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In the LABOR WORLD



New York.—In his annual report submitted to Mayor McClellan, John N. Bogart, commissioner of licenses, declares that labor conditions in the city have not improved since the panic of 1907, and that the books of the employment agencies of the city show a decided falling off in the amount of unskilled labor employed in the city since that time. Speaking of the falling off in the demand for men in the technical and clerical occupations who are paid a higher salary than \$12 and \$15 weekly, Mr. Bogart says the agencies explain the situation by saying that during the financial depression of last year the lower salaried men were dismissed and the slight improvement in business has caused some of the employers now to begin the experiment of filling their places.

Reading, Pa.—The Reading Company's shops in this city and on the system are to work longer hours. The men at the locomotive shop, who have been working 36 hours a week for a long time, will go on 45 hours. The car-shop men, who have been making 45 hours a week, will work 50 hours. The officials have issued orders to hire 300 additional men at the various repair shops on the system. Of this number, Reading will employ at least 50. The increased hours of work are due to a general improvement in the condition of trade and the assurance of peace in the anthracite coal fields for at least three years. The increased hours at the shops in this city will be good news to the 2,500 people employed there.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.—The miners employed at the Canada West Coal Company's collieries at Taber, Alberta, are on strike. The coal operators met a deputation of the miners to draw up a new agreement, President Sherman of the district being present. As the men demanded a closed shop, the operators declined, and the men quit work. Ashewitt's mine at Lethbridge closed, the owner refusing to sign a closed-shop agreement. Dozens of steam-plov outfits are being held up in southern Alberta, not being able to procure coal. The city of Lethbridge is also hard pressed for fuel. The only mines working are at Fernie and in the district owned by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company.

Paris, France.—No disorders occurred in Paris May 1 nor were any disorders reported from the provinces. Dispatches received from Bordeaux, Marseilles, Rochelle and other places report that the strike is nowhere general, but that there were processions of the usual May day character. At Meru and Noeux-les-Mines the strike is complete, and at Calais a large majority of the workmen are out. Possibly a total of 75,000 workmen in the various trades abstained from work to attend the big meetings that were called in the populous quarter of Paris.

Albany, N. Y.—One hundred and twenty-five freight handlers employed by the New York Central railroad at West Albany and 40 at the Montgomery street freight house in this city, went on strike. The men demand an increase of wages from 16 to 18 cents an hour. They say that other freight handlers along the railroad between Albany and Syracuse are dissatisfied, and may join the strike.

San Francisco, Cal.—For the first time in many years a woman has been elected on the executive committee of the Labor Council.

Pottsville, Pa.—Orders were issued to put on 150 additional hands at the Palo Alto, Schuylkill Haven and Cressona car shops of the Philadelphia & Reading Company. The full capacity of the shops will be rushed, in order that there shall be cars adequate to ship the coal output from the collieries during the next six or eight weeks.

New York.—James W. Van Cleave, for many years president of the Citizens' Industrial association of America, the leading "union busting" organization, has resigned from that place because his personal affairs demand all his attention.

London, Eng.—The industrial death roll in England in 1908 is thus given by the home secretary: In mines, 1,343; in quarries, 92; and in factories and workshops, 1,042. These figures do not include the loss of life in the mercantile, marine, or on railways.

Chicago.—A strike of union bakers at five o'clock, which was practically settled in a few minutes. After the big wholesale bakers heard that the strike had been ordered they called a meeting and decided to pay the advanced scale.

Indianapolis, Ind.—By a referendum vote, complete returns of which are now at hand, the members of the International Leather Workers' union have decided not to hold a convention this year.

Boston, Mass.—Officers of the Boston Metal Trades council report that they are meeting with success in their efforts to have the blower law in polishing shops and the sanitary law in foundries enforced.

Oakland, Cal.—Inducements are being made to the carpet mechanics to again affiliate with the international body.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Something in the way of a novelty for the Journeymen Barber's International union is soon to take place. The novelty will be in the form of an international convention, and may be called a novelty because it is the first that the organization has held in five years. It will be held in this city beginning October 5, and will occupy about one week. The organization was formed in 1887, in Buffalo, N. Y., at a meeting that was attended by five men representing five local unions of barbers. The membership when formed was about 150, and the membership, in good standing, at the present time, is about 26,000. The conventions of the international were held each year until 1894, when it was decided that they should be held each two years. At a later convention it was decided that they should be held each three years, and since then there has been no international convention of the barbers. In support of this policy the argument is advanced that considerable money is saved. One of the matters that will be brought up at the Milwaukee convention will be a proposition to establish a home for barbers, something after the nature of the home of the International Typographical union. Jacob Fischer, of this city, international secretary of the barbers, visited the printers' home several months ago, and expressed much satisfaction with what he saw. He will make a report of his visit during the convention.

Detroit, Mich.—Representatives of the 15,000 members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers met here to formulate a new wage agreement with the manufacturers. The annual agreement expires June 30. The work of the convention will take a large part of this month and then a conference committee will be sent to meet a conference committee of the manufacturers. President T. J. McArdle of the Amalgamated Association said that the manufacturers of steel and iron who cut wages during the recent depression were not signers of the agreement with the association.

Chicago.—About ten years ago the Order of Telegraphers adopted a mutual benefit feature that has added greatly to its strength and been of inestimable service to unfortunate members and those dependent upon them. Since the adoption of this feature the order has paid to heirs of deceased members more than \$470,000, and the mutual benefit department now has more than \$500,000 in its treasury. The general treasury of the organization is also in splendid condition.

Chicago.—Journeymen horseshoers to the number of 400 in the city have asked the international executive board of their union to sanction a strike, as their employers have refused to advance the wage scale. The men employed as firemen now receive \$4 a day and firemen are paid \$3.50 a day. The horseshoers have demanded a flat scale of \$4 a day for both classes of workmen. The horseshoers have not had a strike in the past 17 years.

New York.—The plans of the Workmen's Education Association of the Bronx, for the erection of a labor temple to cost \$100,000, are completed, and as soon as the building lots which the committee has acquired are paid for, it is said the work on the temple will be commenced.

Pittsburg.—The street railway strike with which Pittsburg has been threatened for several weeks has been abandoned. The demand of the men for an increase in pay was withdrawn. On the other hand, the company offered to continue the present scale and make certain changes in working conditions which were demanded by the men.

Paris, France.—The government's project to pension servants of the state railways has been completed and presented to a parliamentary commission. It provides for the retiring of engineers and firemen over 50 years of age who have been 25 years in the service, on half pay, and it gives pensions to disabled men who have 15 years of service to their credit.

Chicago.—The International Tailors' union has held only two conventions in 16 years, the last being held in Bloomington four years ago. There is a move under way to obtain the enactment of a law providing that conventions be held at Bloomington every four years, where the headquarters of the international are located, and where these gatherings can be held at less expense to the general organization than elsewhere.

London, Eng.—The Oldham engineers will oppose the proposed reduction in wages in that district. The employers had amended their proposal to 1s a week on time wages and 2 1/2 per cent. on piece rates. The subject is, however, to be put before a mass meeting of the members. About 5,000 are affected.

Chicago.—Cement sidewalk layers are demanding a wage increase from \$2.80 to \$3 a day and will meet their employers in conference to take the question up. It is said that the controversy will be settled without a strike.

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