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In the LABOR WORLD



Cincinnati, O.—The long-fought case of the Typothetae of America against the International Printing Pressmen's pact on wages. This in spite of the union by the United States circuit court of appeals. The decision establishes an eight-hour day. The court rules that no contract exists between the union and the Typothetae to maintain the nine-hour day, as alleged in the complaint. It was held in the court below that no injunction could be to restrain the officers of the union from advising the union men to keep or break a contract. The legal principle recognized is the common law right of interested parties to intervene. This status is left unaltered. A case similar to the one decided is pending in the supreme court of the United States. The typothetae attacked the union, alleging that the officers were contract breakers. The officers here fought against what the Typothetae alleged to be a renewal of a nine-hour contract. The fight of the printing pressmen for the eight-hour day began in 1905.

New York.—The workmen in the terra cotta factories of the National Fire Proofing Company at Perth Amboy, who struck for higher pay just after the November election, received a seven per cent. advance. A notice was posted at the Raritan works informing the men that beginning April 1 they would receive ten cents more per day than they now receive. The men who quit work in November said they understood from somebody they would obtain a raise if Taft were elected. There was disorder and troops were called. The strikers went back to work after having obtained an advance of four per cent. and the promise of another advance later.

Chicago.—Organized labor is intensely interested in the railway employees' department, which has been formed by the American Federation of Labor. Among the organizations interested in the department are the Order of Railway Telegraphers, Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders, International Association of Car Workers, International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, International Association of Steamfitters, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the Switchmen's Union of North America.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The monster independent iron and steel concerns of the Pittsburg district—the Jones & Laughlin Steel company, Ltd.; the Pittsburg Steel company and the Midland Steel company, representing in all more than \$100,000,000—decided to "stand pat" on wages. This in spite of the fact that the big Lackawanna Steel company at Buffalo, one of the strongest independents, has declared a flat 10 per cent. reduction in wages.

Wheeling, W. Va.—George Rush, president of local union No. 459, United Mine Workers of America, at Bannock, O., was probably fatally stabbed by Italian members of the union. The union was holding a meeting when Rush made a ruling that displeased the Italians present, and in an instant he was the target for the stiletto of several of the foreigners.

Chicago.—Members of the Chicago Teamsters and Helpers' union resumed work for the Wisconsin Lime and Cement company. A settlement of the jurisdictional differences with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was made.

Coatesville, Pa.—Owing to the reduction of prices by the United States Steel Trust Coatesville mills are feeling the effect. None of the mills have been running regularly and several hundred men have been laid off. William P. Worth, of the Worth Bros. firm, and A. F. Huston, president of the Lukens Iron and Steel company, have had several conferences.

Columbus, Ohio.—The Ohio State Federation of Labor is trying to obtain the passage of the following laws by the state legislature: The initiative and referendum anti-injunction law, employers' liability law, free school-book law, law prohibiting the employment of women where there is dust-creating machinery, and an eight-hour law for women.

Lyndonville, R. I.—After running on a short-time schedule for 16 months the Boston & Maine railroad shops here have gone on a 54-hour week basis. At one time the employes worked only 18 hours weekly.

Melbourne, Australia.—A claim has been made by the Melbourne Typographical society for an increase of wages and shortened hours of work for hand composition by day.

Washington.—International unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. paid out the following benefits during the last year: Death benefits, \$1,257,000; sick benefits, \$593,000; unemployed benefits, \$295,000; traveling benefits, \$51,000; death benefits account of members' wives, \$31,400; total insurance, \$2,441,000; strike benefits, \$4,584,000.

Boston.—The educational authorities have definitely determined to add vocational courses to the city school system next fall. Either the Boston trade school will be taken over or the city will build and equip a trade school.

New York.—Judge Gary of the United States Steel corporation again issued a denial of the persistent rumors that a cut in the wages of the corporation's 240,000 employes on or about April 1 had been decided upon. The proposition had not even been considered, he repeated. As to the situation in the trade, Judge Gary said that no considerable business had resulted so far from the price cuts. He declined to venture any predictions, and stated emphatically that the corporation had no agreements of any kind with its competitors, not even as to the price of rails. If any of the manufacturers wanted to reduce the price of rails there was nothing to prevent them from doing so. He thought that the present price was low enough, however. Judge Gary declined to say whether, in his opinion, wages would ultimately have to come down as a result of the recent price cut.

Brussels, Belgium.—The tenth congress of the Belgium trade unions was held during the Christmas holidays, in Molenbeek, a suburb of Brussels, 243 delegates being present, representing 43 societies or branches. An industrial census, taken in 1907, showed that there were 576,999 men, women and boys and girls employed in Belgium industries. Of this total there are now 139,000 organized in unions affiliated to the Socialist-Labor party, say, 24 per cent.; 10,687, or 1.75 per cent., belong to "neutral" unions affiliated to the party; while 30,664, or 5.3 per cent., belong to the so-called "Christian" unions.

Pottstown, Pa.—A sweeping reduction in the scale for puddling iron in the Schuylkill Valley went into effect at the plant of the Glasgow Iron company. From \$4.50 a ton for puddling, which had been the wages for the past three or four years, the price is reduced to \$3 per ton. Several hundred men are affected. Other iron companies in eastern Pennsylvania have not yet taken action. The reduction is the greatest that has ever been made at one time in the history of the iron trade in Pottstown.

London, Eng.—Four hundred and sixty employees of the Gas Light and Coke company, representing more than 11,000 men, unanimously adopted at a special meeting a co-partnership scheme drawn up by the directors. At the present price of gas, 68 cents, it is calculated that the bonuses to the men will total nearly \$100,000 a year. C. Woodall, governor of the company, explained the scheme to the men. "It will give you a closer interest in your work," he declared.

Buffalo, N. Y.—A reduction of ten per cent. in the wages of employes of the Lackawanna Steel Company has gone into effect. The Lackawanna is one of the largest independent concerns, and this is the first announcement of a cut by the independents since the war of prices with the United Steel corporation began. The reduction affects all classes of employes and the office force.

Stockholm, Sweden.—The great lock-out which was threatening in the engineering and metal-working industries of Sweden seems to have been averted by the majority of the members in the unions affected agreeing to a renewal of the existing agreement for a period of five years. There are some differences yet to be settled; but it is unlikely that a conflict will be forced.

Winnipeg, Man.—All talk of another strike of Canadian Pacific shopmen, owing to the fact that the schedule established by the board of conciliation August 1, 1908, would expire August 1, 1909, has been set at rest by the posting of an official notice in the local shops of the company saying that its schedule would continue in force until April 1, 1910. The men are satisfied.

New York.—National Secretary Lawlor of the United Hatters of North America reported that about \$62,000 was paid in strike benefits the past week. He said that the question of which side won was now one of endurance, that the strikers were prepared to make many sacrifices to win and needed the co-operation of the other labor organizations.

Indianapolis.—The annual report on the sick, disability and death benefits paid during 1908 by the Boot and Shoe Workers' union shows that the total amount thus paid out was \$82,792.08. Of this aggregate, \$68,917.08 was paid out in 13,783 2-5 weeks of sick benefits; \$575 was paid out in six disability benefits and \$13,300 was paid out on 155 death benefits.

Columbus, Ohio.—Statements have been made that Ohio operators are now considering making inspection of their mines daily. They believe the effect will be more satisfactory than a dozen model mines. Since the Marianna disaster some have grown weak in their belief of the reliability of the model mine.

St. Paul, Minn.—The wage scale of the St. Paul Painters' union has been approved by the international executive board. It will bring the St. Paul scale up to that of Minneapolis, there being a difference last year of two and one-half cents an hour.

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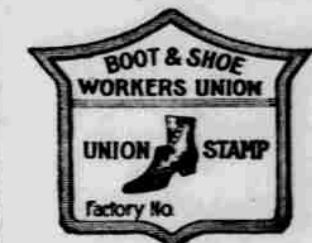
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