

PIPE MEN ACTIVE.

Plumbers and Allied Unions In Harmonious Session.

TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS.

Association Reports Increased Membership and Strengthened Financial Position—Salaries of General Officers Raised.

The seventeenth biennial convention of the United Association of Plumbers, Gasfitters, Steamfitters and Steamfitters' Helpers, held recently at St. Paul, was a memorable event in the history of the organization. Not only was it the largest and most earnest convention of the several crafts in the association ever held, but it also dealt with some of the most important problems ever presented to them for consideration.

The reports of the officers state that from the 1st of January this year up to the present date more local unions have been organized than ever before for that length of time. The union has gained an increase in membership since July 1, 1908, which will reach 2,000 members, if not more. Ninety-six local unions were organized, thirty-eight of them since January, 1910, and 101 strikes occurred. Out of this number three were lost.

From July 1, 1908, to July 1 this year there was paid out \$139,000 for benefits. Of this amount \$60,995 was for sick benefits, \$59,414 for strike benefits, and along with this there was collected thousands of dollars by voluntary subscriptions.

There has also been spent a considerable amount of money in securing state and local laws for the protection of the trade and society by bringing about better sanitation and more rigid inspection.

The rapid increase in the membership of the association and the general activity of the labor movement all over the country have made the duties of the officers much more onerous and exacting than they used to be. The convention recognized this fact and sought to make suitable provision for the added requirements. The number of general organizers was raised from seven to nine and the salary of each from \$1,800 to \$2,000 a year. And in further recognition of the increasing burden of official life the salary of the president was raised from \$1,800 to \$2,500 a year and that of the secretary the same.

Another important step in the line of progress taken by the convention was a large increase of the reserve fund. This has been for some years fixed at \$100,000. The St. Paul convention determined to increase it to \$250,000, and the indications are that the addition will be made within the next two years. This fund is used to further the interests of the various crafts in the association and to furnish munitions of war in case of strikes or lockouts. With a reserve fund of \$250,000 in hand the association will be one of the richest and best equipped in the country for whatever may arise in the way of trouble.

A movement was also started by the St. Paul convention looking to the establishment of a home for sick or disabled members of the different crafts in the association similar to the Union Printers' home at Colorado Springs, Colo., and that of the Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union located in Tennessee. A special committee was appointed to inquire into the feasibility of such a project, and at the Boston convention two years

hence it is probable that definite steps will be taken for the establishment of such an institution.

The membership of the association is composed of four different classes of workmen—plumbers, gasfitters, steamfitters and steamfitters' helpers—each of which has its own unions in all parts of the country. From time to time there have been dissensions among them, and sometimes the feeling has become warm. One of the most gratifying features of the late convention was the entire harmony that prevailed among these various classes of workmen and the unity of effort with which they all worked for the common good of the association.

Let labor all along the line show by its patronage and encouragement that it appreciates the value of fair dealing and friendship. The Buck's Stove and Range company under its new management has come to an entirely satisfactory agreement with organized labor.—Samuel Gompers.

Ontario and Prison Labor.

The Ontario government has recently abolished the system of prison labor contracts in that province. In future the majority of the prisoners in the penal institutions of Ontario will be employed upon farms and the making of roads in the newly opened up districts. There will, however, be a percentage of the prisoners whose health or other circumstances will prevent them from joining in this open air work. These men will manufacture hospital supplies—beds, blankets and so forth—which will be offered to the hospitals receiving financial aid from the provincial government, and provided the prices and quality of the goods are found to compare favorably with those of similar articles offered in the open market the hospitals will be expected to purchase the prison made products.

Flirtation.

"What really constitutes flirtation?" asked the young man of the woman of the world.

"Attention without intention," replied the experienced one.—Scraps.

Lucky One Way.

Jackson—Your daughter plays on seven instruments? Man, you're lucky. Grouche—I often think so—when I consider the number of instruments there are.—Chicago News.

The Right Solution.

The reason why newly wedded men are called "Benedicts" is because they are supposed on marriage to give up all the bad habits to which they have "benedicted."—Lippincott's.

Ambition is but avarice on stilts and masked.—Lander.

A Family Jar.

Neighbor—What is all that row? Willie—Ma's canning fruit, and pa's a food inspector, and he's trying to tell her how she ought to do it.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Her Sick Friend.

"I didn't get to bed until midnight."
"Sitting up with a sick friend?"
"Well, yes, with a lovesick friend," answered the girl.—Kansas City Journal.

Hygiene can prevent more crime than any law.—Munsterburg.

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