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Fred Gardner

1006 O STREET

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

Stockholm, Sweden.—In Sweden the present year shows a marked increase in disputes between employers and employees; and although some serious disputes, affecting a large number of hands, were luckily settled without strike or lockout, the number of strikes during 1907 has been doubled as compared with the same period of 1905. During the first quarter of 1905 there were 37 cases of work being stopped, directly affecting 102 employes and 2,700 men; the figures for the same period in 1906 were 48 stoppages of labor, affecting 53 employes and 2,300 men, and during the first quarter of the present year there were 72 stoppages, affecting 87 employes and 3,400 men. At the time of drawing up the report five disputes were still pending, 49 had resulted in strikes, 13 in lock-outs and ten were of a more complicated nature.

New York.—A conference of importance to the 60,000 skilled mechanics in the building trades in this city was held, at which the master carpenters' organization gave notice to the Brotherhood of Carpenters that after January 1 their wages will be reduced from \$5 to \$4.50 a day. Because of the tightness in the money market the construction of buildings has decreased 50 per cent, and this the master carpenters gave as a reason for their action. The question has been referred to an arbitration board. Mechanics in other trades are fearful that if the master carpenters are successful in reducing wages their example will be followed by employers in other trades.

Chicago.—One incident in connection with the settlement of the telegraph strike that has not become generally known is that the operators, when they went back to work, found their wages had been cut 10 per cent. This is in spite of the fact that the companies have raised the cost of messages from 15 to 35 per cent, over the prices which heretofore have paid enormous dividends to stockholders. Thus the telegraph trust is doing its work at 10 per cent, less cost, is getting from 15 to 35 per cent, more money for it than ever before, and the public and the operators have to stand the loss.—Chicago Journal.

London, Eng.—Four hundred operative male spindle makers resumed work recently in the Bolton, Oldham and Dukinfield districts after being on strike for eight weeks against the alleged encroachments of employers in their wage list. The employers recognized the men's union, met their leader in conference and an amicable settlement of the matters in dispute was concluded.

Norfolk, Va.—The American Federation of Labor adopted caustic resolutions against the American and Continental Tobacco companies and calling for the boycott of drug stores all over the country having certain kinds of cigar stands which were ordered on the "We don't patronize" list. The executive council was given authority to remove from the "We don't patronize" list the names of concerns and goods thereon where international unions that asked this are not found to be properly pushing the boycotts.

Chippewa Falls, Wis.—Section men here and in other portions of the Wisconsin Central railway have again had their wages reduced in the form of a lesser number of hours a day, the cut being from ten to eight hours. They receive from 14 to 15 cents per hour, which makes their daily wage from \$1.12 to \$1.20.

London, Eng.—The coal conciliation board for the federated area of Great Britain met recently to discuss and decide upon the miners' demand for a further advance of 5 per cent. In wages, making the third advance this year, and bringing the aggregate wage up to the maximum of 60 per cent, above the standard. The coal owners could not agree, and the matter has been referred to Lord James of Hereford as arbitrator.

Philadelphia.—Owing to the cancellation of an order for 425 locomotives by the Pennsylvania railroad the Baldwin Locomotive company will discharge 8,000 of its 25,000 men. It is estimated that in North Philadelphia more than 25,000 men will find themselves out of employment this winter. The Pennsylvania railroad employs 35,000 men in its departments, mostly clerks. A gradual elimination has begun.

Joliet, Ill.—Refusing to accept a reduction of 25 cents on the day's wage, 700 quarry laborers struck here. The men have been getting \$2 for ten hours' work, but on account of a slack season the employers proposed a nine hour day at \$1.75.

Boston, Mass.—Boston typographical union No. 13 has succeeded in securing a new scale for the men in newspaper offices. This is \$27 per week of 42 hours on morning papers and \$25 on evening papers, the same hours prevailing. No one will be permitted to work more than eight hours in any one day unless an extraordinary emergency arises.

Auckland, N. Z.—The New Zealand waterside workers are urging the parliament of that country to limit the size of coal baskets to five to the ton, carrying baskets 12 to the ton, and grain sacks to not more than 200 pounds.

Kenosha, Wis.—Judge E. B. Belden in the circuit court issued an injunction against all the labor unions now fighting the Badger Brass Manufacturing company. In addition to the rank and file of the unions, many labor leaders and special police officers are named in the injunction. Walter W. Britton, a former Social Democratic candidate for state senator and one of the most widely-known laboring men in the state, is included as a defendant. The scope of the injunction is wide, and not only restrains from picketing but enjoins from interference at the boarding houses in which non-union men are housed, and from boycotting any grocery or other supply house furnishing goods to nonunionists and their families.

New York.—Ten thousand men employed on the Pacific Coast extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, it was learned here, already have had their wages reduced 25 cents a day, and have been notified of a further reduction of 25 cents a day. These reductions are the direct result of laying off of men by western roads, by mining companies and by other industrial establishments. The number of men seeking employment has been largely increased by this laying off of men by the St. Paul, which for months had difficulty in getting enough men for work on its extension. Now it is getting all the men it needs at reduced pay.

Indianapolis, Ind.—It is stated that as a result of the conflict between the International Typographical union and National Typothetae over the establishment of the eight-hour workday approximately 40,000 members of the union are enjoying the benefits of the shorter hours, while but 2,000 or less are still on strike in the cities of Philadelphia, Detroit, Louisville, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis. Since the beginning of the strike, January 1, 1906, over \$4,000,000 has been collected from the membership by assessments and voluntary contributions, and this in turn has been disbursed in strike benefits, and in pushing the label of the organization and allied crafts.

South Chicago, Ill.—It was announced that the Chicago Ship Building company would put 100 men back to work on account of the rush of repair work coming to the yard incidental to the closing of the shipping season on the lakes. This will make about 225 men employed at the yard, and 100 more will be added within a short time. A year ago the company employed about 2,000 workmen, but following the strike of last summer all new work was transferred to other yards and the force cut down to 125 men.

Seattle, Wash.—The Great Northern officials have announced that the Hill system has granted an increase in wages and time allowance amounting to approximately \$12 a month. The day's work of telegraph operators in the relay system is reduced from nine to eight hours a day, and Sunday overtime is raised from 40 to 50 cents an hour. A number of other concessions are given the men.

St. Louis, Mo.—The strike of St. Louis shoe workers has been officially called off by the joint executive board of the Independent Boot and Shoe Workers' union, and the strikers began making applications for re-employment as individuals. About 23,000 men, women and boys were affected at the time of the walk-out, but many went back to work during the last few weeks.

Providence.—It was announced that the working hours would be shortened for an indefinite period by the Gorham Manufacturing company, the Peacedale Manufacturing company and the Valley Falls Manufacturing company. This shortening of hours is stated to be made necessary by a curtailment of business. About 2,500 employes will feel the result.

Washington.—The total number of men killed while mining coal in the United States during 1906, according to statistics gathered by the geological survey, was 2,061. The number of workmen receiving injuries in this industry more or less serious, but not fatal, was 4,798 during the same period.

Wheeling, W. Va.—The entire plant of the Riverside department of the National Tube company at Bedford, W. Va., near here, suspended operations for the first time in its history. The plant embraces steel and pipe mills and two blast furnaces and employs 4,000 men.

New Castle, Pa.—The Lehigh Portland Cement company's plant here, employing 1,400 men, shut down. It is not known when operations will begin.

Washington.—United States Consul Harris of Smyrna reports that the number of peasants emigrating from Asia Minor to the United States is large, so much so that the Ottoman government, fearful lest the whole province be depleted of able-bodied men, has refused to permit anyone to leave the country except upon giving a guarantee that he will return.

New York.—Labor organizations in the state have a membership of more than one-fourth of the total number of votes. The aggregate membership of the 2,459 unions is 414,718, including 12,515 women members.

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