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In Labor's Realm

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

Indianapolis.—New combinations and uses of materials in erecting buildings frequently cause disputes as to jurisdiction among building trade unions. The introduction of metal lathing was one of the many examples of this, and another example is lying on the desk of Frank Duffy, general secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, at international headquarters in this city. This particular exhibit is in the form of a corner sawed from a door. A casual glance at it would not reveal anything out of the ordinary, as it looks simply like a piece of an oak door, but a second glance discloses the fact that it is hollow, made of sheet metal and lined with asbestos. The fact that these doors are made of metal has caused a question of jurisdiction to arise in the east between the carpenters and the sheet metal workers' organization as to which organization should hang such doors. And this is the reason that, as an exhibit, it is reposing on the desk of Mr. Duffy.

Springfield, Ill.—Senator Jones' bill which seeks to correct certain employment agency abuses and give greater protection to applicants for work was passed by the senate. Two years ago a similar bill was passed by the house, but was killed in the senate. It now goes to the house in a form modified from that in which it was successful in the lower branch of the last legislature, but still containing the general principles of the former measure. The measure aims to prevent agencies from charging fees in excess of those allowed by law by various subterfuges, to prevent the use of "blind" advertising by such agencies, and to secure for applicants for work a fair return for money given the agency. The bill provides that no person shall conduct an employment agency unless licensed by the state board of commissioners of labor.

Washington.—President Gompers and the executive officers of the A. F. of L. had a conference with President Taft at the White House. They presented a brief outline of the legislation labor would like to have enacted. President Taft promised consideration of the subjects. The labor officials especially desire to have the Sherman anti-trust law amended with reference to the provision that affect the right of labor to strike and boycott; to secure legislation which will prevent the abuse of the power of injunction by courts, to secure a stricter enforcement of the eight-hour law on all government work and to have enacted a government liability law which will provide for the payment of damages to workmen injured on government work.

Chicago.—The railway telegraphers and the interstate commerce commission won an important victory in the federal court when Judge Landis decided that the Santa Fe road was violating the so-called nine-hour law. By the decision the contention of the government was upheld to the effect that under the new law regulating the hours of labor of telegraphers the nine hours which they are permitted to work in the 24 must be continuous. The court also held that "a station operated continuously day and night" in reality meant a station which was kept open for the greater portion of the 24 hours.

Hot Springs, Ark.—Carpenters have formed a club for the purpose of studying craft problems.

Washington.—The headquarters office of the metal trades department, American Federation of Labor, is planning a national campaign of organizing which is expected to result in bringing into the department all unions working in metal. Leaders in all the metal trades are realizing more and more the necessity for closer affiliation and co-operation, and this new department of the American Federation of Labor promises the medium through which the necessary organization can be accomplished.

Boston, Mass.—Boston Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' union has approved the plan of Boston Typographical union that a fund of \$25,000 be raised by the Boston labor unions and deposited in some local savings bank as a guarantee reserve fund for the bank to open a department of savings bank insurance and old-age annuities.

Chicago.—An agreement has been signed between the iron league and the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' union which clears up the last of the wage disputes among the building trades. The iron-workers, who were receiving \$4.80 a day, have been granted \$5 a day, effective May 1.

New York.—An unusually large number of the labor organizations throughout the country took part in the observance of labor's memorial Sunday, which this year came Sunday, May 9.

Boston, Mass.—Last week one local employer, who has previously employed only nonunion men, applied to Boston Coopers' union, No. 53, for men and signed an ironclad union agreement.

Washington.—According to the report of the United States commissioner of labor, women in buying for the family spend from 69 to 70 per cent. of the total earnings.

Philadelphia.—John Mitchell, second vice-president of the A. F. of L. and ex-president of the United Mine Workers' union, addressed the Pennsylvania legislature on trade unionism. He said that wage agreements had to be made collectively by wage-earners, and quoted President Taft's views on that question in support. A strike is a method of bargaining, Mr. Mitchell said, quoting Abraham Lincoln's speech at Hartford in 1860 on that phase. Mr. Mitchell told in detail of the benefits secured by organized labor for the promotion of health, of the decrease of deaths from consumption where unions existed and the increase of deaths among non-union workers. That children are compelled to work while strong men chafe in idleness was an especial curse, he declared, and advised the regulation of child labor by the legislature.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The various local unions of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International union throughout the country began voting the first of the month on a proposition to establish the initiative and referendum system. The votes are to be received at international headquarters in this city not later than June 1, and if the proposition is carried it is to go into effect July 1. It will take two-thirds of the votes cast to adopt this proposition, and there is a feeling among those well versed in the matter that it will not carry. The proposed system would provide for the nomination and election of officers by referendum, instead of in convention as at present, and would also provide for the initiative and referendum for new laws and changes in the constitution.

Wilmington, Del.—To alleviate the hardships caused in many cases by the enforcement of the child labor laws in Delaware, the Consumers' league has established scholarship funds as a trial remedy. Where a family depends on the earnings of a child, and that child is obliged by law to discontinue work and attend school, the league plans to give the family a stated sum each month equal to the child's earnings until such time as the boy or girl can return to work.

New York.—A proposition to establish a death benefit of \$50 in the Coopers' International union, recently submitted to the subordinate unions for referendum vote, has been carried by a vote of 1,152 to 1,041. The general executive board is now preparing rules for the distribution of such benefits.

Fort Smith, Ark.—Judge J. V. Bourland issued an unusual order here when, in appointing R. A. Young receiver for the Hiawatha Smokeless Coal Company of Coaldale, Ark., he directed that the receiver employ only union men in the mine or sell it. Judge Bourland presides over the chancery court, and at a banquet of the Arkansas Federation of Labor here a few months ago said he never would grant an injunction against a labor union in the interests of a corporation.

Indianapolis.—As a result of the visit of delegates to the last session of the American Federation of Labor to the Union Printers' home, many other trades have the matter of establishing homes under serious consideration, and the present year will doubtless see plans matured for still other establishments on the lines laid down by the pioneer Union Printers' home.

Washington.—In view of the fact that in the east a very large number of teamsters have been displaced by chauffeurs who run freight autos that are used in the transportation of merchandise formerly carried on trucks, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has made application to the A. F. of L. to change its charter so as to admit chauffeurs, also for permission to change the name of the organization to International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Helpers.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Preparations are under way for the proper celebration of the silver jubilee of the Indiana State Federation of Labor. The jubilee will at the twenty-fifth annual convention of the organization, which will be held in South Bend, beginning the last Tuesday in September, and continuing three days.

Chicago.—An increase in wages has been given to the hodcarriers and building laborers. At a meeting of a committee of the union and the Masons and Builders association, a three-years' agreement was signed up to run from July 1 at a raise from \$2.80 to \$3 a day. The laborers asked for \$3.20 a day.

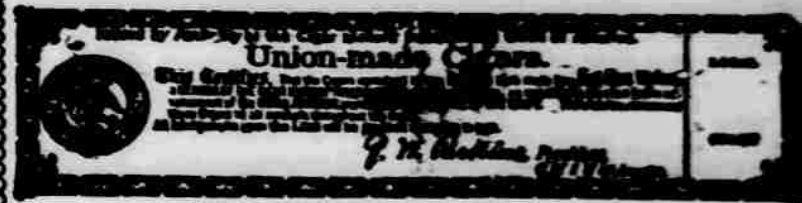
Berlin, Germany.—During a recent year the German labor exchanges found situations for 1,250,000 persons.

Portland, Ore.—There have been no strikes in this city for the past four years.

Boston, Mass.—Boston C. L. U., metal trade section, has decided to take steps to see if the laws regarding blowers in metal shops and the foundry sanitary law can be enforced.

San Francisco.—The bill prohibiting any one not entitled to do so from wearing a button of a labor union or carrying a union card has passed both houses of the California legislature.

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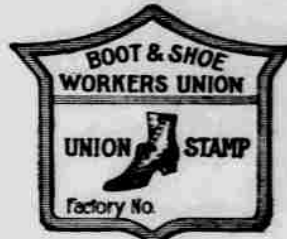
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