

# Cream of the Week's News.

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Washington, D. C., Sept. 1.—The celebration of Labor day this year possesses more than ordinary significance to the rank of the organized toilers as it is just twenty years ago since the observance was begun. The United States is the only country in the world which has set aside a legal holiday devoted to celebrations by the wage earners. Labor day is now almost a national holiday, the laws of nearly every state and territory of the Union recognizing it.

The origin of Labor day is found in an agitation begun in the city of New York in 1882. All the great labor organizations of the country participated in the effort to secure this recognition of labor's cause, the initiative in the movement being taken by P. J. Maguire, then national secretary of the journeymen carpenters. But it was not until five years later that the effort bore fruits in legislation. Then it was that the far western states of Oregon which passed a law setting aside the first Saturday in June for this observance. This law was passed February 21, 1887. Six years later to the day this law was amended, and the present date, the first Monday in September, was selected. New Jersey was the second state to legalize this holiday, an act being passed in the legislature that state April 8, 1887. New York followed in May of the same year. Colorado and Massachusetts followed in line the same year, but it was not until after 1890 that the other states took similar action. Ohio passed a Labor day law April 28 1890. Illinois passed its law June 17, 1891; Indiana March 9, 1891; and Minnesota, April 18, 1893. West Virginia and North Carolina did not legalize Labor day until 1899.

Recognition of the rights and dignity of labor—this is the spirit which moves in the event. It began in a parade, and is usually so celebrated. In 1882 a great labor demonstration was held in New York. The Central Labor union of that city, consisting of numerous affiliated labor organizations, arranged a great parade. Thousands of men were in line with floats, banners, transparencies, badges and carriages. It chanced that the Knights of Labor were holding their convention in that city at the same time, and they were invited to witness the turnout from Union Square. This was September 5, 1882. The invitation was accepted and the occasion was a great success. The parade from that time was referred to as the "Labor day parade."

Remembering the success of the previous year the New York labor organizations turned out again in 1883, only the date was changed to the first Monday in September. In 1884, when the Central Labor union met to discuss a third performance, George B. Lloyd, a Knight of Labor, arose and offered a resolution that the first Monday in September be declared Labor day. This was adopted and steps were at once taken to secure enactment by the state legislature making it a legal holiday. A bill was introduced in the legislature—the first one for this purpose—but it did not receive favorable consideration until 1887, by which time two other states had passed such a law.

Labor organizations in other states made common cause with the Central Labor union and the movement became

general among labor unionists to get state legislatures to take action. In less than five years a majority of the states had fallen into line, and by 1900 nearly all the states had declared the first Monday in September a legal holiday. In addition to making a display of numbers by its annual parade, union labor intends this day for discussion and public meetings. Its purpose is said to be largely educational.

In its call for this year's observance the executive council of the American Federation of Labor recommends to all organized workers in national, state, central and local unions "that they concentrate their attention to a discussion for the abolition of injunctions in labor disputes and the passage of resolution demanding at the hands of Congress and the legislature of their respective states the enactment of laws conforming to that purpose."

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 1.—Labor day in San Francisco was celebrated by the labor unions, which gave a public demonstration of their strength by parading through the business section of the city 30,000 strong. Commissioner of Public Works Michael Casey was the grand marshal and in company with the city officials and other invited guests reviewed the parade from a stand in Van Ness avenue.

Youngston, O., Sept. 1.—The largest Labor day parade seen here in many years occupied the early hours this morning. A picnic and outing at the fair grounds followed.

Des Moines, Ia., Sept. 1.—Labor day was observed as a holiday here, all the big stores and factories shutting down to allow their employes to participate in the festivities. The morning was given up to a parade of unusual size. Following the parade there were races and athletic contests at the fair grounds, together with addresses by several public men.

Richmond Va., Sept. 1.—Labor day was celebrated here by a parade of workmen estimated at from 5,000 to 8,000. It was the best appointed procession ever seen here on Labor day. The streets were lined with interested and applauding spectators.

St. Paul Minn., Sept. 1.—Labor day was celebrated here on a more extensive scale than ever before. A large parade passed through the business streets this morning. A new feature was the participation of many women, members of the garment workers, waitresses and servant girls' union. Following the parade the wage earners adjourned to Harriet Park for a basket picnic.

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 1.—Pittsburg was given over to the "sturdy sons of toil" today, who paraded the streets many thousand strong in celebration of Labor day. The interest, owing to the miners' strike, was never greater than this year, and in the procession were workmen from every organized trade. The marchers were greeted with enthusiasm.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 1.—Indiana

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polis labor unions rounded out an even dozen of Labor day celebrations today, the first observance of the day in this city having been held twelve years ago. There were 5,000 persons in the parade, including several hundred women. The molders had the place of honor. After the parade thousands of people boarded street cars for the state fair grounds, where the exercises of the day took place.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 2.—Labor day was extensively observed in Washington today. Government departments and most of the business places were closed and the labor organizations held picnics and excursions in various directions out of the city.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 1.—The Labor day parade in Chicago today was one of the largest and most brilliant in the local history of these demonstrations. The parade was four hours passing a given point, 30,000 men being in line. Particularly strong showings were made by the unions of the building trades, iron molders, longshoremen and retail clerks.

Toledo, O., Sept. 1.—Labor day was observed here with a parade, followed by speeches and general festivities. More than half a hundred unions were represented in the line of the parade.

Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 1.—Five thousand workmen marched through the streets today. The celebration of the day was held at Fountain City, where an oration was delivered by J. W. Howe, president of the district organization of the United Mine Workers. Mine workers from many of the unions of East Tennessee took part in the demonstration.

Woodshill, Mass., Sept. 1.—The first move in the war game between the army and navy was made this morning when the cruiser Olympia entered port and landed blue jackets and seized the telegraph and telephone lines covering communication with Martha's Vineyard and Elizabeth islands.

At Block Island this morning after bombardment by the Brooklyn and Indiana troops were sent ashore, seizing the signal stations.

General Barry reports that the first knowledge he had of the fleet was off Point Judith early this morning.

At dawn the Kearsarge, Massachusetts, Scorpion, Panther and Nina approached the island in column formation. The island is to be used as a naval base. The marines captured two signal men.

Costrics, St. Lucas, Sept. 1.—The British steamer Norona, just arrived from Fort DeFrance reports that Mount Pelee claimed 200 additional victims Saturday night. Morne Rogue was destroyed and buried under a shower of

ashes and a tidal wave swept the village of Lecarbet.

All Martinique is panic stricken, and ashes are again falling in the adjacent islands.

London, Sept. 1.—A report is current here today to the effect that King Edward will visit America in the latter part of September aboard the royal yacht Victoria and Albert.

The American embassy disclaims knowledge, but intimates that report came from Marlborough house.

Cape Town, Sept. 1.—A terrific storm is raging in Alagna bay this morning, and thirty-eight vessels at anchor. Unless the storm subsides a heavy loss of life is feared. Five vessels were smashed to pieces and all hands on board, numbering almost 100, were lost.

Tamaqua, Sept. 1.—The ranks of the non-strikers at Landsford and Summit Hill were augmented this morning by 300 additional men reporting for work at the former place and 100 at the latter.

This being a holiday probably prevented disturbances. Trouble is expected tomorrow when it is reported No. 8 colliery will be put in operation.

Charleston, Sept. 1.—Governor White has decided that in view of the uncertain conditions he will retain troops at Thurmond a few days longer if everything continues quiet.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Sept. 1.—Eleven members of the Parkersburg company of national guard have deserted because of sympathy with the strike. Orders have been issued for their arrest.

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