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NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

Boston.—Dominic D'Alessandro, international vice-president and organizer of the Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' union and special A. F. of L. Italian organizer, was decorated with the insignia of chevalier of the order of the crown of Italy by orders of King Emmanuel. The decoration was personally presented by Marquis Foa Di Bruno, the new Italian consul in Boston. Mr. D'Alessandro is honored, he stated, because of his efforts against the padrone system, his assistance to Italian immigrants, and his efforts to organize the wage workers of that nationality for their betterment and social and educational and industrial uplift. Marquis Di Bruno will assist in further work in those lines, he stated.

Denver, Col.—Fifteen hundred machinists, boiler makers and members of kindred trades working in the Denver & Rio Grande shops went on a strike in response to an order issued by W. J. McQueeney, representing the machinists' national organization, after a final conference, at which Manager A. C. Ridgeway of the railroad refused any concessions. "The strike will ultimately spread to every road in the Gould system and affect roads all over the United States," said McQueeney. "There is every indication that the struggle will be a long one and fought hard by both sides."

Washington.—The labor unions have nothing to fear from the present federal administration by reason of the recent court decisions in the Danbury Hatters and the Buck's Stove and Range cases. Immunity from prosecution is promised until certain further matters in the courts have eventuated, which is probably the same thing as saying until after the nomination and election of a candidate for the presidency. The foregoing is given substantially on the authority of Attorney General Bonaparte.

Lovell, Mass.—Wages of 25,000 operatives in seven large cotton factories of this city were reduced ten per cent. by a general order posted in the mills. The manufacturers state that the business outlook is most discouraging and that the situation is without a parallel in many years, the whole cotton manufacturing industry, north and south, being seriously impaired. It is also stated that further curtailment of production may become necessary.

Philadelphia.—At the last convention of the Cigarmakers' International union in this city it was decided to build a home after the manner of the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs. The committee on location will visit various points to select a site. San Antonio, Tex., appears to be the most likely place. It is estimated that about \$400,000 will be required. A friend of the union has donated \$75,000.

Philadelphia.—Following a conference of city officials here Mayor Reburn announced that immediate steps will be taken to borrow \$9,000,000 under loan bills authorized by council a year ago, to put under way municipal improvements which will give work to the city's unemployed. It is thought the money can be raised in about 15 days.

Goldfield, Nev.—By reason of labor disturbances in this camp, development of the various properties has been retarded to a great extent during the last four months. Work on many of the shafts, however, is being resumed, and the number of men employed is being increased rapidly.

St. Louis.—The state supreme court affirmed the sentence of Clarence O. Skinner, treasurer of the St. Louis Billposters' and Billers' union, of two years in the penitentiary upon conviction of having embezzled \$500 of the union's funds. In rendering the decision he held that unions are not organizations in restraint of trade and are not illegal.

Hopewell Hill, N. B.—The plaster quarries of the Albert Manufacturing Company in Hillsboro have suspended operations for two months. The temporary shut-down is necessitated by the dullness of American markets. About 300 men are thrown out.

Holyoke, Mass.—Notices of a ten per cent. reduction in the wages of the 1,400 operatives were posted in the Lyman mills, Holyoke's principal cotton mill. Since January 1 the plant has been operating three and four days a week.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Ten of the 20 hot mills of the American Sheet and Tin-Plate Company at South Sharon, Pa., were placed in operation, affording employment to 600 men. The Sharon hoop mill also resumed, employing 1,000 men.

Huntington, W. Va.—The West Virginia State Federation of Labor convention, in session here, adopted a resolution demanding an extra session of the legislature to pass remedial mining laws.

Topeka, Kan.—The Kansas State Federation of Labor, which was organized last August, now has affiliated over 120 organizations, embracing a membership of more than 6,500.

London, Eng.—English railway companies, after feeling the public pulse, are now considering the advisability of recognizing the officials of the Railway Employers' union.

Detroit, Mich.—A decision recently delivered by the Michigan supreme court says: "Workmen have a right to fix a price upon their labor and refuse to work unless that price is obtained. Singly or in combination, they have this right. They may use persuasion to induce men to join their organization, or refuse to work except for an established wage. They may present their cause to the public in the newspapers or circulars, in a peaceable way, and with no attempt at coercion. If the effect in such a case is ruin to the employer there is no redress, for they have only exercised their legal rights."

Jefferson City, Mo.—The supreme court decided that city ordinances prohibiting persons from loitering or loitering on street corners are unconstitutional. The case came from St. Louis, where Jacob Gloner was fined for standing on a street corner doing picket duty during a strike in 1905. The supreme court ordered the defendant released, holding that the city had no right to pass an ordinance prohibiting persons from standing on streets who are not obstructing traffic or interfering with other persons or with business.

Chicago.—Chicago brewery workmen will present a new wage scale to the brewers asking for an increase of two dollars a week. They now receive \$18. "Time and a half" will be asked for overtime. The new scale was endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor. One clause in the contract provides: "That beer shall be given to the employees in such quantities and under such conditions as the employer or his brewmaster decides."

Boston.—A joint committee of both unions and International President Healy will confer with the master brewers' board of trade regarding the 1908 agreement for the firemen employed in the breweries. Like the scale of Stationary Engineers' union 16, granted that body recently, the firemen's agreement calls for the six-day-work week without loss of pay from the present scale.

Boston.—Master Carpenters and Woodworkers' association have again declared for the "open shop" and for a sliding scale of wages with 44 cents an hour the maximum. The association is not the big master builders' organization, a committee of which is now conferring with a committee of the carpenters' district council regarding the 1908 request for 50 cents an hour.

Boston.—Except one department, in which only 40 operatives are employed, the Roxbury Carpet Company's plant was closed for an indefinite period, throwing 900 employees out of work. An official of the company said that the factory was closed "owing to the evil times that have fallen upon manufacturing concerns and because of overproductiveness."

St. Louis.—Nearly 800 beer bottlers and handlers employed at the Anheuser-Busch brewery went out on a strike in sympathy with the 450 brewery wagon drivers who refused to secure membership cards in a certain union and were discharged from various breweries. The brewery immediately employed both union and non-union men.

Boston.—The clerks and draughtsmen at the Charlestown navy yard have formed an association. It will probably affiliate with the A. F. of L., as is the big New York yard's clerks and draughtsmen's association.

St. Paul, Minn.—Plans are under consideration by the officials and employees of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road for the creation of a pension and death benefit fund to be maintained by joint contributions of the employees and company. This is an expansion of the present pension plan in vogue on the system.

Providence, R. I.—The police of this city, who started to take a census of the unemployed people, have completed their work, the list showing a total of 8,000 idle persons in the city.

New Orleans.—About 1,500 operatives were affected by the closing down here of the Lane-Maginnis cotton mills. The mills only resumed work a short time ago after a week's suspension.

Norwich, Conn.—Notice of a ten per cent. reduction in wages at the cotton mills of the Shetucket company and the Falls company was posted. About 1,200 hands are affected.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—A general reduction of the shop force of the Queen & Crescent railroad was made effective, resulting, it is reported, in the laying off of a total of 1,000 men.

Chicago.—Thomas M. Dooley, general secretary of the United Association of Plumbers, Gasfitters and Steamfitters, died of peritonitis. He was well known in labor circles throughout the country.

Shamokin, Pa.—The Susquehanna Coal Company, employing 5,000 men and boys in this region, issued notice that until further notice its mines would be worked but three days a week.

Birmingham, Ala.—The Alabama Cotton Manufacturers' association at a meeting here decided not to curtail the output and not to cut wages.

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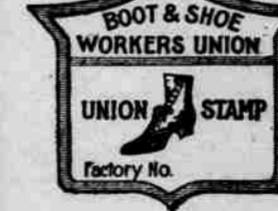
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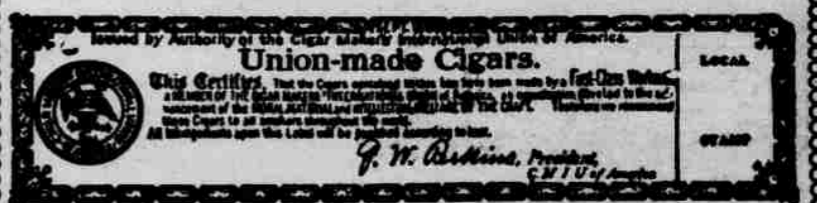
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