

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Over the Iron Trail.

Outward and outward on wings of steam
Over the iron trail.
While the hills and valleys drowse and
dream,
With a greeting loud and hale.

The hosts of endeavor journey fast
And earth grows rich with gain—
While the room for the soul grows still
more vast
On the face of the fertile plain.

For the trains that speed on the golden
West
Carry the ages there—
The love that fashioned the plowshare
best,
The good that makes life fair;

And with every thought that forms a
thing,
With every deed that is done,
The notes of man's new song outring
And a victory glad is won.

There is knowledge to save the tolling
hand,
Fine art to pleasure the eye,
And increasing chance for the faithful
band
Who, yearning, try and try.

The poor grow braver, the rich more
kind,
There's a growing love of love,
There's a saner trust in each creed de-
fined—
A hope all hope above.

There's a bit less care, a grain more
mirth,
A savor of sweeter rest,
As a truer culture rests on the earth
Ever along the West.

And they who live in the field or mart,
Honest and earnest and true,
With transfused gaze see the old de-
part
And welcome in the new.

Thus a feeling is born within that shows
The spirit is key to life,
And the raptured soul still brighter
glows
Despite the grasping strife.

And so, as the cars glide on and on
Over the iron trail,
They travel forever within the dawn,
And the peace of the world avails.
—Charles W. Stevenson.

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD.

Items of Interest Gathered from Many Sources.

New York city bricklayers receive 65 cents an hour, carpenters 56 cents and painters 50 cents.

The 1904 convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen will meet in Buffalo in September.

The early-closing-of-shops bill seems in a fair way to become a law at this session of the British parliament.

The cotton mills of the Scott Manufacturing company have shut down, throwing 1,640 employees out of employment.

President Michael Donnelly of the butchers addressed strikers in South St. Joseph, declaring they were certain to win. Pickets were withdrawn.

The executive board, district No. 1, united mineworkers, met at Scranton, Pa., to consider anthracite grievances and it seems assured there will be no strike.

All Lincoln, Neb., street railway employees may strike unless an order which compels the motormen to keep check on conductors' receipts is rescinded.

Seven hundred members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers at the Lebanon plant of the American Iron and Steel company are on strike, charging discrimination against union.

Members of the Meat Drivers' union of East St. Louis stopped work in sympathy with the butchers and meat cutters. Managers say the butchers of East St. Louis have consented to go to the packing houses for their supplies.

Vice President T. L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers left Indianapolis for Pennsylvania to investigate the controversy between the miners and operators of the Lackawanna and Wyoming district over the payment of check weighmen.

There will be no miners' strike in district No. 1, according to President Nicholls, until the unions have inves-

tigated the conditions in the mines now balking on the check weighmen's and docking bosses' wages. The next meeting likely will be held within ten days.

Arrangements practically have been completed for the consolidation of the three large central labor organizations in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, the United Labor league, Iron City council and the Building Trades Council, the three composing about 150,000 men.

"The lockout called by the Building Trades Employers' association which went into effect Aug. 5 involves 50,000 men and means a fight to a finish in New York city between capital and the building trades unions," said Philip Winsheimer, president of the Building Trades' Alliance.

War between the National Founders' association and the Iron Molders' union is believed imminent because the association has declared a cut in wages of 20 cents a day. The union declares the action has followed an arbitrary campaign waged by the association in regard to agreements.

The Bloomington (Ill.) street car men's union decided to call off the strike on the Bloomington and Normal Railway Electric and Heating company, which has been in progress since Jan. 1, having lost the fight for an advance in wages, recognition of the union, and easiest runs for the older men.

In order to help out some employers the members of the Housemiths and Ornamental Iron Workers' union of Boston voted to reduce wages to 42 cents an hour. Some employers have been paying 45 cents and others 42, and the union thought it unfair to place the more generous ones at a disadvantage.

General President Dan Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railroad Employees of America shows in his annual report that, while \$14,625 was paid out in 1903 for strike benefits, over \$24,000 was given for sick and death claims. Sixty-seven deaths occurred during the year, of which nine were by accident.

The royal commission on labor disputes created in England last year is making little headway. Trade unions and labor organizations in all parts of the country have refused assistance and information of any kind toward making the tribunal of any value, owing to the fact that there are no representatives of organized labor on the commission.

L. J. Curran, the general president of the International Union of Interior Freight Handlers and Warehousemen, wishes to inform the members that the only official general convention is that to be held at Kansas City, Kas., in January, 1905. The organization holds biennial conventions and certain members criticised the general officers because no convention was held this year.

The secretary of the navy has sent a letter to the protesting local labor unions giving as his opinion that the ten-hour workday in force in the construction of the League Island drydock is not a violation of the federal eight-hour law, since that law only applies to work done by the government and not to work done by a contractor for the government.

Many prominent men hold membership in the Brotherhood of Railroad Firemen. "We have lawyers, doctors and even clergymen in our organization," said Grand Master Hannahan. "We even have a priest. There are several legislators and nearly every line of business is represented in the membership. I can say without egotism that it is doubtful whether

there is another labor organization in the world that can produce a better dressed or more intelligent lot of men than ours."

J. W. Johnson, international secretary-treasurer of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' Union, reports that the recent vote for affiliation with the proposed Structural Building Trades' Alliance was 6,135, of which 3,527 were in favor of the affiliation and 2,608 against. He announces that the final vote will show the affiliation carried by a vote of four to one.

Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., was asked to explain unionism. In a sentence he replied: "The labor movement has for its purpose the securing of the best possible economic and social conditions for the masses; and the attainment of these with the least possible friction, the meeting of problems as they confront us; the making of the day after this a better day than the one preceding."

The Journeymen Tailors' National Union was formed at a convention held in Philadelphia in August, 1883. Local unions of tailors existed in this country when trade unionism was in its infancy. They were among the first skilled workmen to form a combination for protection. Previous to the year 1800 records are shown where unions of tailors existed in New York and Philadelphia, and a union was organized in Boston in 1806.

Cheers which shook the building followed the re-election by acclamation of President C. P. Shea of Boston and Secretary-Treasurer E. L. Turley of Chicago by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in convention at Cosmopolitan Hall. Other officers elected were: Vice presidents—Edward Gould, New York city; M. J. Dwyer, St. Louis; Michael Casey, San Francisco; Christopher O'Neil, Buffalo; Edward Mullin, Chicago; John Sheridan, Chicago. Trustees—John Mullen, Cincinnati; S. D. Perkins, Toledo; A. W. Walton, St. Paul.

The three division plants of the International Harvester company in Chicago have been closed for a few days to arrange for repairs and an inventory according to the statements of the officials of the concerns. This closing order throws idle about 10,000 workers, nearly all of whom are union members. The union wage scale does not expire until Sept. 1. The company announces that about one-fifth of the employees will be furnished work on the repairs and that all will be back within a month. Relations between the corporation and the unions have been friendly during the year.

A proposition to organize the school teachers of the country along trade union lines created considerable discussion at the recent meeting of the National Educational association. The debate was precipitated by Miss Margaret A. Haley of Chicago, president of the National Federation of Teachers. She said that teachers should organize into trade unions in order to secure better compensation for their services. The pay they received was not commensurate with the services rendered, and the relief from these impositions lay in the field of organized labor. The salary of a teacher in some places, she said, is barely enough to keep a horse.

It is a settled policy of the labor movement that unions shall not pledge their members to work for certain employers only or to refuse to work for certain other employers. Frequently, when an agreement is being negotiated between a trade union and an organization representing a number of employers, it is proposed that the members of the union shall bind themselves to work for the members of the employers' association exclusively. These proposals are in most instances rejected as involving discrimination against other employers who may be willing to observe union conditions. Upon rare occasions, however, these proposals have been accepted, but the results in such cases have usually proved disadvantageous to the labor organizations directly involved and to the labor movement as a whole.—Seamen's Journal.



When Ashes Are Put on Land.

The application of ashes to land does not necessarily show what that land needs. It has been a favorite practice to apply ashes to land to determine its supply of potassium, and to-day most of our people believe that the chief fertilizing value of ashes is the potassium. The writer remembers a bare hill top to which he applied ashes during all of one winter. The next spring the growth was so great on that place that the hay could not be cured on the ground where it was grown; but part of it had to be carried to another spot to allow of its being spread thin enough to permit of the sun's getting into it. The natural inference was that the land had become very deficient in potassium. But Professor Hopkins of Illinois says that the test is not a sure one in its results. He mentioned parts of Illinois where there is no deficiency of potassium, but where the soil is acid. The application of ashes brought good harvests and the farmers wrote him that their land needed potassium. He investigated and found that they were mistaken. The lime in the ashes had neutralized the acid and caused the change in conditions that resulted in an abundant yield of grain. Some kinds of ashes contain over 50 per cent of lime, and this is the element that does the work in many cases. When land responds to the application of ashes it means that either the soil contains too much acid, which the lime in the ashes neutralizes, or that it is deficient in potassium.

Cold Storage Plants.

There has been quite a furor for the building of cold storage plants during the last few years. Some years ago men made fortunes by erecting cold storage plants and buying quantities of butter and eggs, which were carried from the low-priced period of the year to the high-priced period. This of course gave large profits. As was certain to be the case, other men saw the same method of getting rich and began to build like plants. This was all right for some years, while the number of plants was small enough so that the goods stored would not greatly affect the market. But the building continued, and now the products stored compete so strongly with each other that the margin of difference of prices at different times of year is greatly reduced. Reports from New Jersey tell of a new cold storage plant at Jersey City, which was built last year at a cost of \$300,000. The establishment was perfect in every detail and the promoters expected great things. But they were unable to secure business and the enterprise went into the hands of a receiver. The plant was offered for sale at auction, with the proviso that not less than \$190,000 would be taken. Not a bid was received.

In Picking Apples.

One man suggests that a good way to pick apples is to put a tick filled with hay under a tree and drop the apples into it from the limbs. He asserts that this has been his practice and that the fruit is not thereby injured. This may be all right for some kinds of fruit, but it would not be for others. There are some of our varieties that injure so easily that even the pressure of the thumb and finger must be looked out for. Besides, in the letting fall of apples from the top of the tree a great deal of skill is required not to hit the other apples in the tick or the limbs of the tree when the apples are being dropped. The apple basket and the apple bag will be found most advantageous for most of the work of fruit gathering.