

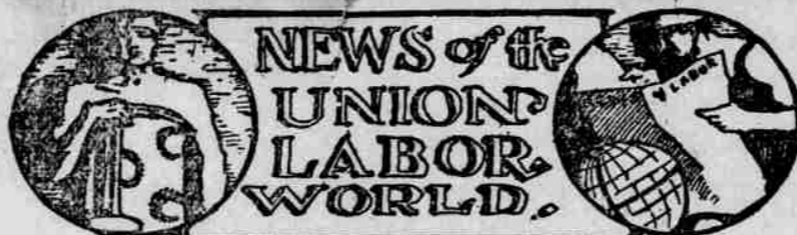
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H. O. BARBER & SON



Saut Ste. Marie, Mich.—The open hearth furnaces of the Algola Steel Company at the Canada Soo are to be extended this year, according to announcement made by Manager Franz of the Lake Superior corporation. Other improvements are to follow. A semi-official report says that new blast furnaces will be erected and also a structural steel plant as the result of an investment by English capitalists, who intend to make the Soo plant the biggest in Canada. It is also learned that the so-called bridge trust will invade the Canadian field on a large scale and erect a plant as soon as it can get structural steel. From this plant it intends all the Canadian business shall be handled.

Peoria, Ill.—Indorsing the clause in Secretary Hayes' report recommending that the "strike fund" be re-established and regretting that surety companies were made to stand losses due to laxity in conducting affairs by officers of local unions were the principal features of the report of the committee on officers' reports submitted before the United Mine Workers of Illinois in convention here. It was recommended that surety companies hereafter will not be asked to go bond for secretaries and treasurers of local unions, but that these officers should be required to give bonds signed by persons in good standing in the near neighborhood where office-holders reside.

Cleveland, O.—Forty organizers have been appointed by President Lewis of the Ohio Federation of Labor to take the field in the near future to bring the working people within the pale of unionism. According to Secretary Harry D. Thomas there will be more organizers selected and an aggressive campaign of education and organization will be waged. "We are receiving information daily," said Mr. Thomas, "that leads us to believe that the year 1909 will be one of the greatest in the country's history in the matter of organizing the working people."

Boston, Mass.—B. & M. R. R. system board of adjustment of the lodges of the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks decided to request the B. & M. road officials to enter into an agreement with the clerks on lines similar to the arbitration and adjustment agreements existing with other big railroad organizations. The clerks' brotherhood is a comparatively new one and it never has asked for or had an agreement with the road. The clerks are now almost as well organized on every section of the system as are the men of the train service branches.

Hazleton, Pa.—The organizers of the United Mine Workers arranged for meetings in every town of the Lehigh field to stir up sentiment among the men. The same activity will be continued and it is expected that by the time the agreement between the operators and miners expires the majority of the workers will have become reunited to the union.

New York.—E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, when asked for confirmation or denial of the published announcement that there would be a reduction in the wages of steel and iron workers before May 1, said: "The statements are inaccurate. The United States Steel Corporation has never considered such a thing."

Washington.—The National Civic Federation announces that George W. Perkins had accepted the chairmanship of a commission now being organized by that body to make a thorough study of industrial insurance, including compensation for wage-earners in the form of sick, accident, old age and death benefits.

New York.—The establishment of a colony for aged, infirm, sick or disabled members of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America is the novel plan which has been started by members of that organization all over the country. A thousand acres of land has been obtained in Moore county, N. C., for the establishment of the home, and it is now proposed to establish a colony there with light manufacturing industries, which will make the home self-sustaining.

St. Paul, Minn.—Arrangements are being made by the organization committee of the St. Paul Trades Assembly for the formation of a building trades council in that city. The proposed new organization will be formed along the lines laid down by the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor, under whose banner the new central body will enlist.

Boston, Mass.—All the Boston steam engineers' unions last week reiterated their opposition to the efforts to have the present state boiler rules and laws changed. They are "not half stiff enough now," the engineers say.

London, Eng.—Ten thousand Scottish colliers and workmen have already been thrown out of work in consequence of the action of the Scottish railway companies, who imposed a demurrage charge of one shilling six pence a day for each wagon left at their colliery sidings, and it is estimated that 5,000 more men will be paid off.

Albany, N. Y.—Two bills, designed to regulate the loaning of money on wages to be earned in the future and to curtail the operations of so-called "loan sharks," are pending in the assembly.

Chicago.—Martin B. ("Skinny") Madden, president of the Associated Building Trades of Chicago and Cook County, and M. J. Boyle, business agent of Electrical Workers' union No. 134, were indicted by the grand jury on charges of conspiracy and extortion. The indictments were returned at 5:30 o'clock in Judge Freeman's court and immediately caplases were issued for the arrest of the labor leaders. Ball in each case was fixed at \$10,000. Two separate indictments were returned against each of the men, one on extorting \$1,000 from H. P. Nelson of the Nelson Piano Company for calling off a strike on his factory, and the other for extorting from Joseph Klicka \$700 under similar circumstances.

Oakland, Cal.—It is not illegal for a union labor organization to picket a place of business that has been declared "unfair," if the picketing is done in a peaceable manner, according to the decision of Judge Ellsworth, given here in the case of Joseph Davis, a local restaurant man, against the Cooks' and Waiters' alliance. Because the union posted two pickets in front of his place of business the restaurant man declared that he had suffered a loss of \$250. The court admitted the loss, but contended, inasmuch as the union had not brought it about by unlawful means, damages could not be imposed.

Pittsburg, Pa.—As a result of the cut in prices of steel decided upon at the meeting in New York, the second lowering of prices within the last nine months, there is to be a general reduction in the wages of the vast army of men employed in the big steel mills all over the country, according to statements made by well known manufacturers. Sever Pittsburg steel makers stated positively that the second reduction in prices would result in a reduction in the wages of the employees. Others are of the same opinion, although they refuse to make any statement for publication.

Peoria, Ill.—The resolution brought in by a special committee on political action, denying official assistance of the United Mine Workers of Illinois to members who should become political candidates for state offices, was almost unanimously adopted here. The result is considered by socialist members a victory for their cause. Retiring President John Walker, the new president, Duncan McDonald, and Secretary Frank Hayes urged the delegates to continue political and financial assistance, after announcing their pride in being members of the Socialist party.

Portland, Ore.—A bill that has been presented before the Oregon legislature, providing for the protection and safety of persons engaged in work on buildings, bridges, etc., is commented on editorially in the Bridgemen's Magazine, the official organ of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers. In speaking of the need of suitable legislation, the editorial says that "owing to the extreme hazard surrounding our employment any protective measure, in the way of legislation or attempted legislation, should receive our hearty and unqualified support."

Brussels, Belgium.—An industrial innovation that is going to attract world-wide attention has just been introduced in Belgium. In the province of Brabant, which numbers considerable more than a million population, the legislature has enacted a law not only designating the minimum salaries that must be paid certain classes of workers, but also providing for the penalizing of employers who disregard the wage statute.

New York.—The stokers of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company are threatening a general strike. They have already gone out on the Prince Eitel Frederick. The German Seamen's union, after a special meeting, issued the following statement: "Further attempts on the part of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company to reduce the wages of the stokers will mean a general strike of the members of the International Federation of German Seamen employed on the ships of this company."

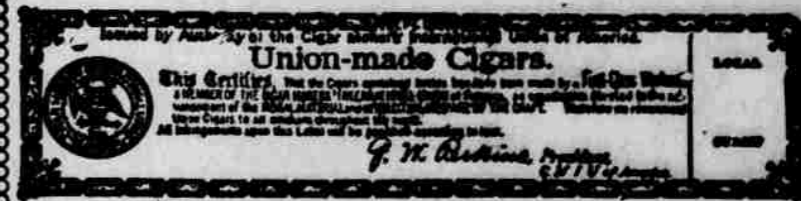
Washington.—The average wage of telegraph operators decreased during the last two years and during the year 1908, as compared with the year 1903. This is the salient fact developed in a report on the telegraph business transmitted to the senate by Dr. Charles P. Neill, commissioner of labor, in response to a resolution of that body adopted last May. The report indicates that messages are classified and that certain classes of business have preference over others.

Minneapolis, Minn.—A branch of the American Association for Labor Legislation has been formed in this city.

Winnipeg, Man.—The farmers of the Moose Jaw district have passed a resolution requesting the Central Grain Growers' association to place a capable man in the field to organize Saskatchewan, Canada, farmers into a permanent society or association with a strong life membership fund at its back.

London, Eng.—Lack of proper apprenticeship system for training boys 14 to 20 years of age in the different trades is widely held in England to be responsible in a large degree for the "casual labor," lack of employment and poverty of thousands.

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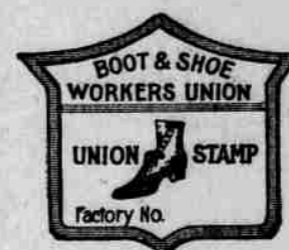
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