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GOSSIP OF THE TOILERS.

Latest News of Busy Workers in Mines, Mills and Workshops.

There are 1,124,383 female domestic servants in the United States.

Stair setters in New York City are paid \$5 a day of eight hours.

General laborers in New South Wales, Australia, receive \$1.75 to \$2 a day.

There is a movement to establish a labor temple for Memphis (Tenn.) trades unions.

The Laundry Workers' International Union is to meet in Indianapolis, Ind., September 29.

The annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will be held at Halifax in September.

On September 2, at Milwaukee, Wis., the American Brotherhood of Cement Workers will meet in convention.

The streets of Paris are swept every morning by 2,600 male and 600 female scavengers, divided into 149 brigades.

The legislature of Porto Rico has passed an act to regulate the hours of railroad employees, with 16 hours' limit.

The International Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators of America has increased the membership more than 6,000 since April 1.

An average of three British seamen lose their lives every day by drowning, and 300 British steamers and sailing vessels are lost yearly at sea.

It is expected that the pension scheme of the Typographical Union will be as highly successful as has been the Printers' Home, and the consumptive sanitarium at Colorado Springs.

The Union of Stationary Fireman of Pittsburg, has established a night school, held once a week, when experienced union men lecture on topics

The Eight-Hour League of America is conducting an agitation among the trades unions with the object of making the universal eight-hour workday the paramount issue of the presidential campaign.

The forty-first annual report of the Edinburgh (Scotland) District Trades and Labor Council states that the council is now composed of 121 delegates, representing 51 branches or unions.

For a family of five, the average American workman in the building trades will receive as wages \$29.76 per week for bricklayers, \$19.50 for carpenters, \$18.46 for painters and \$10 for laborers.

It is expected that the Australian commonwealth old age pension scheme will cost \$9,000,000 yearly. All indigent persons over 65 years of age, who have resided in the commonwealth for 20 years, will be entitled to a pension of \$2.40 a week.

From a membership of 3,042 in 12 locals in 1881 the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners has grown to 161,290 assessed members in 1,793 local unions, all of which pay a death benefit for members and their wives ranging from \$25 to \$200.

The officials of the International Brass Moulders' Union, which was organized October, 1904, report that their membership has now reached 12,000 in this country. The union has established a sick benefit fund and also a death and burial fund.

The first annual report and balance sheet of the National Union of Journalists shows that the union, which 12 months ago had not one formally constituted branch, has now a large number in England and Wales, which embrace a membership of over 1,000.

Indianapolis (Ind.) labor organiza-

tions have recently leased a farm of 30 acres west of the city, which they intend to improve and use for picnics and outings. A park committee has been formed, with a view of raising funds for the purchase of the beautiful natural park.

The Journeymen Bakers' Society of the United Kingdom have taken a vote modifying their eight hours' bill, which now permits of relays of eight hours. The decision was carried by a very large majority, the vote being one of the largest ever taken in connection with the union.

Printers are greatly interested in a movement to exhibit photographs and literature of the Union Printers' Home and Tuberculosis Sanitarium annex at Colorado Springs, Colo., at the coming World's Tuberculosis congress, which will be held in Washington, D. C., the latter part of September.

One of the chief topics at the annual meetings of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was the working of the Lemieux act, providing for the compulsory arbitration of Canadian labor disputes affecting public utilities. Opinion is divided as to whether the law has been beneficial to railway employees.

At the recent Philadelphia convention of the Ladies' Garment Workers' union it was voted to co-operate in the amalgamation plan suggested by which the former, the Journeymen Tailors' Union, the Shirt Waist and Laundry Workers' Union and the United Garment Workers' Union would pool their interests and become one organization.

The annual report of Ernest Mills, secretary-treasurer for the Western Federation of Miners, which was submitted to the convention of that organization recently, showed that the organization lost more than 5,000 mem-

bers during the past year. An effort will be made to ascertain the cause of the decline and to stop it.

The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and the Western Bar Iron Association have reached a settlement affecting 10,000 men in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. The puddlers are reduced from last year's scale about 8 per cent, and the finishers accept an average cut of nearly 2 per cent.

Cooks, pastry cooks and chefs of Greater New York to the number of 300 and upward have formed a local union of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance. The 5,000 and odd cooks of Greater New York work from 15 to 16 hours a day in the fall and winter time, but during the summer there is little or no employment to speak of.

John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America, and now one of the vice-presidents of the American Federation of Labor, has bought a large tract of land on Lower Bayou Lafourche, Louisiana, presumably for the use of his union. The land is contiguous to the Gulf of Mexico, and is believed to be an ideal location for a home.

The Interstate Commerce commission has decided to employ only union men for inspecting the working of the safety-appliance law. The explanation offered for making the inspection force union is that the men will be made responsible for the appointees, as no man will receive an appointment unless indorsed by the head of the organization of which he is a member.

At New Bedford, Mass., three unions of carpenters and joiners have appointed a committee to examine applicants for admission into

either union. The applicant must demonstrate by working out 15 or 20 problems with his tools, and if he can do that he is admitted, otherwise rejected. This rule has been adopted because of many complaints that membership in a union is not absolute proof of competency.

Shoemakers were among the first of the trades to organize a union in this country; also among the first to engage in strikes. In the fall of 1792 the pioneer union of the shoe workers was organized in Philadelphia. It grew to be considered a power, and in 1796 a strike in all the shops of the city was ordered to enforce a demand for an increase of wages. It lasted but a few days, the employers recognizing the demand.

Alabama miners are up against it good and hard. A reduction of about 17 per cent is a tough proposition to face at any time, and especially in view of the fact that they have been comparatively idle for a year, but then negligence of opportunities always brings a penalty. The anthracite and all other miners have a splendid object lesson in the position of the Alabama men at present, demonstrating the usefulness and the benefits of an organization.

Charles W. Merker, organizer for the American Federation of Labor, recently visited an overall factory at the progressive little city of Somerville, Tenn., and reports it as the finest example of the benefits of organization he has seen. Not a child is employed in any capacity, every worker is a union man, and not a particle of dirt or speck of dust is visible from engine room to office. It is a safe prediction that no cases of consumption will be developed in such environments.

THE PRESSMEN.

Promise to Make Big Showing on Labor's Great Holiday.

The Pressmen and Assistants' Union figures on cutting a lot of ice on Labor Day, figuratively speaking. They will march in the printing trades section, and do not intend that they shall be overshadowed by any other portion of the section that may have superior numbers.

"Heine" Cameron has temporarily abandoned the business and is now playing ball with the crack Bridgeport, Neb., team.

Billy King has bought a home at Eleventh and High streets. It stands on quite a bit of ground and Billy contemplates engaging in "light farming" next summer. He is now engaged in trying to find some agricultural department bulletins that bear the label.

Pin White is back on the feed board at the Western Newspaper Union.

The boys in the press room of the Freie Presse are happy over the installation of a first-class ventilating apparatus. They now have the best-equipped press room in the west. The stereotyping department is rejoicing over the same thing.

The 5 per cent assessment is still on, and the boys are wondering when it will be called off. They have been paying it a long time.

THE MUSICIANS.

Contemplate Some Changes in the Scale and Take in New Men.

The Musicians' Union is contemplating some changes in the scale of prices and a committee is now engaged in the work of preparing something for submission to the local.

The Majestic theatre has engaged a conductor from Chicago, and there is some curiosity over a reported make-up of the orchestra.

It is rumored that the Auditorium management contemplates running a vaudeville or picture show during the winter months, and installing a regular orchestra for the season. This would supply work for several members.

A. L. Maxson is back from Denver and has re-deposited his card with the Lincoln local.

Sid Drew of Sioux Falls, S. D., has deposited his card with the Lincoln local.

Since July 1 the Lincoln local has taken in six new members.

The Musicians' Union expects to make a big showing in the Labor Day parade and exercises. Business continues good.

BE WARNED IN TIME.

And Don't Play the Sucker When the Capitalistic Bait Drops.

Capital is sparing no effort to create dissensions and discord in union ranks and regardless of truth tells how dear to it are the interests of the laboring man. This is the first time that the capitalistic party has ever really realized the strength of organized labor and if organized labor is not a chump it will point out to that party the exact spot to back in at.—Labor Times-Herald.

CONVENTIONS IN 1908.

Where and When Trades Union Gatherings Will Be Held.

August 10, Detroit, Mich., International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen.

August 24, Milwaukee, Wis., United Garment Workers of America.

September 1, —, Table Knife Grinders' National Union.

September 2, Milwaukee, Wis., American Brotherhood of Cement Workers.

September 7, Denver, Colo., International Association of Machinists.

September 8, New York City, International Photo Engravers' Union of North America.

September 10, Boston, Mass., Spinners' International Union.

September 14, Montreal, Canada, Journeymen Stonecutters' Association of North America.

September 14, Philadelphia, Pa., International Union of Steam Engineers.

September 14, Philadelphia, Pa., International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Alliance.

September 15, Salt Lake City, Utah, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

September 17, New York City, Pocket Knife Blade Grinders and Finishers' National Union.

September 21, Indianapolis, Ind., United Association of Plumbers, Gasfitters, Steamfitters and Steamfitters' Helpers of United States and Canada.

September 21, Indianapolis, Ind., International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

October 5, Washington, D. C., Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union.

October 5, St. Louis, Mo., International Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers.

October 20, Cohoes, N. Y., United Textile Workers of America.

November 9, Denver, Colo., American Federation of Labor.

November 10, Bangor, Pa., International Union of Slate Workers.

November 12, Vinalhaven, Me., Lobster Fishermen's International Protective Association.

December 7, New Orleans, La., International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees.

December 7, Brooklyn, N. Y., National Alliance of Bill Posters and Billers of America.

At the special election held in Cook county, Monday, the bonds in the sum of \$10,000 to provide the town with a new brick school house, carried. The building is badly needed.

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