

In Labor's Realm

Matters of Especial Interest To and Concerning Those Who Do the Work of the World

Marion, Ill.—Contrary to the general report over the state, the mines will not be closed owing to the new mining law, now in effect on that date and which provides for the appointment of a board of three members in each coal-mining county, whose duty it will be to examine miners as to their competency as practical miners. It was at first thought that owing to the fact that the first examining board could not be appointed and empowered until the day the law making it a violation for the employment of those not examined went into effect, and that a conflict would result, it has just been given out officially that such will not be the case. However, some miners, those who have worked for less than two years, will be obliged to cease work until they can be examined.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Reports from coke operators in the Connelville field show that during the coming week more than 1,500 additional ovens will be out in blast, calling to work between 2,500 and 3,000 workmen. The demand for coke has increased steadily since the influx of orders for pig iron. Prices are firmer and the inducement for starting more plants has been so strong that even the Rainey interests are preparing to blow in a block of their ovens which has been idle for months. The Idlewood mine of the Pittsburg Coal company, near Carnegie, resumed operations. Two hundred men are affected.

New York.—Grand President Frank J. McNulty of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers urges the creation of a large defense fund, one so large as to be useful in cases of differences between employers and employees. He also advocates the centralizing of sick and death benefit funds. He holds that if such funds were paid from the treasury of the international body, instead of being paid by the individual unions, better results would obtain, and that it would then be possible to raise death benefits from \$100 to \$500 and sick and disability benefits from \$5 to \$10 a week.

London, Eng.—From a report on British trade unions recently issued, it is shown that this form of labor organization is steadily increasing in membership and strength. Returns were received for 1906 from 645 unions with a membership of 1,719,031, an increase of 151,512 over the report of the previous year. Their income for the same period was approximately \$13,500,000, an increase of \$750,000. Their expenditures aggregated \$11,400,000, or \$1,100,000 less than the year previous. At the present time the funds of these unions total about \$29,000,000.

Canton, Ill.—National President Lewis of the United Mine Workers in the course of an address at the miners' celebration here, said: "One of the two worst enemies of organized labor is organized labor itself because of the tendency of some supporters to criticize the faults of their fellows rather than to commend their virtues, and the other is the abnormal appetite of some members for strong drink, which prevents clear judgment on any question."

Mobile, Ala.—The twentieth annual convention of the International Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America adjourned. The law committee's report was made at this session, and over 75 amendments were suggested, but very few were adopted. The finance committee made its annual report, showing the international union to be in a fairly good condition.

New Haven, Conn.—The announcement is made in railroad labor circles here that a coalition has been accomplished in the allied trades on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad system and that all trolley employees will work in harmony with the organizations on the steam road. Labor men claim that 22,000 trolley employees and 18,000 men on the steam system have been brought under one controlling body.

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor has filed in the district court of appeals the transcript of record in its appeal from the decision of the district supreme court in the case of the Buck Stove & Range company of St. Louis against the federation, in which the lower court had restrained the labor organization from publishing in its Federationist the company's name as "unfair."

Boston, Mass.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' union will hold its convention in this city next year. In the interval special attention is to be paid to local organizing work by the local organizers and also by special international organizers.

Chicago.—To solve the problem of a normal living wage in a city like Chicago or New York an investigation was recently conducted by a committee of charity workers, sociologists and college professors. It showed that \$556 a year was the normal minimum wage for a fair standard of living for the average family of husband wife and three children.

Denver, Col.—Two thousand five hundred miners in the northern Colorado coal fields quit work, intending to remain out until the operators grant an increase of wages or make satisfactory concessions.

New York.—The Italian strikers who were arrested and fined in May last in connection with the labor troubles at J. B. King & Co.'s sand pits on the shore of Hempstead Harbor, L. I., have begun an action against Nassau county for damages. On May 18 about 150 strikers were arrested, and of these 50 were fined ten dollars each for carrying concealed deadly weapons, 50 more had to pay a similar fine each for alleged disorderly conduct and the others were discharged. The action is brought on the ground that the trials were conducted in a language unknown to the accused men, that they were denied a hearing before a justice and that they were unlawfully arrested and fined.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Ground was broken for the new international headquarters of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The building, which is to be of pressed brick, is to be completed, according to the contract, by November 14, and it will cost about \$70,000. It will be three stories in height, with a basement that will extend several feet above the level of the ground, and the walls will be so constructed that it will be possible to add another story, for an auditorium. The brotherhood will occupy the first floor and the basement, the latter to be used largely for the filing system.

New York.—A prominent editor of one of the New York papers pays the labor editor a high compliment with the following: "Labor editors do every week, without pay, probably more work that counts in labor battles than the paid officers, and it is but recently that they have begun to be valued at anything like their real worth. Because of their exposure of fakes and shams, they are frequently denounced as knockers, but were it not for this criticism, or fear of it, many of our organizations would fall a prey to self-seekers and exploiters."

Detroit, Mich.—The usual order of things in labor injunction cases was reversed in the Wayne circuit court when the Metal Polishers, Buffers and Platers' union No. 1 secured a temporary injunction from Judge Hosmer restraining the police department from interfering with them on the street in their peaceful solicitation of employees of the Art Stove company to join their union, setting up that it threatened the ruin of the union. Judge Hosmer warned the men that he was not authorizing any picketing that was contrary to law.

Washington.—Protests from the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, it was announced here, are to be sent to the mayors and controllers of all cities in which public libraries have been established against having books for the libraries bound in foreign countries or by non-union binders. The body also has decided to start national agitation for a higher duty on all books sent to Europe to be bound as editions de luxe when they are brought back to the United States.

Pittsburg, Pa.—From all parts of Pennsylvania comes the tale of mills resuming, and thousands of skilled mechanics returning to work. There will soon be a fair demand for labor of all sorts. During the business depression last fall and early in the spring thousands of foreign unskilled laborers returned to Europe. It is estimated that 40,000 alone left from the Pittsburgh district, and more from the anthracite and bituminous coal regions.

Cleveland, Ohio.—The capmakers have settled their troubles with the Zweig company and signed an agreement affecting thirty men. It is believed that a satisfactory settlement will be made with one other firm whose employees are on strike despite injunction proceedings. It is practically impossible for the bosses to secure competent capmakers, as very few are out of employment or outside of the union. The unionists claim that they have 90 per cent of the journeymen in their ranks.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Not only are many of the well-established iron and steel plants in Pittsburg undergoing rapid transformation from silent and inanimate objects to fountains of white hot metal, showers and flame, but with the return of an army of idle mill men there has become a new demand for buildings, of improvements that have been dependent upon the prosperity of workingmen in the district. And these latter improvements have been staged.

Vancouver, B. C.—This city now uses the union label on its printing. The "fair wage" clause is inserted in the provincial government contracts.

Topeka, Kan.—The paint and coach departments of the Santa Fe shops were closed for a week. This will throw 400 out of employment, in addition to the 1,300 which were laid off for a week in the locomotive and boiler shops. The company says it is a matter of economy.

Omaha, Neb.—Two thousand shop employees of the Union Pacific railroad were placed on full time after working short time since Jan. 1. At Union Pacific headquarters it was stated that other departments which were cut down a few months ago will soon be augmented.

OLD COLONIAL TOWN

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN TO CELEBRATE ITS FOUNDING.

One Building Surviving from Revolutionary Times Makes Reputation of Many Cities, But Germantown Has Hundreds Such.

Pittsburg.—Germantown, richer in historic associations and colonial buildings than any other place in the United States, is to celebrate its founding with exercises of national interest next October.

The president of the United States will lay the cornerstone of a \$40,000 monument in honor of those who settled this present suburb of Philadelphia; the battle of Germantown, which raged all over the neighborhood, will be enacted, much of the sham conflict taking place in the buildings which actually saw the defeat of Washington in the heart-breaking struggle in the fog, and orators of national reputation will tell the glories of a section that has been at the forefront of every patriotic movement in the last two centuries.

In other parts of the United States the possession of one or two samples of genuine colonial architecture is considered a matter of congratulation. Pittsburg, New York and Boston each have a few; there are some scattered all over the south; Philadelphia, in the center of the city proper, has many buildings surviving from the time that tried men's souls; but Germantown has rows and rows of buildings dating back to the revolution, and even antedating it.

The entire length of the main street is lined with such structures, nor is their interest confined to the fact that they are old. Many have been the scenes of incidents that are part of the treasured knowledge of every schoolboy who rejoices in the heroic achievements of the days that led to national independence.

The sham battle that is a part of the program will reproduce the clash of the colonists and the redcoats at historic Chiveden, sometimes known as the Chew mansion.

This house, in the midst of its spacious park, was old when the battle of



Famous Chew Mansion.

Germantown was fought. Its thick walls formed an admirable fortress for the protection of a detachment of British soldiers, who, giving way to the advance of the colonists, were making their retreat down the main street into the town.

Entrenched behind the heavy walls they poured a terrific fire into the ranks of the Americans.

A dozen attempts were made to capture the house, but the British repulsed them all and the diversion was of invaluable advantage to the sorely pressed Britishers, since it gave them a chance to reform their lines and wage new battle farther down the street at Market square.

The Chew house, still standing, and still in the possession of the same family, is battle scarred from the conflict, but it is still a stanch old house, a flawless example of true colonial architecture.

Farther down the street is another house that will figure largely in the celebration. It was once the executive mansion of the United States, for it was from there that George Washington administered the affairs of the young republic when the yellow fever epidemic drove himself and his cabinet from the city.

The old house was built by David Deshler in 1772. From the hands of Deshler the homestead passed into the possession of Col. Isaac Franks, who served in the continental army. When the yellow fever forced Washington to seek a residence outside of the city he picked out the house of Franks as the place he wanted, and rented it.

For three months it was the White House, then the Father of His Country went back to the city proper. In 1804 the property passed into possession of the Perots, and on the death of Elliston Perot, in 1834, it was sold to Samuel B. Morris, in whose family it has remained without interruption ever since. The greatest effort has been made to maintain both interior and exterior in their original condition.

This building is also associated with the battle of Germantown, for Gen. Howe, the British leader, had his headquarters here during part of the conflict.

Germantown is now 225 years old. It has awakened to its historic importance, and the celebration of next October is to be made a yearly affair, the proper commemoration of deeds and times written in glorious type on the pages of early American history

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\$10.00 Suits Now \$6.50--\$3.50 Saved
 \$12.50 Suits Now \$8.50--\$4.00 Saved
 \$15.00 Suits Now \$11.50--\$4.50 Saved
 \$20.00 Suits Now \$14.50--\$5.50 Saved
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 A Clear Saving of from \$4.50 to \$17.00



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GREAT ROUND UP SALE

He Was Smothered by Cement.

A Sicilian, 18 years old, was smothered Sunday by a covein of cement in the packing room of the United Portland Cement Company at Lehigh, near Independence. The young man was loading wheelbarrows when the cement jammed the door shut and it was impossible to rescue him in time to save his life.

To Extend a Kansas Trolley.

It is announced that President Signs of the Union Traction Company, operating a trolley line between Independence and Coffeyville, has arranged to run a spur from the main line starting at the new Kansas Natural Gas Company's pumping station, six miles south, west to Bolton, Wayside and Havana to Caney.



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