



# BENWAY'S

1112-1114 O STREET

## THE HOME OF LOW PRICES

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### A UNIQUE DISTINCTION.

**Not a Printer in Stripes in the Virginia Penitentiary.**

The interesting statistical fact was recently developed that among the 1,200 or more convicts in the Virginia penitentiary there is not among them a printer. It seems that the editor of a weekly newspaper recently wrote to Governor Mann, making inquiry on the subject with a view to giving the man employment. The governor sought information at the penitentiary with the result that not a printer could be found among the felons in striped garb.

It might be asserted that this is a mere curious accident, inasmuch as there have recently been preachers, lawyers, physicians and men of every vocation among this large criminal class, and perhaps the condition is unique. There is a reason, however, why more printers are not criminals. In the first place, the trade or art is one in which a man need rarely remain long unemployed. The demands for printers is still great, even since the invention of several typesetting machines. The hand compositor cannot be dispensed with yet, and there is scope for much taste and judgment in the business of hand composition. In the first place, the printer is seldom a loafer. If he loafs or speers for a time he goes back to work again. Another reason for this immunity from criminality is the fact that the printer who has been at the business for any length of time is usually intelligent and well informed. Not a few men have acquired practically all the education they have at the case. They think as they work and read. Indeed, no man will become a competent printer who does not soon begin to understand what he reads. Generally the ability to speak and write correctly and flu-

ently comes to the man who stands all day picking up type and aligning them in a "stick." Life would be a dreary monotony to him if he did not comprehend what he was putting into type.

Intelligence, education and employment are antithetic to crime, just as ignorance and idleness are contributory to it. All honor to the calling whose thousands have no representatives in the felon class. May the vocation maintain its present high standard and prove an example and an inspiration to future apprentices to maintain the ethics of the "art preservative of all arts."—Danville (Va.) Bee.

### CONVICT LABOR RUINOUS.

**Prison Made Goods Drive Manufacturers to the Wall.**

In a brochure just published, dealing with the convict labor problem, the following excerpt is of interest:

"Reviewing the general question of convict labor as a competitive factor, it may be said that manufacturers consider such competition unfair and ruinous, demoralizing to markets and business stability, compelling the reduction in prices below a fair margin of profit and often even below the cost of production. Wages are forced to the lowest limit in a vain effort to lower the cost of production to that of the prison contractor. In some cases a deterioration of quality of material is used, and in others an entire abandonment to the prisons of the manufacture of certain grades of goods has become necessary.

"In the boot and shoe industry the testimony of manufacturers is that low cost of production of prison made goods—a cost decreasing steadily with the increasing efficiency of the convict, through the equipment of prisons with improved machinery—is enabling the prison manufacturer to drive the em-

ployer of free labor out of the market or force on him a reduction in the regular prices of many lines of goods."

### A Union's Good Showing.

W. D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, compiles in his latest year book many interesting facts. It shows that \$60,612.42 was paid out during the year 1910 for sick, disability and death benefits. The number of agreements with traction companies in force in 1910 was 151 as compared with 123 the year previous. Reports from 159 divisions show that nine employees were killed on running boards of cars, the number injured being seventy-six. These same 159 divisions report forty-seven members killed.

### Trade Union Briefs.

The Canadian trade and labor congress will hold a convention at Calgary on Sept. 11.

Twenty years ago there were two or three trade unions in Los Angeles. Today there are ninety-two.

The age limit at which a man may obtain employment in any department of the Erie railroad is now thirty-five years.

The nine hour law for women in the state of Ohio, commonly known as the Green law, is to run the gamut of the courts.

T. V. O'Connor, president of the International Longshoremen's association, has been re-elected to that position by acclamation.

The semiannual report of the United Hebrew Trades in New York shows that ten new local unions were formed and fifteen strikes assisted, only three of which were successful.

### Reject Socialist Resolution.

A resolution introduced at the annual convention of the longshoremen at Toledo, O., calling for the adoption of the principles of the Socialist party by organized labor was defeated by a vote of four to one.

### Trade Union Notes.

Samuel Gompers will be the orator of the day at the San Francisco Labor day celebration.

In 1898 the total number of railroad employees in this country was 874,558. Last year the total was 1,451,000.

The city council of Murphysboro, Ill., passed a resolution giving preference to union labor on all city work.

Organized labor cannot be crushed. So long as there is injustice there is work for organized labor to do.—Gompers.

The Danish parliament has passed a bill whereby absent seamen are entitled to participate in the elections for parliament by power of attorney or by sending in their votes.

T. J. Duffy, president for many years of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, has just been appointed a member of the employers' liability commission of Ohio.

Charles Dold, for the past thirteen years president of the Piano, Organ and Musical Instrument Workers' International union, has been re-elected to that position for the ensuing four years.

The workers in the Amsterdam diamond industry have a compact organization. According to one of its rules, no one can learn the diamond trade without the consent of the organization, and only children of workers or of jewelers are eligible to become pupils.