

CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

System of Purchasing Successful In England.

In Manchester and the north of England generally the laboring classes of the population continue to favor co-operative societies or stores. This system of purchasing, with its attendant bonus or dividend, is an important factor in housekeeping as practiced in the industrial districts of this manufacturing center.

The numerous co-operative stores here are members of a parent wholesale society, from which all purchases are made direct. The co-operative societies have their own mills and warehouses, they own a fleet of steamers and import goods from all parts of the world. Co-operation in its various phases of industrial and provident societies comprised in the report of the chief registrar of friendly societies for 1909 represents a membership of 2,777,513, with total assets amounting to \$294,897,470, an increase of about \$10,949,625 during the year.

Of the societies which furnished returns for 1909, 250 were wholly "productive" in their operations, 901 wholly "distributive" 1,155 both "productive" and "distributive." The number of members at the close of the year was 2,613,142; the aggregate sales of goods amounted to \$547,064,229, a total exceeding that of any previous year. However, the business of certain productive societies is transacted almost entirely with the distributive societies in the movement. Duplication therefore exists in the sum before mentioned to the extent of the sales of these societies, approximately \$165,461,000 per annum.

The expenditure for salaries, wages and establishment charges in respect of productive departments amounted to \$17,294,183 and of the distributive departments to \$27,970,851. It will thus be seen that the societies are direct employers of labor to a very considerable extent. The balance on the trade of the year in 1,974 societies resulted in a profit of \$53,948,632 and in 240 societies in a loss amounting to \$153,309.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Summary of Bill to Create New Cabinet Officer.

A synopsis of Congressman Sulzer's bill to create a department of labor, with the secretary a cabinet member, gives a general idea of its character and scope. It is as follows:

"That there is hereby created and established an executive department of government to be called the department of labor, with a secretary of labor, who shall be the head thereof and a member of the cabinet, to be appointed by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate.

"That there shall be in said department three assistant secretaries, to be appointed by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to wit:

"A first secretary, whose duty it shall be to supervise all matters relating to labor engaged in manufacturing and transportation industries.

"A second secretary, whose duties shall be to supervise all matters relating to labor employed in mining and agricultural industries.

"A third secretary, whose duties shall be to supervise all matters relating to labor engaged in building and the mercantile industries.

"That there shall be a branch of this department to be known as the bureau of fisheries, under the direction of a commissioner of fisheries, who shall have charge of all matters relating to labor engaged in the fishing industry.

"That the secretary of the depart-

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ment of labor shall have the power to appoint boards of arbitration and conciliation in labor disputes whenever in his judgment the interests of industrial peace may require it to be done."

Numerous additional provisions are incorporated to facilitate the operation of the department.

Bill to Aid Labor.

The present special session of congress is likely to do a great many things for the benefit of the people. Among the measures already introduced in the house of representatives is an anti-injunction bill presented by Representative Henry of Texas, chairman of the committee on rules. This measure provides that no writ of injunction or temporary restraining order shall be granted in any case without reasonable previous notice to the adverse party and notice of the time and place of the proposed action. It is considered reasonably certain that this bill will pass the house.

Chicago Garment Workers.

Final adjustment of the recent garment workers' strike in Chicago, in so far as the firm of Hart, Schaffner & Marx is concerned, has been effected by the granting of a 10 per cent increase in pay to the employees of the tailoring and trimming departments and 5 per cent increase to the cutters. The employees are also permitted the right to bargain collectively and to have their grievances adjusted by arbitration, but the union is not recognized. The aggregate cost to the firm will be about \$200,000 a year.

German Shipyard Strike.

A strike and a lockout have stopped all work at the Schichau shipyard, delaying the completion of the battleships Oldenburg and Aegir. Recently 900 workers struck work, and the 1,300 men remaining at work refused to assume the duties of those who were out. Accordingly the directors of the company decided to lock out the whole force.

UNIONS A POWER FOR GOOD.

Ceaseless In Their Unselfish Efforts to Aid the People.

Labor unions are the most effective missionary bodies in the world, according to Mrs. Daniel E. Waid of the woman's board of home missions of New York. She addressed the first session of the fortieth annual meeting of the woman's Presbyterian board of missions of the northwest in Chicago recently.

"The church missions are forceful," said Mrs. Waid, "but they do not accomplish to a sufficient degree for the energy expended the results obtained

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by the unions in their ceaseless and unselfish efforts. The union leaders see the evils that they know will hurt the class of people in which they are interested and without delay take steps to abolish them. For the most part we church workers are not sufficiently on the alert to recognize the vices and wrongdoing that are hurting the unenlightened peoples at home and abroad and have to have the evils shown to us by having them revealed in magazine articles. When we finally do awake to the necessity of lending a helping hand we are badly handicapped and obtain only a fraction of the result we might have gained if we had acted quickly.

"The parade of union workers following the New York fire accomplished more by that act than any other body of missionaries could ever accomplish. On a cold, disagreeable day they exposed themselves to illness in a procession lasting four hours, in which they passed the offices and homes of the men who had failed to provide safety for the unfortunate employees that they might have more money in their pockets."

Trade Union Briefs.

About 10,000 union machinists are on strike in New York city for the eight hour day.

The reason the toiler does not acquire riches is because he works himself instead of working others.

The Pennsylvania Railroad company is preparing to withstand a long strike siege by the shopmen of the Pittsburg division.

O. M. Hilton, formerly of Denver, now of Pomona, Cal., will be one of the attorneys to defend John J. and James B. McNamara, arrested in connection with the Los Angeles Times and other dynamiting outrages.

Unless Judge Walter Bordwell, presiding judge of the supreme court of Los Angeles county, determines otherwise the trials of the three ironworkers under arrest for dynamiting will be held before him. It was in Judge Bordwell's department that the indictments were returned.

Trade Union Notes.

Machinists of Baldwin Locomotive works, Philadelphia, are agitating for an eight hour schedule.

Philadelphia plumbers have struck for \$4 per day, an increase of 50 cents, and double pay for overtime.

E. Boynton Armstrong of Lynn, master workman of the Cutters' National Trade assembly, Knights of Labor, has resigned.

The Alabama division of the A. F. of L. protested against the manner in which John J. McNamara was arrested in Indianapolis.

Sixty per cent of the adult workers of Great Britain receive less than \$7.50 weekly wages, according to statistics quoted in the house of commons.

Representative Reilly of Connecticut has introduced a bill providing an eight hour workday for mail carriers and clerks in first and second class postoffices.

J. L. Ford of Clinton, representing the Order of Railway Conductors and chairman of the railway legislative board for Illinois, was expelled from the floor of the Illinois senate recently. The entire labor lobby accompanied him.

New York's Labor Army.

There are now more than half a million members of labor unions in New York state, according to the returns of the state department of labor. The total on Sept. 30, 1910, was 482,000, and the increase since that time will exceed 30,000, bringing the total to date up to about 512,000. Union membership in the last decade has nearly doubled, and the proportion of organized labor to total population is more than 5 1/4 per cent.