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M A P E S T I C

In Labor's Realm

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

Cleveland, O.—The Ohio State Conference of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union has, by vote of the unions of the state, adopted a mortuary benefit plan. The plan provides for the payment to the heir or heirs of a deceased member \$200. To pay these benefits and keep a sufficient sum in the treasury for such purpose the secretary of each subordinate union in Ohio of the bricklayers and masons will collect from each member of his union 50 cents each quarter and forward it to the secretary-treasurer of the conference. To accumulate a working fund to make the plan successful, no benefits shall be paid until two quarters' dues have been paid into the treasury.

Pittsburg.—Grave trouble is threatened in the steel industry as the result of the reductions in wages announced. Already 75,000 to 100,000 workers are facing cuts in pay, and the indications are that they will not submit tamely to the reduced income. A general strike in the industry is rumored and the attitude of labor is that the reduction must be opposed at any cost. Scarcely a day has passed recently, but some of the independent companies have announced a cut in pay, and despite denials, it is thought the United States Steel Corporation will have to follow suit.

Memphis, Tenn.—A bill has been introduced in the Tennessee legislature providing for compulsory education. Among the provisions of the bill is one requiring the parents or guardians of children under the age of 14 years to send them to school for at least 80 days each year. It will be a misdemeanor on the part of the parents or guardians to disregard this requirement. The recent convention of the State Federation of Labor strongly endorsed the bill, and it is expected it will become a law.

Washington.—It is said that several causes tend to increase the number of mining accidents, principal among which might be mentioned the prevalence of electrical power and the ignorance of mine work by some of the newer workers. It is said that a large number of the killed in mine accidents are not Americans, but Americans number high up in proportion to the foreigners, whose knowledge of the technicalities of mining is very limited.

Washington.—The National Civic Federation announces that it is forming a commission to inquire into and make a study of industrial insurance and compensation for wage workers comprised in sick, accident, old age and death benefits. The commission will gather data of the various methods pursued in this country and in Europe, and necessary legislation will be suggested.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Last month the first union of moving-picture operators was temporarily formed. At the meeting to be held shortly a permanent organization will be effected and officers elected. One of the objects of the union, besides insisting upon a uniform wage scale, will be to demand that safety appliances shall be provided at all of the moving-picture shows.

Albany, N. Y.—An amendment to the law licensing employment agencies, proposed by the Actors' National Protective union, so as to include agencies obtaining employment for actors, has been introduced and is now pending.

Washington.—The twenty-second annual report of Oscar S. Straus, secretary of commerce and labor of the United States, has been issued containing the laws relating to labor in every state in the United States, together with court decisions.

Colorado Springs, Col.—The National Letters Carriers' association has purchased 160 acres near here as a site for the proposed national sanitarium of the association. It adjoins the site of the Union Printers' home on the east.

San Francisco, Cal.—The bakers and cracker bakers have appointed a committee to wait on the proprietors of the local cracker bakeries to adopt a distinctive union label for their products, which are made under fair conditions.

Cleveland, O.—A great labor amalgamation, including all the marine unions whose members are employed in inland waters, is contemplated. The plan has not yet been definitely settled.

Granite City, Ill.—Four hundred employees of the American Steel Foundry Company walked out because of a wage scale dispute. The men are employed in the foundry.

Pittsburg, Pa.—This city has again become a union town so far as its newspapers are concerned. Since the beginning of the year all the newspapers of the city have signed the scale and agreement with the union.

London, Eng.—Wages of blast furnace men in England were reduced one-quarter per cent. at the close of the year, to continue throughout this quarter. The reduction took place under the recognized sliding scale.

San Francisco.—Stablenen's union has decided to start a campaign for the unionizing of all men in the stables of the city.

Chicago.—Building contractors of Chicago at a secret meeting unitedly agreed to refuse the demands of all bodies of organized labor in the building trades which have asked increased wages. The action was the result of a long discussion. It was taken in spite of the fact that some contractors had already agreed to sign up the new wage scales with a number of unions. The new wage scales of the steamfitters, the junior steamfitters, the laborers, the sheet-metal workers, the structural iron and steel workers, the bricklayers, the tile layers, and gasfitters all came up for discussion. Contractors representing the various trades were present. Each reported that his firm was willing to turn down the demands if the others would stand with them. "Union men could not have made their demands at a time more suitable to us," said one contractor. "We are in a position now to refuse the demands and to beat the unions down if they attempt to enforce them by strikes."

Paris, France.—The strike of the telegraph operators in this city ended as suddenly as it began. The operators yielded before the energetic attitude of the government, which threatened instant dismissal unless work was resumed, with the loss of state servant privileges. For several hours the city was cut off from telegraphic communication with the outside world, a general strike occurring following a quarrel between a sub-chief and the men. This was one of the disorderly incidents at the central telegraphic bureau of the post office. The government lost no time in placing guards in the various stations and in issuing the ultimatum.

New York.—Reports were again current in quarters said to be usually well informed on such matters that the United States Steel Corporation is contemplating a cut of from 15 to 20 per cent. in the wages of its 240,000 employees, to take effect April 15. E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, when asked regarding the truth of the report, said that the question of wage reduction had not been discussed yet by the board of directors, and that no cut in wages had been decided on by the management. He added, however, that he did not mean to say that a reduction would not be decided on ultimately.

Manila.—The writs of mandamus for habeas corpus sought for by Counsel Dominador Gomez, who was sentenced to four months' imprisonment in Bilbilid for inciting a strike, have been denied, and the convicted labor leader has been taken to the prison. Large crowds gathered at the police court headquarters, but there was no demonstration on the streets.

Toronto, Canada.—The profits of the Toronto Labor Temple Company for the first three months of its existence amounted to \$1,100, and prospects are that this will be increased during the second quarter. The unions that own stock will receive a dividend thereon. An offer of \$1.20 per share was made last month for stock, but no one would sell.

Mahanoy City, Pa.—Regardless of what action will be taken at the forthcoming tri-district miners' convention at Scranton, the operators, it is said, will post notices at the various collieries of this district signifying their intention to renew the present agreement, which the employees will be asked to sign before its expiration.

Phoenixville, Pa.—A reduction of ten per cent. in the wages of the employees of the Phoenix Iron Company went into effect. About 3,000 men are affected. All departments except the draughtsmen and general office force are included in the cut. The Phoenix Iron Company is one of the biggest of the independent concerns. The large plant here has been improved and enlarged in the last year, but this winter has been the dullest the town has felt for many years.

Chicago.—Anti-graft legislation, aimed at the employer as well as at the recipient of a bribe, is under consideration by officers of the Chicago Federation of Labor. A bill fixing criminal responsibility upon the bribe-giver is now in process of preparation.

New York.—According to a decision of the Building Trades Council of Greater New York, the Grave Diggers' union does not come under the head of building trades, and they were, therefore, refused admittance to the council.

London, Eng.—The women operators of the trunk telephone department at the Leeds general post office have organized.

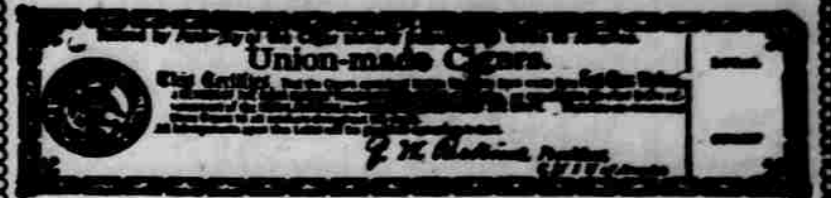
Ottawa, Canada.—The Dominion government has ordered an increase of \$150, about \$3 a week to the civil servants of every department, on the permanent staff of the inside service.

Ottawa, Canada.—Canada has 1,593 trades unions, 31 federations of trades unions, and 43 trades and labor councils.

Jacksonville, Fla.—An effort will be made in Florida to reorganize the alligator catchers' union, disbanded last year.

Boston, Mass.—The boot and shoe workers of Boston have formed a local organization.

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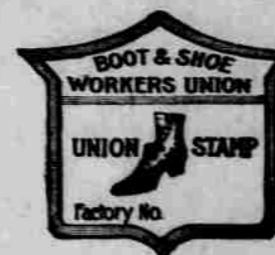
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