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The Mayor of Boston has addressed a letter to the head of every city department inaugurating the Saturday half holiday without reduction in pay. Where this particular half holiday conflicts with the public business another day is to be selected.

The Teamsters employed by the St. Louis, Mo. Transfer Company have secured an advance in wages.

Electrical Workers of Indianapolis, Ind. have been granted an increase of 2½ cents per hour.

Evil in Neglected Legislation.

In Belgium, where education is not compulsory, 21 per cent. of the working people over ten years of age can neither read nor write.

ACTION SUSPENDED.

Executive Activity to Add Postage Burdens to Trade Union Publications Temporarily Cases.

In an interview recently the President stated to an official of one of our international unions that no further action would be taken by the post-office department in regard to changing the status of publications now classified as secondclass matter until report was received from the commission appointed to investigate this subject. Much concern has been felt on account of the attitude of the department regarding publications of the character mentioned, and if the department had put into operation its contemplated regulations trade union publications now enjoying the second class privilege would have either been crushed or materially handicapped. Opposition to the department's plans reached such a stage prior to the adjournment of the sixty-first congress that it authorized the appointment of a commission, with the instruction that it report the findings of its investigation not later than December, 1911.

The supreme court of Kansas recently handed down a decision that the eight hour law of state applies to all work performed on municipal plants.

Four unions allied with the book-binding industry in St. Louis, Mo., received a substantial increase in wages on April 1, 1,000 members being affected.

SWAMPED WITH MAIL.

Answers to Senator La Follette's Circular to the Railway Mail Clerks Immense in Number.

Although but a short time has elapsed since Senator La Follette sent out his letter of inquiry to the railway mail clerks answers are coming in at the rate of several hundred a day. The senator's offer to assist them if furnished the information necessary has struck a responsive chord. The matter affects these clerks' right to organize.

If answers continue to arrive at the present rate a very large per cent of these employes will emphasize the opinion heretofore held that if given an opportunity 90 per cent of them would seek membership in the American Federation of Labor. The government officials are beginning to realize now that they have attempted a difficult task in their effort to deprive workmen the right to associate themselves together for the purpose of improving their conditions.

Pathetic letters have been constantly coming into the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor reciting acts of intimidation, coercion and other forms of tyranny on the part of superintendents and other officials of the railway mail service. Many men have been laid off, victimized and otherwise mistreated. Definite action will be inaugurated within a short time to get the whole matter before the extra session of congress.

DEMAND INCREASED WAGE.

Federal Employes Receive Active Assistance of Citizens of the District.

Plans have been matured whereby organized and systematic effort will

be made to increase the wages of the employees. Owing to the stringent regulations and reduction in wages has been effected. The increased cost of living an actual pension for many years, and with taken place in the amount of compensation of the government. No change has employees of the various departments into operation by a former administration and continued by the present, the employes themselves are prohibited from making an effort to readjust their wages to conform to their actual necessities.

The effort now being made will undoubtedly result in the final rescinding of the obnoxious rule prohibiting federal employes from organizing, thus opening the way whereby they will be free to exercise their own methods in securing increased wages and improved conditions.

GOOD FOR VERMONT.

Some Splendid Labor Legislation.

Washington, April 15.—That the trade unionists of the country are becoming alive to the influence which they can assert along legislative lines is illustrated by the accomplishments of the Vermont State branch of the American Federation of Labor. It is not an easy task to initiate new legislation into the legislatures of the older and more "sedate" states, for countries long settled do not change in opinions or methods rapidly. The officials of the state branch therefore are entitled to much credit for the excellent results accomplished during the last session of the Vermont legislature. The sum total gained can best be told in the language of our informant, secretary of the state organization, Alexander Ironside:

"As a result of organized effort there was enacted an employers' liability bill, voluntary compensation plan on lines adopted in New York State; a valuable amendment to the child labor law, making it the best law in New England; a bill to amend the state constitution, giving the legal voters the right to say whether compulsory compensation should be legalized. We were also successful in de-

feating a bill designed to establish compulsory arbitration. We are well pleased with the fruits of the session.

TAFT OBDURATE

Chief Executive Still Inveighing Against Recall of Judges Provision in Arizona Constitution.

The president is still vigorously opposing the section of the Arizona constitution which provides for the recall of judges. From statements emanating from the White House it is gleaned that he can reconcile himself to all other enactments in the organic law of the new state save the one mentioned. But even though this at the present time seems to be an insurmountable objection to a ratification yet the president may be unwilling to disapprove it solely because of the incorporation of this provision.

President Taft has held several conferences with Attorney General Wickersham and other members of the cabinet on this question. To Chairman Flood of the house committee on territories and Representative Houston of Tennessee he has outlined a scheme to eliminate the clause. The proposition was that the constitution pending before congress be adopted, and that later the people of Arizona, under the constitutional power, propose an amendment to the constitution permitting the recall to apply to all officers now mentioned except judges.

Prominent Arizonians now in Washington state that the people of the territory, while anxious to be granted statehood, would, if the recall of judges provision were again submitted to a vote, retain it by an overwhelming majority.

A full crew bill on trains has been adopted by the Washington state legislature and signed by the governor.

Minneapolis Hodcarriers have just gained a good increase in wages and bettered conditions.

Painters of Indianapolis, Ind. have just secured an agreement for two years, carrying an increase for the present year and an added increase next year.

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