of the dressing bureau should match the curtains.

Now, the introduction into this "colorless" scheme of the occasional picture or the bit of delicate pottery or metal ware will break what may prove monotonous, but an excess of ornamentation is to be decried, since the main object and purpose of this purity in coloring is the accomplishment of an entirely sanitary room.

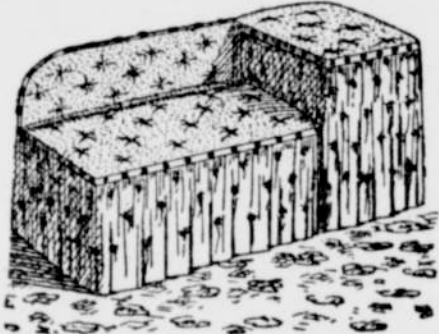
Yes, it may need repapering and re-enameled sooner than a darker color, which is to be anticipated, for our white bedroom is intended not only to look clean, but to be clean.

A wonderfully dainty woman steps out of just such a room every morning into what she chooses to consider a sunshiny world, and the room seems to have something to do with her outlook.

HANDY CONTRIVANCE.

A Shoe Box and Couch Made From Grocery Boxes.

A shoe box and seat is a useful piece of furniture in the bedroom. Two boxes purchased at a grocery store can be made to serve the purpose, but to make a really strong affair the frame should be constructed of boards three-quarters or seven-eighths of an inch in thickness. A good size for the box is twenty-four inches high, fifteen deep and sixteen wide, while the seat box may be thirty inches long and fifteen inches high and deep. These boxes are to be attached to each other with stout screws, and a back the length of the two boxes, having a rounded corner, is to be securely fastened to the rear of each box. In the shoe box two



A SHOE BOX COUCH.

shelves are screwed fast, and to the lower box a cover is arranged on hinges, so that it can be raised from the front. The back, seat and top of the shoe box can be covered with denim, under which a padding of hair or cotton will make a softer back and seat. The denim may be caught down or "tufted" with carriage buttons, and string passed through holes made in the wood can be tied at the reverse side. Around the front and sides a valance of cretonne or denim may be gathered and hung from the top edge of the box and seat, fastened at the edge by gimp and tacks. Brass headed upholsterers' nails driven at regular distances apart will present the best appearance. Where the valance at the edge of the shoe box meets the seat the fabric is to be divided in order that it may be drawn to one side when taking out or replacing shoes. A coat of shellac or paint will cover the exposed parts of the woodwork not hidden by the upholstery goods.

War on Chinese Mothers-in-law.

Chinese women have been successful in their revolt against the barbaric custom of compressing the feet, and now they are engaged in a campaign for the suppression of mothers-in-law. This means modern advancement for the Celestial Kingdom with a vengeance, and, though the agitation may appear humorous to us, it is of grave import to the mothers-in-law. The Chinese wives have organized anti-mothers-in-law clubs, which doubtless will find the approval of many American husbands. The complaint is that the Chinese mother-in-law is too much of a busybody, that she is an autocrat, a positive nuisance and a bar to complete happiness between married couples. The Chinese wife does not object to being ordered about by her husband, but she has put her foot down against being ordered about by her husband's mother. There can be no doubt of the outcome. The Chinese mother-in-law is bound to lose her power.

Rust on Cooking Utensils.

Rust is caused by the fact that the utensils are not wiped perfectly dry. Cleanse them in hot soapsuds, rinse in very hot clear water and dry thoroughly and you will never be troubled with rust.

New lot of best barley, lowest price in town at Estabrook Ware house.

The Grange Corner

Conducted by Frank F. Eddy Master of Bandon Grange.

Well the next meeting of the Bandon Grange is on New Years day. There may be some better way of using the day than attending the Grange, but I don't think of it now. Yes the first Saturday in January is January first and that is meeting day for our folks.

I have asked Brother Haberly, our newly elected lecturer, to write an article for the Grange Corner in next week's RECORDER on what cooperation did for Medford. It will be almost as good as hearing his talk on that theme at the last grange meeting. You want to read that article.

The Wells Fargo Company have just cut their big dividend melon, paying 300 per cent on an issue of 16,000,000 extra shares. That's fine. I like to know where my money goes. I helped pay the dividend. I paid on one occasion a dollar and a half express charges on a setting of eggs from a point a few hundred miles up the coast. I made a number of other little contributions also to that company which seems to have for its principle of action to give the poorest possible service at the greatest possible expense. There are several other things I want to say about the express companies extortion but they would not be printable. I will say that in my humble opinion there are several ways of being a highway robber. I leave it to inference who has the most artistic system. What if we had to pay eight or ten cents postage on every letter? What if there were postoffices only in the larger towns? We would consider ourselves some behind the times I guess. Yet we are comparatively just as much behind the times in regard to forwarding our parcels. Who not a parcels post?

It is a hard winter we are having. This weather is bad enough if one merely has to stand it. But when one has a good sized bunch of stock on his hands he begins to figure on the way the hay is going and to wonder when, if ever, the young stock can be turned on pasture again. To be sure the oldest inhabitant tells him that it is the worst winter in thirty years, but somehow that does not take the place of hay. I am telling you that hay will be worth its weight in greenbacks next spring, or words to that effect. I judge by the fact that I have already fed out the nice little extra lot of hay I expected to sell in the spring.

Wintering calves is a fine art. Sure it is that to bring them up from the pasture and change to dry feed suddenly is dangerous. Their digestive apparatus cannot stand the change from slushy green food to a more concentrated diet. But it takes a strong call to withstand three months of incessant storm as we have had this winter. Only the fittest survive and even these suffer from the experience. The better way seems to be to gradually get the calves used to hay early in the fall. Then the change can be made with no injurious consequences.

Gerald C. Had Narrow Escape

Astoria, Ore., Dec. 11—The bar tug Wallula saw the motor schooner Gerald C flying signals of distress near the whistling buoy, and rapidly drifting in toward the breakers. She was taken in tow and brought in over a very rough bar, when it was learned that her engines had broken down and her sails carried away, and that within an hour she would have been a total loss with all on board. She left here on Sunday afternoon for Tillamook with a full cargo of freight.

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