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AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA



William Woodville Rockhill, who has been selected by President Taft for the post of ambassador to St. Petersburg, is the present minister to China. He has won laurels in the diplomatic service of the country under various administrations, and his coming promotion will be generally approved.

the Smithsonian institute.

He has been third and first assistant secretary of state, minister to Greece, Roumania and Servia, director of the bureau of the American republics, and was special commissioner from the United States to China following the Boxer troubles.

Besides being a diplomat and an explorer, Rockhill is a writer of interesting sort, and has six or eight volumes of excellent character to his credit. For the most part these deal with the people, manners, customs and history of the least known Asiatic lands.

"PRESIDENT" LEE NOW.

W. G. Lee, Cleveland, was elected president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. The title is changed from grand master.

CHOOSE JACKSONVILLE.

The Order of Railway Conductors at their recent convention in Boston, chose Jacksonville, Fla., as the place for the next biennial convention.

In Labor's Realm

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

Milwaukee, Wis.—"The general tendency to-day is to form a closer relationship between employer and employes and prevent strikes," said National Organizer Kennedy of the plumbers. "There is absolutely no trouble which can not be settled. It has been proven again and again that both sides can meet in peaceful conference and adjust their differences without the men being forced to go on strike to gain their end. In all of the working and wage agreements made by the plumbers, wherever possible, it is stipulated that whenever differences arise committees from both parties should meet and adjust them. We have found this to be beneficial to the employers and to the men."

East St. Louis, Ill.—Judge Francis M. Wright of the United States district court rendered a decision in which the constitutionality of the employers' liability act was upheld. The question arose in a suit against the Terminal Railroad association and attorneys for the defendant. The matter will be fought out to the supreme court of the United States. The decision is regarded by railroad attorneys and claimants for personal injury damages as important, as it eliminates the "fellow servant," "contributory negligence" and "assumed risk" pleas of the defense.

Philadelphia.—Four hundred elevator constructors went on strike in this city for shorter hours. The workers demand a half-holiday on Saturdays, thus making the week consist of 44 hours, instead of 48 as at present.

Chicago.—Work has been begun on the construction of 560 by-product coke ovens for the Indiana Steel Company at Gary, Ind. More will be added later. These ovens will supply ten blast furnaces with fuel and will consume 7,000 tons of coal daily. The Gary coking plant will take the place of those to have been built at Filbert, Ralph and Sarah, Pa.

Washington.—A mass-meeting of nearly all of the 2,400 women employed in the bureau of engraving and printing in this city was held to protest against the published statement that the National Civic Federation, through its women members, had appointed a committee to investigate the morality of the employees of the executive departments in Washington, and that the committee had determined to demand the dismissal of at least 50 women employed in the bureau.

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Federated Trades Council called a general strike of the building trades craft in Milwaukee breweries, affecting about 300 men. Nearly all the breweries laid off their carpenters, declaring they had not work enough to keep them employed. The men affected are electricians, millwrights, painters and some carpenters. A refusal to sign a new wage scale brought about the trouble.

Washington.—An organization that has become a part of the American Federation of Labor has been established in Washington. The new body is composed of representatives from all organizations that have a label, and the purpose is to promote the union label products in all parts of the United States.

New York.—The biennial session of the international upholsters' body will be held in this city in July. The delegates from the local union will be instructed to try to obtain the convention of 1911 for San Francisco, Cal.

Boston.—There was a decided falling off in 1908 in labor strikes, and the record for arbitrations was made that year, according to the report of the Massachusetts state board of arbitration and conciliation sent to the legislature recently. Applications for the adjustment of 140 controversies were considered, mutual adjustments were made in 13 cases, 24 were pending and 113 decisions were rendered.

Chicago.—A concerted effort is now being made to bring the Truck Drivers' union back to life. At the time of the great teamsters' strike in 1905 it had 6,700 members. After the strike the membership dwindled to almost nothing. It is now back to 2,500 and new members are joining at the rate of 50 to 75 a week. A new scale will be demanded when the present agreement expires next fall.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Settlement of all difficulties between the Pittsburg Street Railways Company and its 2,300 employees was made when the vote of the latter was announced. The vote was almost unanimous for settlement. The demand of the men for more pay was withdrawn, but their request for a better arrangement of working hours was granted.

Glasgow, Scotland.—Three Kinross miners were each fined ten dollars or 30 days' imprisonment for having matches in their possession in a colliery.

Washington.—Secretary Morrison will have a label chart printed in pamphlet form, giving a reproduction of the various union labels endorsed by the Federation of Labor.

South Memphis, Tenn.—Meat cutters in this city are about to be organized.

Minneapolis, Minn.—A local of railway steamfitters and helpers has been organized.

Washington.—Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor issued a statement announcing that 2,000,000 citizens of the United States are out of work. Mr. Morrison declared this to be a conservative estimate. He said that these were the figures agreed upon at an informal conference of the officers of the American Federation of Labor, held at headquarters, and in which President Gompers participated. This statement, he said, was the consensus of most careful estimates made by men who are thoroughly familiar with conditions of employment throughout the United States.

Baltimore, Md.—The striking machinists of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad at the Mount Clare shops here, at a meeting voted to seek a conference with Vice-President George L. Potter of the railroad in an endeavor to settle the differences between the strikers and the company. The chief point at issue is the establishment of the piece work system at the erecting shop at Mount Clare, which the men oppose. An extension of the strike to other shops of the company is threatened by the men if their demands are not granted.

Chicago.—Work has been begun by the Pullman Company on a \$3,000,000 improvement of the car shops at Pullman, which will make them the largest car construction plant in one unit in the world. The expenditure was decided upon by the board recently in the belief that by the time the additions to the works are completed, which will be in September, the company will be able to place the entire output of between 40,000 and 50,000 freight and passenger cars a year.

New York.—The plan of the women's auxiliaries has been tried and found practicable. A little over a year ago the Label Council of Women's Auxiliaries of Greater New York was formed with four auxiliaries. To-day there are 12, with two new ones in process of formation. These auxiliaries while yet small in individual membership, because the movement is a new one, have proved wonderfully effective in their work.

Detroit.—The strike of lake seamen, marine firemen, cooks and stewards will be a "nonresistance" conflict so far as physical force is concerned, according to plans announced by General Secretary Victor A. Olander of the Lake Seamen's union. In his strike report to the Chicago Federation of Labor he emphasized particularly that the union will tolerate no violence on the part of the strikers.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Because of the large amount of coal on hand, due to the overproduction during the winter, several of the larger mining companies issued orders suspending work at their washeries for an indefinite period. The operators also expect to close down several of their collieries within two weeks. The prediction is for a dull summer in the anthracite mining region.

Louisville, Ky.—Arthur Brown of Louisville, general foreman of the boiler department in the Louisville & Nashville shops, was elected president of the International Boiler Makers' association. Cincinnati won over Niagara Falls for the next meeting place by a close vote. A. N. Lucas, Milwaukee, is first vice-president; Harry D. Vought, secretary, and Frank Gary, treasurer.

Chicago.—In 1864 the Cigar Makers' International union was established.

Boston.—Boston ladies' tailors and dressmakers recently established a rule that no member could work overtime while there were members unemployed. Several members violated the rule. Recently they made their peace with the union by paying to the men and women unemployed at the time of the violation the full amounts they had received for all overtime work.

Milwaukee, Wis.—A meeting of plumbers, representing all of the unions in the state, will be held here the first Sunday in August to perfect a state organization of plumbers. National Organizer Kennedy will leave Milwaukee in a few days to visit all of the unions in the state and urge them to send representatives to the meeting.

Chicago.—Two hundred machinists employed at the plant of the Thomas Brass and Iron Company at Waukegan went out on strike as the result of a 20 per cent cut in wages. The factory, which is operated by Milwaukee capital, probably will have to shut down. Most of the strikers are union men.

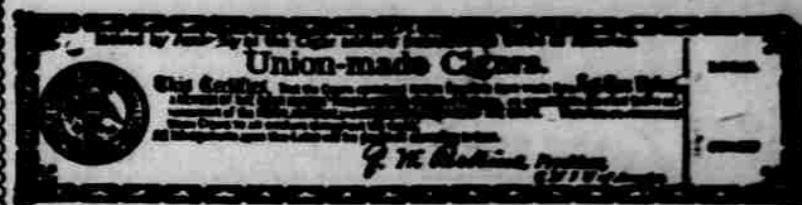
New York.—Grave diggers of this city recently formed a labor union.

London, Eng.—The report of the ninth annual conference of the British labor party, recently published, showed that at the close of 1908 there were affiliated 172 trades unions, with a total membership of 1,121,256; and two Socialist societies, with a membership of 27,465—aggregate, 1,148,721.

Washington.—The International Association of Marble Workers will hold its annual convention in this city June 7.

New York.—Newspaper and Mail Deliverers' union of New York city, organized nine years ago, now has a membership roll of 1,500.

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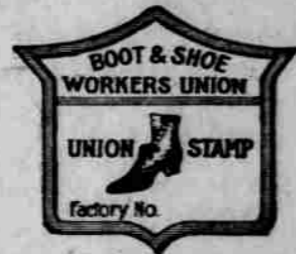
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