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### NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

Items of General Interest for the Busy Workingman and His Friends.

Almost 15,000 women work about the mines in the German empire.

There is a secret movement among Japanese workmen to secure better working conditions and more pay.

Officials of the Pennsylvania railroad say that while a ten per cent. advance of wages is being considered nothing definite has been decided on.

Twenty-nine charters were issued by the American Federation of Labor during the month of September as follows: Central bodies, 4; federal labor unions, 7; local trade unions, 18. Returns from 738 unions, with an aggregate membership of 70,700, showed that there were 3.2 per cent. out of employment in September. In the preceding month 2,045 unions, with a membership of 123,600, reported 1.8 per cent. out of work.

It has become known that the Textile council, representing the five textile unions of Fall River, Mass., has forwarded a request to the Manufacturers' association asking for a ten per cent. advance in wages. Wages in the textile industry are based upon the price paid for weaving a cut of 28-inch, 64 by 64 print cloth. The price at the present time is 19.80 cents and the price asked for is 21.78 cents, which was paid prior to 1903.

The total number of women engaged in gainful occupations in 1900 was 5,319,397, says the Technical World Magazine, which goes into interesting details as to the various callings, which this large body of women earned their bread, some of which are unique. At the rate of increase between 1890 and 1900 there cannot be short of 6,000,000 at work at present in various trades and occupations in the United States of America.

The Panama locomotive engineers' demand for an increase of \$45 a month to make their pay \$225 a month has been refused. It is said the engineers' committee was informally offered \$200 a month, provided an agreement was made for one year. This was refused. There has been talk of a strike, and the government has kept in its employ a reserve of native and Jamaican engineers, whose pay is \$45 a month. A strike of the engineers would completely paralyze canal operations.

Henry C. Barter, secretary of the international Longshoremen's association, has resigned his position and the resignation has been accepted by the executive board. Barter has been secretary of the association since its formation, and has done much to build it up from a few lumber vessels unloaders to its present proportions, embracing nearly 100,000 men in 40 separate and distinct crafts. He has threatened to resign a number of times when affairs did not go to his liking, but he has actually done it this time.

While the Iron Molders' union has recently achieved a number of victories in the contest it has been carrying on in various sections of the country against the National Foundrymen's association, the organization of the employers, there are 3,000 men still out on strike in 30 cities. Each of these is receiving seven dollars a week strike benefits, a total weekly expenditure of \$21,000 from the national treasury. The funds to carry on the conflict are provided through weekly membership dues of 35 cents for 48 weeks and 50 cents for the remaining four weeks. Eighty per cent. of the receipts go into the national treasury, providing a weekly income of \$25,000, more than sufficient to meet all strike benefit demands.

All yard and train-service men in the employ of American railroads now have united in demanding a flat increase of ten cents an hour.

In 1866 the first national labor congress was held at Baltimore on August 20. This body met annually in different cities for several years thereafter.

The wages of all employees of the Pennsylvania railroad system on lines east and west of Pittsburgh are to be increased probably ten per cent. Nearly 150,000 men will be affected. It is probable the increase will be effective on December 1. The increase will cost the railroad company \$1,000,000 a month.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is in a close race with the United Mine Workers for the largest membership. For the month of July the carpenters paid per capita tax into the American Federation of Labor for 172,000 members, while the miners paid for August on 199,956. In the convention of the American Federation of Labor votes are counted on the basis of one vote for each 100 members, so the carpenters and the miners will have something to say about shaping policies.

Negative replies have been sent by managers of all St. Louis lines and the Terminal association to demands of the switchmen for an eight hour day and an increase in the wage scale. They declare the former request impracticable, but are disposed to increase the scale.

The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad company switchmen's grievance committee, in session here, when their demands for increased wages and an eight hour day were refused by General Superintendent Clarke, agreed upon modified demands which will be submitted to Mr. Clarke.

Of the 43,000 men employed as switchmen the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen controls 23,000.

Indications are that the United Typothetae of America, which has waged a fight against the printers for more than a year, is only in the beginning of its troubles. The electrotypers have determined to go out for an eight-hour day on January 1 next. The printing pressmen and bookbinders have tried to make the electrotypers hold off until next May, when the three organizations would be ready to start a fight at one time. The pressmen are under an agreement which does not expire until next May. The electrotypers, however, refuse to put off their demands, so that it is apparent the typothetae is to have its hands full next year if it persists in refusing the shorter workday in the printing industry.

Reports received at the headquarters of the International Typographical union show that gradually the larger firms in the United Typothetae are weakening and signing the demands of the printers. They have had about all the fight that they want for awhile, and if the other trades make a concerted move it does not require much of a prophet to tell what the results will be. As it stands now it may be said that the eight-hour day has been established in the composing rooms throughout the country, and it looks as if it would extend to all other departments within a short time. The printers have borne the brunt of the battle alone and if the shorter workday is completely inaugurated within the next six months, they alone are entitled to the credit.

Frank M. Ryan, the leader of the iron workers, lived in Chicago for many years. He was business agent of the local iron workers and was able to give them many hours of his attention every day. Early in the '90s he was mayor of a Minnesota town, but gave up the position to take up the trade of



Frank M. Ryan.

ironworker. While in Chicago he began a fight against the steel trust which may have far-reaching effects. The steel trust has had many struggles with labor organizations, but the iron workers are the first of the trades outside of the plants of the corporation with which it has engaged in conflict. The iron workers have decided that they will not work for any member of the steel trust unless the latter employs union iron workers exclusively in building the new city of Gary, Ind.

The executive board of the Boot and Shoe Workers' international union has declared that the recent election was illegal and has ordered a new election of national officers. Complaints investigated by the board showed that there had been a great deal of ballot box stuffing and other practices not in accordance with the international laws. It would appear from the reports that the boot and shoe workers, in their desire for "reform" and "house cleaning," resorted to tactics which are anything but in line with the idea of genuine reform.

A referendum vote is being taken by the Interior Freight Handlers' international union on the place for holding the next convention in January. At the last convention Buffalo was agreed on, subject to a vote of the membership, but the indications now point to New Orleans being chosen. The freight handlers have made remarkable gains in the past year. Under the leadership of P. F. Flannery they have pursued a conservative policy, with the result that the membership has doubled, and wages all over the country have been increased during the past summer.

Salt Lake City has been chosen by the Brotherhood of Carpenters as the next convention city. The argument that the brotherhood in its 22 years' history had never held its convention west of the Mississippi river was the one which won for the Utah city.

Textile operatives employed on modern machinery to-day will turn off more production on an average eight hour day basis than they did 25 years ago on a ten hour day. Nevertheless, the hours of labor have been reduced little for the textile worker in comparison with the increase in speed of the machines they operate.

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