

THE LEATHERWORKERS.

Little Trouble at Hastings Amicably Adjusted Last Week.

Fifteen leatherworkers on horse goods went out at Hastings, Nebraska, a short time ago to enforce a demand for better conditions. General President Baker went out there and succeeded in adjusting the trouble in a very short time. The men returned to work perfectly satisfied.

Since January three new locals have been added to the Brotherhood, Madison, Wis., Knoxville, Tenn., and Muscatine, Ia. Several difficulties have been adjusted and the membership strengthened in numbers as well as in enthusiasm.

Locally work continues to be fair, with the outlook for better times unusually bright. The local union is in good shape.

PRINTERS AWAKE IN CUBA.

The work of organizing the printers of Cuba is progressing rapidly. Although Armand B. Rodriguez, the organizer for the International Typographical Union, has been only a few weeks on the island, a good-sized union has been already organized in Havana, and another will soon be formed in Santiago. The Typographical Union of Havana has 109 members and promises to be the largest local union in Cuba by the end of the year. There are about 800 printers in Havana and 300 in Santiago.—Working Trades Unionist.

PRESSMEN SECURE ADVANCES.

Pressmen and assistants of St. Augustine have been granted an increase of 20 per cent. A contract has been closed for a 15 per cent increase in Hamilton, Ont.; 20 per cent increase on the newspapers. Columbus web pressmen will enjoy a 11 per cent increase. They have secured a slight increase in Elmira, N. Y., with the promise of another increase next year. Settled the grievance between the web pressmen and the Milwaukee Sentinel.

GET IT IN THE NECK.

Rand, McNally & Co., Lose Suit and Are in for Heavy Damages.

"The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small." It is more than three years since Rand, McNally & Co., one of the large Chicago publishing houses, refused to grant the eight-hour day and locked out its printers who demanded this concession. The company exhibited the height of arrogance in the matter, and since then has been running its plant largely if not wholly with non-union labor. It has had considerable trouble and close observers have been looking for the occurrence of some big disaster to its business: for as its output was below the required standard, owing to the incompetence of its employees, the murmurs of dissatisfaction from its

patrons have been swelling into a tumult. Now the disaster has come. A few days ago judgment was rendered against the company at Glasgow, Ky., for \$10,000 in a suit brought by County Superintendent W. C. Turner to recover a forfeit which the company had agreed to pay in case the books furnished to Barren county were not as good as the samples submitted. The evidence showed that the books were far from being up to the standard of the samples and the judgment followed.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

GETTING READY.

The "Greenbackers" will not be seen in official action on the home grounds until May 12. Captain Fox and Magnate Green, however, have rigged up a few exhibition games that will be worth seeing. The players have about all reported and daily practice is being indulged in at Antelope park. Bonno has not yet shown up, and Pritchett is still holding off. But Bonno would not be missed. Johnnie Jones will show up late in April, as he has to finish that term of school in dear old Highland. The "rail birds" are perching on the park benches and getting a line on the team. It looks good.

THE BARBERS.

Shop Card Goes Back Into Pretty Shop on P Street.

The Star barber shop at 922 P street is again graced by a union shop card. This is the shop from which the card was removed about two months ago—but it is not under the same management now. A week or so ago J. J. Simpson, proprietor of the Apex shop at Tenth and O streets, bought the Star shop. He immediately put "Joe" Long in charge. It took Josephus about a minute to get the shop card back, right where it could be seen from every part of the shop and a good portion of P street. Then he got a couple of good union barbers to take charge of the other two chairs while he presided over the first chair.

With the coming of the gladsome spring the business is picking up a bit. In warm weather men do not let their hair grow so long, and when real summer comes they shave oftener in order that they can let their voices out at the ball games without getting it tangled up in their whiskers.

The "Greenbackers" have won the 1909 pennant in every union barber shop in Lincoln since March 27.

Labor Temple Day, May 12. Be a Booster for the Temple.

DOWN GO THE WAGES.

Taft and Prosperity Working in the Back Motion Regularly.

Wage reduction after wage reduction, especially in the unorganized industries, is noted in the news dispatches. Carnegie the philanthropist,

who managed to crush the steel workers, now has the satisfaction of seeing the steel workers handed "prosperity with the reverse English on it." And the steel workers who were gold-bricked into becoming shareholders in the steel trust are getting just what they might have expected if they hadn't been easy marks.

Schwab serves notice that if the steel trust's tariff graft is disturbed the workers will have to make good the loss. The big Laughlin-Jones company has issued notice of a 10 per cent reduction in wages. "On account of dull times and tariff agitation." Unorganized workers in railroad circles are getting the cut. Mill and factory employees are being handed the en-smalled wage envelope. Every day's issue of the daily newspapers contains from a half-dozen to a score of dispatches announcing wage cuts.

They told us if we'd vote for Taft They'd overrun our cup of bliss; And with the help of tariff graft Would boost our wages

this like up

They landed Taft in Teddy's chair And now they play the old game well.

They'll keep again the lion's share And drop our wages down to zero.

SOCIALISM AND THE CHURCH.

Rev. Charles Stelzle Discusses the Question of "Meeting Human Needs."

In no city or country in the world are the Christians in a majority. The men outside of the church control the courts and the legislature, but the progress which has been made is due to the direct and indirect influence of Christianity. The church has often been at fault and in some things it is to blame today, but no matter how dark the age, the church has always been the whitest light in history and when reform came to the church, it came from within and not from without. To quote from the significant resolutions passed by the great church conference in Philadelphia, representing nearly twenty million members, the attention of workmen should be called to the fact that:

"The institution of a day of rest secured for the toilers of Christendom by the very charter of the church has been defended on their behalf by it throughout the centuries:

That the streams of philanthropy which supply a thousand needs have their springs, for the most part, in Christian devotion;

That the fundamental rights of men upon which rest the pillars of this mighty group of commonwealths are a heritage from the conscience and consecration of men who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Master;

That the free ministrations to the

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community on the part of tens of thousands of churches attest the purpose of the followers of Christ;

That the Church, while it may not have accepted the task of announcing an industrial program, is at heart eager with the impulses of service and is more than ever ready to express the spirit of its Lord;

That in the quest for the forces by which the larger hopes of the workmen of America may be most speedily and fully realized, the leaders of the industrial world can better afford to lose all others than those which are today and have been for nearly two thousand years at work in the faith, the motive and the devotion of the Church of Jesus Christ."

Of course it will be said by the socialist that he is going to eradicate

the necessity for philanthropy and very much that the church is doing today and has been doing throughout the ages. But even in this respect the church has done more than socialism. However, in the meantime, it has been trying to alleviate the sufferings of mankind. While the world has been getting ready to take an official step in the matter of securing a larger measure of justice for the workers, the church has been ministering to those

who have fallen by the wayside. It task it has unquestionably been without a peer in all history and for this task it has unquestionably been without a peer in all history and for this work the church, in all fairness, should receive due credit. Not that it cares for it particularly, nor is it demanding such recognition, but in an unbiased consideration of the whole subject these facts should be reckoned with.

The New Woman and Divorce

By Elizabeth Bacon Walling.

Why is it that to-day so many more wives than husbands are securing divorces? The official census report on divorce just published shows that two-thirds of the 945,625 divorces in the last 20 years were granted to women. The most common ground has been desertion.

The fact that so many more wives than husbands are securing divorce is proof neither that husbands are growing in profligacy, nor that wives, because of their "higher education" and interest in public affairs, are becoming more prone to free themselves from loving and faithful husband. One reason why more divorces are obtained by the wives is the fact that the court usually assigns the children to the mother. While this is one reason, the chief reason is that woman, by her more liberal education and by the improved economic situation which now prevails in this country, is better able to support herself.

No longer is woman forced by laws, in the making of which she has had no part, to continue to live with the brute who beats her, with the gambler and drunkard who beggars her, deserting her in her distress, and with the culprit who deceives her, forsaking her for others. Factory, shop and university have opened their doors to her as avenues of escape.

She is no longer denied the right to the wages which she has earned with her own hands, to the clothing which she has bought with her own earnings, to the children which she bears and brings up, and to her own body, which under an old dispensation in one of the New England states her husband was privileged to sell to his neighbor.

By her higher intelligence and more refined conscience woman has come to question her right to cause to be born the offspring of husbands who are drunkards and criminals. She is also wondering whether she should have more children than she can properly educate and prepare for the battle of life. She has come to ask herself whether it is not more fair to society for her to free herself from a relation which must but people the world with a race of degenerates and weaklings.

One reason why so many more wives than husbands are securing divorces appears in the growing economic independence of women.

Woman is now beginning to realize that her soul is her own. She is no longer an economic slave. At one time woman knew that outside of her husband's home she had no opportunity for self-support. Her property, her children, her wages, her clothes all belonged to her "lord and master."

When a woman marries a man she gives him her youth, places her fate in his hands, and unless she has a fortune of her own, is dependent upon him till death: for her comfort and well being. Therefore it is a solemn moment in the life of the wife and mother when she turns her back upon her only refuge from want; and while we are not without examples of wives deserting their husbands for frivolous reasons, it is safe to conclude that in the majority of cases when wives desert their husbands they are following some honest conviction of conscience and principle.



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