

# NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

**Boston.**—Sheet metal workers' helpers recently organized a union.

**Seattle, Wash.**—Drug clerks are joining the Retail Clerks' union.

**Houston.**—Several more shops have granted the bookbinders the eight-hour day.

**San Francisco.**—A movement is on foot in California to form a state council of carpenters.

**San Francisco.**—The Sailors' Union of the Pacific celebrated its twenty-second birthday recently.

**Montreal, Canada.**—The telephone girls have organized in affiliation with the Electric Workers' union.

**Chicago.**—Foundry laborers are making a national move to enforce the nine-hour day where it does not exist.

**Rome.**—The pope has decided to send a special missionary to Panama to study the character of the laborers employed on the canal.

**London.**—The British parliamentary labor party is endeavoring to bring about a closer unity of the miners' and other trade unions.

**New York.**—It is the intention of the International Photo Engravers' union to establish a fund for aid of consumptive members.

**Washington.**—Persons are not allowed to enter the Transvaal, South Africa, unless they possess £20, or have secured employment.

**Cape Town, South Africa.**—In practically all parts of Cape Colony the supply of labor in the building, engineering and other trades, especially that of carpenters, painters and bricklayers, is equal to or exceeds the demand.

**El Paso, Tex.**—The Western Federation of Miners has organized a union at Bisbee, Ariz., and issued an ultimatum to the companies that a strike would take place unless the union is recognized. Three thousand men are affected.

**Milford, Mass.**—All the stonecutters employed by three granite companies went on strike recently because of the refusal of the companies to grant them an increase of three cents an hour in wages and a Saturday half-holiday throughout the year.

**New York.**—The average union scale of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees is 23½ cents an hour, the average service day a fraction less than ten hours, and the average number of days worked a year 300.

**Portland, Ore.**—The cigarmakers' union initiated a movement some time ago to fix a uniform wage scale or bill of prices for the states of Oregon and Washington. At present each union fixes its own scale of wages, and the action contemplated is somewhat of an innovation.

**Chicago.**—Butcher workmen who tied up the meat packing industry throughout the country in 1904, and who finally suffered defeat in the struggle, have been organizing for several months and, it is said, are about to present new demands to the packers.

**Salt Lake City.**—Plumbers are on strike for a wage of five dollars a day. The pay heretofore was \$4.50. The Master Plumbers' association leaders say that if they must pay five dollars a day they will pay it to non-union men, and are advertising for such. The union plumbers have the situation well in hand and the non-union men as yet have failed to materialize.

**Boston, Mass.**—The cigarmakers' union has added a local sum to three-dollar-a-week-out-of-work benefit paid by the international to all unemployed members.

**Chicago.**—Railway clerks who are affiliated with the Freight Handlers' union have made a move to get a wage increase of 15 per cent. They are now holding conferences with the various freight agents and expect they will get an advance without much trouble. There are between 1,500 and 2,000 of the clerks organized and their wages average about \$35 a month.

**Great Falls, Mont.**—The machinists', the electrical workers' and the blacksmiths' unions, whose strike tied up the smelters of the Boston and Montana, as well as the mine of that subsidiary of the Amalgamated Copper company in Butte, signed a five-year sliding scale contract and all have resumed work. The settlement was on the same basis as that reached at Butte between the employers and the miners and smelter men. This assures industrial peace in the Montana mining world for five years at least, every union having signed the scale.

**Chicago.**—None but American citizens will be permitted to work as section hands on railroads if a new labor union, embracing all section hands employed on railroads west and southwest, succeeds in getting its demands granted by the general managers' committee.

**New York.**—According to the American Federationist, 947 labor unions, with a membership of 102,510, reported 2.3 per cent of such members without employment in January. In December the ratio of unemployed was 4.1 per cent, and in January, 1906, the percentage was 2.25.

**Portland, Ore.**—A strike has been declared at the lumber mills owing to the refusal of the employers to grant a raise in wages and to shorten the hours. The men demand \$2.50 for a nine-hour day. They have been receiving \$1.75 for ten hours.

**Pittsburg.**—Representing a combined membership of 50,000, nine unions in the metal trades have formed a Metal Trades council to replace the old Machinery Trades Alliance, which took in trades only intimately connected with machinery.

**Denver, Col.**—This city claims to be one of the first cities to solve the problem of successful union label agitation. The Denver Union Label league is only one year old, yet it is seriously considering plans to organize a national head for all label leagues, and is hopeful of making this city the national headquarters.

**New York.**—Thousands of workingmen in this city and vicinity are making preparations to enforce demands for better wages and working hours. Twenty thousand rockmen and excavators connected with the Rockmen and Excavators' union have decided on a general demand for 22 cents an hour for excavators and 30 cents an hour for rockmen.

Map showing the territory that would have been affected by the averted railroad strike.



The figures in each state show the number of men who would have been thrown out of work.

**Park City, Utah.**—The strike of miners in the Daly West and Ontario mines was settled. The differences arose over an order from the companies that the men should go to and from work on their own time. The settlement is a compromise, the miners going and coming on company time, but eating noon lunch on their own. Park City is an eight-hour camp.

**Chicago.**—The freight handlers are preparing demands to present to the railroads at the expiration of their present working agreements. The contracts with some of the railroads expire in June and others in July. The railroad managers are likely to oppose much of an increase, as they say the class of work performed by the freight handlers is unskilled and that it is easy to secure all the labor necessary.

**London.**—More than one-fourth of the men of England are cooperators. The following figures, gathered from the Cooperative Wholesale societies' annual report for 1907, shows the amazing growth of the industrial enterprise of the British working class: Number of members, 2,220,116; share capital, £29,337,392; loan capital, £18,255,546; sales for 1907, £96,263,328; net profits, £9,791,740; devoted to education in 1904, £79,693.

**Washington.**—Some of the labor leaders are much interested in forming women's trades unions and in establishing auxiliaries to their locals, which are to be composed of members of the fair sex.

**Cleveland, O.**—The wages of wheelmen and watchmen on lake vessels will be \$50 a month until Oct. 1, after which they will be \$65. Deckhands will receive \$30 and \$40, under the same conditions. No overtime will be allowed.

**Cleveland, O.**—All dangers of labor troubles on lake fleets this season were averted in the final settlement made by the Lake Carrier's association with the Cooks and Stewards' union. The cooks accepted the offer of the carriers, and an agreement was reached on the same advance as was paid the other men aboard ship. Cooks on steamers of over 4,000 tons will be paid \$86 per month for the full season and in boats of less than 4,000 tons they will receive \$75. Second cooks will get \$34 up to Oct. 1, and \$37.50 for the balance of the season. Porters will receive \$28 up to Oct. 1 and \$35 for the balance of the season.

**Berlin.**—Dockers in Germany increased their membership in 1905 from 5,900 to 6,500.

**New York.**—The long struggle between the Lithographers' International Protective and Beneficial association and the Employing Lithographers' association seems to be on the verge of settlement.

**Cleveland, O.**—Labor unions have a new scheme to build their labor temple. To add to the amount already raised it is proposed to have individual unions subscribe for a certain number of shares of stock each month.

## ERRATIC OLD RIVER

MISSOURI HAS RECORD FOR DOING QUEER THINGS.

Owners of Property Along Its Banks Have No Excuse for Suffering from Lack of Excitement—Case in Point.

There are rivers of all lengths and sizes and all degrees of wetness. There are river with all sorts of peculiarities and with widely varying claims to fame. But there is only one river with a personality, habits, dispositions, a sense of humor and a woman's caprice; a river that goes traveling sidewise, that interferes in politics, rearranges geography and dabbles in real estate; a river that plays hide and seek with you to-day and to-morrow follows you around like a pet dog with a dynamite cracker tied to its tail. That river is the Missouri, says a writer in the American Magazine.

This thing happened in Kansas City not many years ago: A party of men owned a strip of land along the Missouri river bank. It was not handsome land, but it was valuable for factory purposes. They were offered portly prices for it, but held on.

One day they noticed that the strip was getting emancipated. They held a hurried diagnosis with a surveyor's tape and found that half of it had been washed away. The next year half of the remainder had gone.

The men wanted to sell then, but the market seemed remarkably sluggish. The next year the river ate so vigorously that only a tiny strip about as wide as a piece of baby ribbon was left. The men were much depressed.

Suddenly the land began to increase. The Missouri had chosen the late manufacturing site for a place to deposit a fine 160-acre farm upon which it had foreclosed up the river. Inside of six months that strip of land contained 200 acres. The men were jubilant, but still they would not sell.

They wanted another 100 acres, they said. They strolled along the bank each day and urged the river, in proprietary tones, to build faster.

Then the river changed its mind once more and not only wiped out the extra 100 acres but the original 100 acres, every foot of it. The next year it built up 500 acres in the same spot, but they all belonged to the man who owned the ground behind the original plot. They have stayed there ever since—that is, up to last reports. For high financing and property juggling the Missouri makes a crooked lawyer look like a child. I hate to think what it would do for a man if it had a personal friendship for him.

### About Star Points on Coins.

"Few people, with the exception of coin collectors, notice such minor details, but it is a rather interesting fact to note that on one side of some of our coins the stars have five points, as upon the flag, while on the other side the stars have six," an official of the Washington mint recently remarked.

"In English heraldry," he continued, "a correct star had six or more points—usually six. When designs for the first American coins were made the heraldic usage was followed and the stars given six points. The flag of the nation was made up very largely from the coat of arms of the Washington family, in which, for some reason, the stars have but five points.

"On the obverse of our present quarter and half dollar the stars, 13 in number, are six pointed, while on the reverse they are five pointed. This difference is due to the fact that the reverse of these coins is simply a copy of the great seal of the United States, except that the clouds are omitted. On the great seal and on the seal of the president the stars are five pointed, while the seal of the house of representatives shows six pointed stars."

"Don't swap horses while crossing the stream."—Abraham Lincoln.

### A NEW STORE.

During the past season there has been established in Lincoln a store which is rather new to our city and shows plainly the signs of our great future as a real metropolis. The "Fashion," a women's outfitting establishment, has already made for itself a place among the women of Lincoln. A visit to this store will convince one of its up-to-date air, and carrying out well the name it bears, which is so essential to all women. The fact that it is represented in the East by a buyer of twenty-five years' experience in this line does not make it as exclusive as might seem at first blush. Everyone's wants can be supplied and it caters to all classes who wish the best.

The "Wageworker" wishes for the "Fashion" the future it deserves in taking this initial step in bringing the "East" to our city.

Remember the Lyric when planning your week's amusement.

### Decision in Rate Cases.

The Virginia state corporation commission has rendered a decision in the rate cases by which, after July 1, passenger rates on trunk lines are reduced to 2 cents a mile; on feeders to 2½; on certain minor roads they will be 3 and one or two lines 3½.

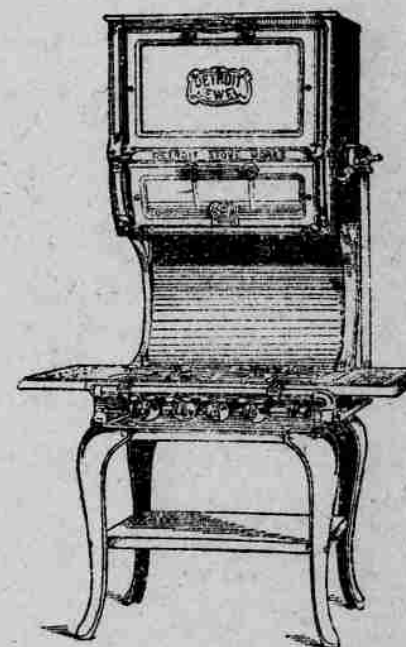
## On June First We Move

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