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In Labor's Realm

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

New Orleans.—The southern child labor conference at its session here adopted resolutions embodying a number of important recommendations for legislation on the subject of child labor in the south. The following are the recommendations in substance: The employment in factories of no child under the age of 14 years. The employment in a mine or quarry of no child under the age of 16 years. The employment of no child under the age of 16 years in any gainful occupation except agricultural and domestic service, unless such child can read and write simple sentences in the English language. That no boy under the age of 18 years, except in agricultural or domestic service, be employed between the hours of seven p. m. and six a. m. An eight-hour day law for children under 16 years of age and for all women. Employment under the certificate plan. The employment by the state of proper officials for the inspection of all mines and factories, with the power to prosecute violations. Thorough sanitary and safety regulations. The conference was made a permanent organization.

London, Eng.—The agreement concluded in England between ten of the largest trade unions combining the semi-skilled and unskilled workers, generally termed "laborers," in numerous grades of industry, some of them of large extent, is an event of some importance, and may have far-reaching results. The aggregate membership is stated to be over 100,000 men. The combination comprises many of the more aggressive trade unions, and some of them are, or were, urgent for what is called "sympathetic strikes." It is proposed that there shall be a mutual recognition of each other's cards of membership, the transfer of members from one society to another in cases of change of employment, and mutual help in all cases of dispute.

New York.—It is definitely announced on the best of authority that a cut in wages would be made by the various subsidiary companies making up the United States Steel Corporation. There will be no wage cut by the corporation itself. The subsidiary companies of the steel corporation have been holding back their announcement of wage cuts with the purpose of letting all the independent companies do their cutting first. This has not only the advantage of letting the independents accumulate the brunt of the odium for wage reduction, but insures that there will not be an exodus of skilled combine workmen into the independent mills.

Memphis, Tenn.—A thoughtful discussion is being indulged in by some of the older heads in the trades union movement about the question of a wider publicity of the inner workings of labor organizations. The fact has impressed itself on them that much of the antagonism manifested by many otherwise fair-minded citizens, who are unquestionably in favor of the moral uplift of the community, but who continually oppose labor unions, are actuated in this opposition by a misconception of the purpose and principles of the unions, which has been fostered and developed by the unions themselves in conducting all business behind closed doors.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Many pastors have promised to help the grocery clerks in their movement for a shorter work-day and Sunday closing.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—A co-operative company has been organized by workingmen. The name of the company is the Brooklyn Mechanics' Co-operative Company, and the announced object "to start operations for mutual benefit."

London, Eng.—The awards of the umpires in the coal trade are adverse to the miners, both in Scotland and South Wales. In the former the reduction is 8 1/2 per cent. In South Wales the reduction is 5 per cent. It is said that the suggestion of the coal owners for a further reduction shortly was not encouraged by the independent chairman of the conciliation board.

Boston, Mass.—Progress is being made in the final adjustment of the bottlers' and drivers' agreement. The main terms were decided when the increased wage and general better working conditions agreement was signed for brewery workers' unions 14 to 29 week before last, but some working details were left to be adjusted in the bottlers' and drivers' case.

El Paso, Tex.—Work is being done in the matter of unionizing the brewers here.

London, Eng.—The last report of the British Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners is still unsatisfactory from the workers' point of view. The total membership was 61,783. Of these 8,663 were unemployed, 6,744 being in receipt of donation benefits. The total on the sick list was 1,934, and on superannuated benefit 2,907.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Among nut and bolt workers of Pennsylvania the returns of the chief factory inspector show the fatal accident rate during ten years to have been 5.4 per 1,000 and in miscellaneous steel and iron work 4.3 per 1,000.

Mahanoy City, Pa.—All doubt as to a lockout at the mines was removed by the announcement that the collieries of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Company in the Mahanoy district will continue operations after this date until further notice. The Mill Creek Coal Company and the Dodson Company have decided to pursue a similar policy.

Washington.—As a result of a two days' convention here a union label department of the American Federation of Labor was formed to promote union labels. Officers of the union label department were elected as follows: President, John B. Lennon, Bloomington, Ill.; vice-presidents, John F. Tobin, Boston; T. C. Parsons, Washington, D. C.; Max Morris, Denver; Owen Miller, St. Louis, and John J. Manning, Troy, N. Y., and secretary-treasurer, Thomas F. Tracy, Boston.

Atlanta, Ga.—The convict lease system has come to an end in Georgia, and about 1,200 felony convicts were transferred from the private stockades throughout the state to the respective counties in which their crimes were committed. There are about 3,000 misdemeanor convicts throughout the state in jails and on county farms, and these men of stripes will be put to work on the public roads. The end of the lease system and the transfer of the felony convicts from the private stockades mean employment for about 1,500 free laborers in the various lumber mills, fertilizer plants, brick plants, etc., that have employed convict labor.

Lebanon, Pa.—There will be no strike here of iron workers who will continue at work under the reduced wage scale on the basis of from \$4.50 to \$3.75 a ton for puddlers in the local mills. James B. Mincher, vice-president of the Eastern Division, Amalgamated Steel and Tin Workers, in charge of the strike at Reading, addressed a meeting of local iron workers, urging them to better conditions by the adoption of a sliding scale of wages. More than a thousand men will be affected by the reduction at the American, Lebanon-Valley and West End Iron plants.

Plainfield, Conn.—Discarding the advice of H. E. Hibbard, secretary of the National Textile union, to return to work, and an intimation by him that the national body would not support the strike, the 300 textile workers who struck at the Lawton Cotton mill because of a dispute between the mill authorities and some of their number over cleaning their machines, voted at a mass meeting not to return to work, but to fight the issue to the end. Mr. Hibbard had advised them to return to work and to let the dispute be taken up with the mill authorities by a committee.

Monaca, Pa.—One hundred and twenty employees in the Phoenix Glass Company's local plant struck and as a result the entire plant has closed indefinitely and 400 persons are idle. The strike is due to a difference regarding the price lists for blowing chimney ware. The Phoenix Company is paying according to the conference agreement, but there is a dispute as to what the agreement really means.

San Francisco, Cal.—The Journey-men Stone Cutters' union has under consideration a proposition to establish a sick benefit fund.

London, Eng.—In Great Britain there are nearly 2,000,000 trade unionists.

New York.—A settlement of the long-standing differences between the soft coal operators of the Pittsburg district and those of West Virginia was discussed at a meeting of soft coal interests here. The claim has been made by the Pittsburg interests that they were being discriminated against in the matter of freight differentials. It is believed the railroad companies are inclined to make concessions.

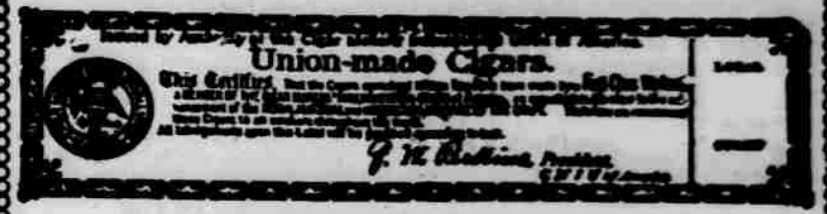
Lebanon, Pa.—The Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company posted notices which announced a readjustment of wages. The reductions correspond to those at other plants. The Smet Solvay Company also announced a reduction of ten per cent. at the coke plants. The Cornwall ore banks at Miners' Village posted notices of a ten per cent. reduction.

Worcester, Mass.—Worcester labor unions have raised \$2,000 to sustain the family of Frank McGee, the union iron molder official of that city, who has been sentenced in Connecticut to one year's imprisonment in jail for an alleged violation of an injunction.

Atlanta, Ga.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers will hold its annual convention in this city May 10.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—A new plan for dealing with the mine workers if their committee fails to sign an agreement after the conference is now being considered by some of the coal operators and is meeting with much favor. It is to reduce the wages of all classes of workers and at the same time announce a reduction in the price of coal. This, the operators say, they believe will bring the mine workers to the point in one way or the other, either in inducing them to sign the agreement which has just expired for three years more or making them decide to order a strike.

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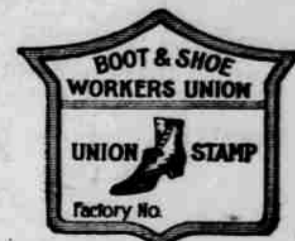
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