

The Long Winter Nights

May be made bright and cheerful by illuminating the home with either Gas or Electricity. And the disposition of the housewife may be sweetened by relieving her of the drudgery of filling "smelly" kerosene lamps and cleaning smoky chimneys. Nothing is so well calculated to make home happy as bright lights and cheerful dispositions. We will furnish the illumination—and the cheerful dispositions will follow as a natural result.

If It's a Question of Cost

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OPEN EVENINGS

World of Labor

News from All Parts of the World, of General Interest to the Worker

Boston.—In its campaign to absolutely organize the craft before June 1 Boston Machinists' lodge, No. 264, has secured more than 1,200 new members during the past four months. Nearly 300 have been admitted since February 24. On June 1 the lodge will endeavor to establish standard minimum wage rates for the three recognized subdivisions of the trade—specialists, all-around machinists and tool makers and men employed at special mechanical lines. It has been decided to have two special district organizing meetings each week from now on. As one firm has discharged a couple of men solely on the grounds that they have joined the union, Thomas L. Wilson, international vice-president, has instructed the members to deny membership in the union, if necessary. He says he does not believe in untruthfulness, but if the employers are unscrupulous the men might just as well lie to them, if necessary.

Boston.—International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union has re-elected George L. Berry of San Francisco as international president. Charles B. Crowley, formerly of Holyoke, won election as secretary-treasurer, defeating Secretary-Treasurer P. J. McMullin of Cincinnati, who was a candidate for re-election. Boston Printing Pressmen's union No. 67 and Franklin association, No. 18, of junior pressmen, assistants and feeders have both elected committees which will at once confer regarding pressroom conditions in this city and vicinity, both in regard to sanitation and health, and also for trade conditions. The present agreement of the unions expires June 1. The new requests will be decided upon next month.

Montclair, N. J.—The Master Builders' association of Montclair, in view of the manifesto of the local building trades unions that on and after May 1 no union man will be permitted to work on a job where a nonunion man is employed, has announced that it will furnish bonds to guarantee the completion of any job that any of its members undertake after that date. The association claims to represent every trade required in the construction of a building and says it can furnish the necessary mechanics to finish any job where the union men go on strike because of the employment of nonunion men.

Vallejo, Cal.—The trades that are completely unionized, that is, trades in which not a single nonunion man is employed, are the barbers, bakers, carpenters, lathers, laundry workers, musicians, pile drivers, plumbers, sheet metal workers and printers. Other unions in which 95 per cent. of the men employed at the respective trades are union men are the bartenders, electrical workers, flour and cereal mill employes, federal retail clerks, machinists, painters and ship joiners.

St. Louis.—Notice has been served on employers by the union plasterers, painters, granitoid men and sheet metal workers that unless the wages are increased 10 to 20 per cent, they will strike. The new scales are to take effect March, May and June 1, when existing contracts expire. Plasterers now get 75 cents an hour and demand ten cents more. The mixers demand 44½ cents an hour. Painters now receive 50 cents an hour and demand 55 cents.

Boston.—The proposed workmen's compensation act introduced in the Massachusetts legislature proposes that any workman injured at his employment shall be compensated by the payment of half the amount earned by him, and that the dependents of a workman who is killed shall be paid the amount which he earned for the last three years, or \$1,000, whichever would be the larger, but in no case over \$2,000.

Trenton, N. J.—The Trenton Street Railway Company announced an increase from 18½ to 20 cents an hour following the demands made a few days ago upon the company by the employes, who have been secretly organizing for some months.

Savannah, Ga.—After being granted an increase in pay from 36½ cents an hour to 39 cents, boiler-makers on the Central of Georgia railway returned to work.

Boston.—The various unions, more than 200 in all, affiliated with the Boston C. L. U., are now voting on the question of parading on Labor day.

San Francisco.—The Alaska Fishermen's union has voted to affiliate with the San Francisco Labor council.

San Francisco.—Union stablemen are starting a movement against unsanitary stables.

Worcester, Mass.—All four of the big railroad brotherhoods of conductors, trainmen, engineers and firemen will have a joint union meeting here April 2, 3 and 4, at which President Taft, Gov. Draper, President Mellen of the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad, President Tuttle of the B. & M. railroad, Mayor Logan of Worcester and other prominent men will speak.

Montreal, Canada.—At the next meeting of the Trades and Labor council the question of forming a civic federation for the purpose of settling all labor troubles by conciliation and arbitration will be considered.

New York.—The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers of the 32 eastern railroads have submitted to the General Managers' association a formal demand for an increase in wages. This demand is similar to that presented to the same roads last December by the Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and which are now in their final stage of negotiation. General Manager J. C. Stuart of the Erie refused to accept the demands, as chairman of the General Managers' association, declaring that he would meet a committee of the Erie firemen, but that the brotherhood would have to deal with each railroad separately, and not through the General Managers' association, which he said had no agreement concerning wages. This reply is similar to that given the conductors and trainmen.

Boston.—For the first time in the history of trade unionism in this city, members of the bartenders' union were called on strike at three shops to enforce a union wage scale and working hours schedule. The schedule, which establishes a minimum wage rate of \$18 a week for the men, was adopted by practically all the employers on January 1. A dozen or more did not agree at that time. Since the committees of the union and the Boston C. L. U. have been endeavoring to amicably adjust the matter and had succeeded with all but five firms. The union men won its contention at two of the places struck last week. It is expected that the other shops will be struck if the conditions are not established.

Boston.—April 1 is the date set by Boston painters' union 11 for its 1910 wage scale to go into effect. It calls for a minimum rate of \$20 for the 44-hour work week for house painters and \$22.20 for decorators. The present rates are 41 cents an hour for house painters and 46 cents an hour for decorators. The men already have the 44-hour week. East Boston painters' union also last week adopted the same scale and hour demands for house painters, and for ship painters the same rates per hour, but permitting the 48-hour work week in that branch.

City of Mexico.—There will not be a walkout of American engineers and conductors in the employ of the National lines of Mexico, the employes and the railroad management having agreed upon terms of settlement of their difficulties. The wording of the peace pact may never be published. Both the employes and the railroad officials refuse to divulge its contents, saying only that the agreement was satisfactory to all concerned.

Paris, France.—The old-age workman's pension bill, which insures to every laborer in town or country a pension at the age of 65, and will cost France an additional \$100,000,000 yearly, may now be considered as voted. The senate has agreed to make only very slight amendments, and the chamber, on the eve of the general elections, will undoubtedly pass the bill when it comes back to it from the senate.

Chicago.—The report of the International Union of Plumbers for the last year shows that during that period 39 charters were issued to new unions, 53 unions surrendered charters, 29 strikes were inaugurated, the cost of which was \$29,422, and sick benefits to the amount of \$27,920 and death benefits amounting to \$3,600 were paid.

Joplin, Mo.—Seven hundred miners employed at the plants of the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company struck for higher wages. Recently, when the price of zinc ore fell to \$40, the men's wages were cut, and although zinc blend has gone to \$45 the former pay has not been restored.

New York.—The special referendum vote taken throughout the country recently by the piano and organ workers resulted in favor of a temporary reduction of the initiation fee from five to two dollars.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The smallest average monthly paid-up membership of the United Mine Workers of America since its organization in 1890 was in 1896, when the number was 9,617.

New York.—Of the 12,000 saleswomen in New York department stores, one-third are wives and mothers, the greater part of these having taken positions after their marriage.

Newark, N. J.—Typographical Union No. 103 is the first union to abolish all overtime in book, news and job offices. No member is allowed, hereafter, to accumulate any overtime.

Washington.—Union metal workers in Italy number 8,000. Owing to trade depression the membership has fallen from 15,400.

Boston.—The 65 cents an hour wage rate for the Boston union plasterers went into effect without friction. The men struck for the rate last summer. An agreement was then made by which the men's wages were raised from 60 to 62½ cents an hour then and the 65 cents an hour rate to become effective March 1.

Boston.—Boston pavers' union 1, the larger number of the members of which go south to work during the winter, resumed meetings last week. The season will begin within a week or so, it is stated. Some of the men this year worked in Havana.



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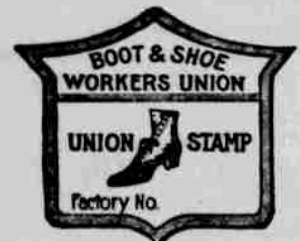
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