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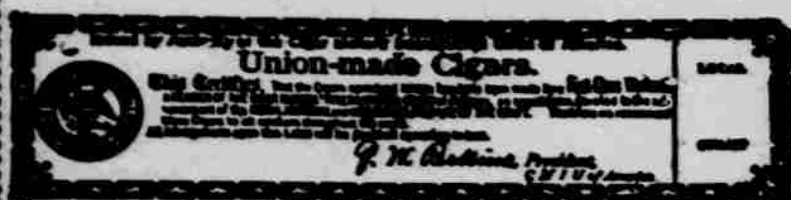
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In Labor's Realm

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

Buffalo, N. Y.—Frederick Almy, secretary of the Charity Organization society of Buffalo, in his annual report, declared that organized labor has done more than any other agency to raise the standard of living through higher wages and shorter hours. The report says: "The expense of this has compelled better methods by the employer and the better fed and better rested workmen have also done better work, so that there has been enough profit for all on the higher wage. Social workers have not allied themselves sufficiently with the trade unions for these ends. Better living and working conditions, through tenement and tuberculosis work, through better sanitation and safety appliances in factories, through child labor laws, playgrounds and baths, also help raise the standard of living; it calls for a general social reconstruction. The fight is on toward this end. Prudence requires it, for, as has been said, the disease of poverty is communicable in the human family. Charity requires it; and Christianity requires it, if the brotherhood of man is to be anything more than a joke."

St. Petersburg.—A general strike of the electric street car employees of St. Petersburg began. The men demand increased pay and a different arrangement of the shifts. The authorities declared they will not concede either point. Although the demands are purely economic, the strike has a political basis, and was arranged by the social-democrats to test their organization and the moral effect on workmen generally. The cabmen of the capital have taken advantage of the situation to collect double fares. No disorders have occurred.

Breslau, Prussia.—The city of Landshut, a wealthy town, advertises for clerks for the municipal administration, promising the following wages: "To young men, college-bred, the city offers 10 marks (\$2.50) per month for the first year of their service. In the second year the remuneration is 20 marks and in the third year 30 marks. Beginning with the fourth year clerks will receive 600 marks per annum, with increase of 100 marks per year until the maximum wage of 1,000 marks is reached.

New York.—The national employment bureau, New York, recently incorporated, proposes to extend its usefulness to other cities—Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati and San Francisco. The purpose of the bureau is to find work for the unemployed. No fee is to be charged the employer or employee until after the individual is engaged and proves satisfactory. Then a small fee will be charged, just sufficient to keep the bureau in running condition.

San Francisco.—This city, according to the Argonaut, has a larger percentage of people employed than any of the fourteen other largest cities in the United States—56.7 per cent, the nearest to which is Boston, with 55.3 per cent. The wage-earners in San Francisco and Los Angeles also earn a larger annual wage than in any other cities in the United States—\$651 and \$680 respectively—excepting Denver, with \$694.

Denver, Col.—It is a fraudulent use of the mails for any one in the interest of strikers to communicate by letter with strikebreakers offering them positions in other towns when such positions do not really exist. This was the decision of the federal court.

Chicago.—Chicago carpenters' union has adopted a plan whereby all apprentices in the trade are sent to the trades schools in that city for a period of three months in each year. It is said this move is doing much to check the tendency previously developed in the trade schools by which those who studied were induced to take the places of union carpenters at less than the prevailing union scale.

Copenhagen, Denmark.—An agricultural laborers' union in Denmark now has a membership of about 4,000, in 60 branches. As there are about 250,000 agricultural laborers in Denmark, the union has not been able to exercise any great influence on the rate of wages and working conditions.

Washington.—In view of the declaration of Bishop Candler of Georgia to act as arbitrator in the strike of the Georgia Railroad firemen, the arbitrators agreed upon David C. Barrow, chancellor of the University of Georgia, as the third arbitrator.

Augusta, Me.—In Maine the working hours of women and children employed in manufacturing industries have been reduced by legislative enactment recently from 60 hours to 58 hours a week.

Boston.—This city will be the next place of meeting of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America. Boston received 157 votes to 155 1/2 for Spokane.

Lynn, Mass.—Central Labor union recently decided that it was time for the organization to go into politics, and it is probable that the union will push a vigorous campaign next fall.

London, Eng.—Wages of the Cleveland ironstone miners for the current quarter have been settled, and the arrangement is that there is to be a reduction of one-half of one per cent.

Washington.—Attention of the Interstate Commerce Commission has been called by persons in the west, to the fact that the railroads are attempting violations of the eight hour law governing employment of telegraph operators, by discharging their operators, equipping their wires with telephones instead, transmitting all train orders by telephone, and then working the operators twelve hours instead of eight. Numerous cases have been cited where the roads employed two operators 12 hours each day, before the eight hour law passed; put on a third and made the trick eight hours when the new law took effect, and then, when the telephone equipment was in, they discharged one and went back to the original plan. The Interstate Commission held that the law applied as well to the telephone as to the telegraphic transmission of orders. The railroads paid no attention, and now, on a careful investigation of the law, it develops that the word telephone is actually used in it. Neither the railroads nor the commission apparently knew this.

Chicago.—Judge Abbott of the superior court issued a temporary writ enjoining District Lodge No. 1 of the International Association of Machinists from interfering with the employees of Chalmers & Williams of Chicago Heights. The union men have been on strike since May 15. The firm alleges that the difficulties between it and the union followed its refusal to agree to a closed shop. It is alleged that members of the union are annoying and threatening employees, as well as attempting to bribe them to walk out.

London, Eng.—It is stated that there is every probability of the factory operatives in the chain trade in the Cradley Heath district accepting a reduction of ten per cent. in wages. Negotiations have been carried on between the employers and employed, and the masters are understood to have agreed to certain terms submitted by the leaders of the men on condition that steps are taken to raise the wages of the outworkers, so as to bring those more into line with the factory rates.

Kansas City.—The hodcarriers' strike is over. At a meeting of the Builders' club it was decided to offer the hodcarriers 37 1/2 cents an hour, a compromise suggested by the state board of arbitration. Representatives of both organizations met and the union accepted the offer. The union called the strike about two weeks ago when the contractors refused to increase the carriers' pay from 35 cents an hour to 40 cents.

Christiania, Norway.—The National Federation of Trade Unions of Norway has existed since April, 1899, when five national unions and a few local societies, with a total membership of 3,494, made up the available force. On February 1, 1909, there were 19 central or national unions and 11 local societies federated, with a total membership of 47,497. Outside the national federation there are still six unions, with 9,365 members.

Cleveland, O.—A campaign to enlist all women's organizations in the state in the fight for the passage of bills to be introduced at the next session of the legislature for the betterment of the condition of women and children employed in factories and workshops has been begun by the Ohio Federation of Labor.

Indianapolis.—In the Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine, the official journal of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the matter of a more nearly complete organization of locomotive men is discussed. It is pointed out that there is at present nothing more important to the brotherhood and each of its individual members than complete success in the work of organization.

London, England.—In Great Britain a child may begin working in a factory or above the ground at a mine when 12 years of age, but must attend school regularly half time; at 13 years of age he may begin working full time under certain restrictions. From 14 to 17 years of age, inclusive, he is a young person in the eyes of the law.

Columbus, O.—These officers of the Train Dispatchers' Association of America have been elected: President, D. T. Tillman, Youngstown, O.; vice-president, E. G. Hagner, Reading, Pa.; executive committee, J. D. Harrod, Columbus, O.; W. H. Halter, Williamsport, Pa.; E. J. Mengel, Sunbury, Pa.; and E. A. Straubner, Salamanca, N. Y.

Indianapolis.—Miners in the middle western states are agitating the question of establishing jointly with the operators an old age pension system. Some also want the state to take an interest in the matter and found homes for old incapacitated craftsmen.

Boston.—B. & M. R. R. has restored the cut of 10 per cent. in salaries of over \$100 a month made 15 months ago. At that time it was urged that the train service and other employees also accept a temporary cut of five per cent. in wages. They refused and it was not forced.

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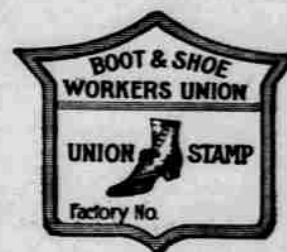
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