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COMMENCES

Saturday, Jan. 2

ENDS

Saturday, Jan. 9

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In Labor's Realm

Matters of Especial Interest To and Concerning Those Who Do the Work of the World

Pittsburg, Pa.—At a meeting of the independent window glass manufacturers of West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania in Morgantown it was decided to close down all their factories and remain closed indefinitely. About 2,500 stained window glass workers employed in the active factories of that territory will be made idle. The decision of the manufacturers was brought about by a demand of window glass workers for the abolition of the wage agreement and an advance of 25 per cent. over the present rate and the maintenance of the new rate as a flat scale for the rest of the year. The shut-down may extend to other districts, as the demand of the workers is not confined to one section.

Springfield, Ill.—Gov. Deneen has appointed Peter W. Collins, grand secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Edwin Wright, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor; and William M. Russell of the Chicago Federation of Labor to be members of the commission to investigate and report on necessary legislation for the health, safety and comfort of employees of the state of Illinois. The appointment of this commission was authorized by the last legislature, and its duties will be to investigate and advise the enactment of remedial legislation for the protection of the health and lives of the workers.

Fort Wayne, Ind.—General Manager Emmons of the Fort Wayne & Wabash Valley cheered the hearts of employes by restoring to them the wages and salaries paid before the panic set in a year ago. At that time the salaries of all who received \$40 or more a month were cut with the exception of the motormen and conductors. This cut has now been restored in view of returning business. W. H. Fledderjohann, president of the Decatur & Springfield Interurban, has just returned from Cleveland, where he paid off the last of a note for \$100,000 which was borrowed to complete the road.

Washington.—Representatives of officials and employes of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad were in executive conference with Chairman Knapp of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and Commissioner of Labor Neill, whom both sides had selected to arbitrate the controversy over wages and conditions of employment. Messrs. Knapp and Neill are not acting as mediators under the Erdman act, but as arbitrators, both sides having agreed to abide by their decision.

Fort Smith, Ark.—At Friday's session of the union miners of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas assembled here to probe charges against district officers of mismanaging a recent strike, the latter were exonerated of certain of the charges. During the session National Organizer Mooney of Missouri defended National President Tom L. Lewis, who he declared had been condemned by the convention. During his speech he broke down and wept.

Sheffield, Eng.—A serious strike is threatened in the engineering industries by reason of the employers' demand for a reduction of 25 cents a week in the wages of molders, to the number of about 1,200. At a mass meeting held, the men resolved to resist the reduction. A 25-cent advance was granted in October two years ago; the wages now are \$15.50 a week.

Melbourne, Australia.—In giving judgment in connection with the bakers' strike at Wellington, the New Zealand arbitration court held that the operatives' union was entirely responsible for the strike, and fined it £1,000, intimating that if the fine were paid within a week only nominal penalties would be inflicted on the men individually. If the union did not pay the court would inflict substantial penalties on the operatives who struck.

Washington.—Prof. Kobatsch of Austria, a recognized authority on labor questions and economics, recently issued a statement in which he sets forth that compulsory arbitration cannot be adapted to the economic and social conditions of continental Europe. He cites in support of the stand he has taken that in England, the most progressive industrial country in Europe, a proposal for compulsory arbitration was defeated by a majority of 660,000.

Boston.—The workmen of 25 big trades at the Charlestown navy yard have been granted a wage increase for 1909. The increase in many cases brings the yard wage up to the general trade union scale in effect outside the yard, and in some cases exceeds it.

Boston.—Trans-Atlantic steamship clerks' assembly wage scale has been adjusted after several months of conference. The agreement made provides for the hourly day wage, the old plan of increased night wages and double time payment for work between five and seven a. m. Another conference will be held April 1.

Berlin, Germany.—In 1901 the sum of \$27,608,000 was expended by employers in Germany for the direct aid of their employes. More than two-thirds of this was given as voluntary contributions by private firms and individuals.

Gary, Ind.—Six thousand men are employed in the new mills in the actual manufacture of steel. The first furnace was "blown in" December 21, and the event was the signal for general rejoicing among the workmen and residents of the city. Mary Louise Gleason, the 14-year-old daughter of Superintendent W. P. Gleason, had the honor of lighting the first fire. She was surrounded by a group of officials and was cheered by the hundreds of workmen who witnessed the ceremony. It was announced that other furnaces would be in operation within a few days and as rapidly as possible the working force in the mills will be increased.

Berlin, Germany.—With 60,000 persons in Berlin unemployed and the number constantly increasing, the executives of the city and officials of the Prussian government are trying to devise ways of dealing with the problem. Six weeks ago an official count was made, the idlers numbering 40,000. Unfavorable business conditions have increased this number by one-half since then. With the coming of winter great suffering is being endured by these people. All public works either begun or projected probably will be pushed to completion with a full force of workmen.

Washington.—Over 7,000,000 human beings in Great Britain are enduring hardships and want through unemployment and the General Federation of Trades' unions has advised all union men to refuse to work overtime, reports Consul General Wynne of London. The federation points out that for every skilled workman out of employment two unskilled men are workless. It urges the employment of surplus labor by national and municipal work and recommends the establishment of a national department of labor, whose head shall hold a cabinet portfolio.

Cleveland, O.—At the close of the first day of the strike of the National Window Glass Workers, enacted to enforce the adoption of the new wage scale, with a 25 per cent. increase, President Faulkner announced that six plants had signed. These factories include the American Window Glass Company of Pittsburg, the Patterson Window Glass Company of Cameron, W. Va., and plants at Fredonia, Kan.; Kane, Pa.; Shinglehouse, Pa., and Eldredge, Pa.

London, Eng.—The British home secretary has appointed a departmental committee to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the increase in the number of reported accidents in certain classes of factories and workshops and other premises under the factories acts, and to report what additional precautionary measures are, in their opinion, necessary or desirable.

Boston.—Chelsea city men's union committee last week requested the board of control to establish the \$2.25 a day wage in that city, and Somerville city men's union asked the officials of that city to pay the men for legal holidays, a custom generally followed by all cities but Somerville, it is claimed.

London, Eng.—The Canterbury conciliation board of New Zealand has recommended that the hours of farm laborers and farm hands should not exceed eight, except at harvest time, when ten may be worked. In America the farm hand works an average of 14 hours.

Washington.—According to their agreement with the Pressmen's union, made two years ago, all printing establishments here, members of the United Typotheta, granted to their employes, beginning on January 1, an eight-hour-a-day working schedule. About 70 per cent. of the other printing shops not in the united body, it is thought, will follow in the giving of the new schedule. This will bring the working hours of pressmen down from 54 hours a week to 48.

London, Eng.—"It is not competent for a trade union to provide for the maintenance of parliamentary representation by means of a compulsory levy." In these momentous words the master of the rolls, sitting in the court of appeal, allowed an appeal from a judgment of Mr. Justice Neville, who held, in the case of Osborne vs. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, that trade union funds could be legally used to finance labor members.

New York.—The movement to establish a retreat for aged, sick and infirm members of the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America is receiving the hearty indorsement of the craft.

Washington.—The A. F. of L. reports show the following benefits paid to members during the last year: Death benefits, \$1,257,244.29; death benefits to members' wives, \$31,390; sick benefits, \$593,541.34; traveling benefits, \$51,093.86; total insurance, \$5,871.63; unemployed benefits, \$205,254.31; total, \$2,144,375.43.

Pittsburg, Pa.—T. L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers, has issued the official call for the twentieth annual convention of the miners, which will be held in Tomlinson hall, Indianapolis, beginning at ten a. m., Tuesday, January 19, 1909.

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