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# In Labor's Realm

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

**Boston.**—The 600 carpenters of the 34 brotherhood unions and amalgamated society branches attached to the greater Boston carpenters' district council, are voting by referendum on the wage and hour rules desired for the year beginning June 1, 1909. The present rate of wages is 43 cents an hour, which makes the weekly wage for full time or a work week of 48 hours, \$21. The carpenters have the Saturday half holiday for the four summer months. One proposition submitted to the referendum vote calls for an increase of wages to 47 cents an hour and the Saturday half holiday all the year round, which would make the weekly wage for a 44-hour week \$21, or the same as for the present work week. The alternate proposition is that wages and hours remain as they are at present.

**Indianapolis.**—Figures compiled at the national headquarters, in this city, of the United Mine Workers, show that the national organization had a larger paid-up membership last month than at any previous time in its history. The total paid-up membership last month was 309,000. The figures for March for recent years are as follows: March, 1908, the membership was 281,000; 1907, it was 266,000; 1906, it was 298,000; 1905, it was 298,000, and in 1904 it was 266,000.

**Washington.**—After laying before the executive council of the American Federation of Labor a detailed report of his proposed trip to Europe to study and report upon the industrial, sociological and economic conditions of the laboring people in those countries President Gompers announced that he may sail from New York on the Baltic on June 23. The council authorized an expenditure to meet the expenses of the trip. Mr. Gompers will visit England, Germany, France, Sweden and Italy.

**Chicago.**—At the close of one of the stormiest meetings in the history of the Chicago Federation of Labor all the locals of the Amalgamated Woodworkers' union were expelled from membership in the central labor body. The drastic action was the outcome of a bitter fight for jurisdiction between the woodworkers and the carpenters in which the latter charged that union woodworkers had taken the places of carpenters on strike.

**New York.**—Reports received from the national eight-hour committee of the machinists' union are most gratifying. The agitation for eight hours is spreading all over the country, it is stated, and large numbers of machinists' districts of sections of the country where the shorter workday had not previously been established are reporting its introduction.

**Boston.**—Boston cigar-makers' union has decided to take a census of its 2,500 members to ascertain if any are not citizens and to endeavor to have any who are not immediately become citizens, if eligible, and to take the first steps to the end that all will be voters. Citizenship and voting are an honor and a duty to all men, the union declares.

**Vienna, Austria.**—The government has brought forward a bill in the chamber of deputies making insurance against illness and old age compulsory on all workmen and domestics, and those employees whose annual income does not exceed \$500.

**Chicago.**—Mrs. Raymond Robins has been reelected president of the National Women's Trade Union league, with headquarters in Chicago.

**Boston.**—Edward F. McGrady, a Boston man, now international organizer of the International Printing Pressmen's union, has established headquarters in this city for a New England campaign. He has recently organized a new union in Providence, and also the newspaper pressmen of New Bedford, Fall River and Taunton. The Taunton men received a ten per cent. wage increase.

**Boston.**—On and after Monday, April 12, the wage scale and working rules for the trans-Atlantic steamship and deep-water longshoremen of the port of Boston, Mass., include the wage increases and working rules which were recently presented to the trans-Atlantic steamship agents' conference of the stevedores by the Longshoremen's Trade council.

**Chicago.**—The Chicago bureau of statistics has furnished some figures for 46 trades unions, showing that in 21 of these the highest wages in five cities—Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg and St. Louis—are paid in Chicago.

**Winnipeg, Man.**—Manitoba's attorney general has introduced a bill to prohibit usurious money lending on assignments of salary.

**Washington.**—President Gompers announces that he will sail for Europe on June 23 to investigate the conditions of labor and workingmen and women in England, Germany, France, Sweden and Italy in accordance with the orders of the last A. F. of L. convention.

**Victoria, B. C.**—A state law requires that 70 cubic feet of air per minute be supplied to each worker in a mine.

**St. Louis.**—The first suit for illegal use of the union label in this city resulted in victory for the union printers.

**Chicago.**—With the labor situation in the building industry practically cleared up, contractors and builders have been busy with pen and writing tabs figuring out what the arguments of the past six weeks are going to cost. Estimates based on the average wage increase and the number of men engaged in the building industry showed that about \$3,000,000 a year additional will go into the pockets of the various building trades craftsmen. The contractors have concluded that the agitation was worth while so far as the mechanics are concerned. The estimate of \$3,000,000 was said by contractors not to be too high with the prospects for steady employment as bright as they appear at the present time. It is based on an average increase of 25 cents a day for 40,000 men, working on an average of 300 days in the year.

**Washington.**—It was decided at a session of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor that organized labor and all reform forces be urged to begin agitation and organization so as to be prepared to take action in the next congressional election looking to the passage of legislation favorable to organized labor. Labor men were urged to participate in the national congress for the promotion of international peace to be held in Chicago in May next.

**Allentown, Pa.**—Rather than see the plant shut down the employes of the Donaldson Iron Company at Emaus agreed to wage reductions of eight per cent. When the company announced a ten per cent. reduction the 600 men employed threatened to strike. The company announced the suspension of operations. The men sought a conference and the matter was compromised on the basis of an eight per cent. wage reduction. The plant makes cast iron pipe.

**Chicago.**—The Building Laborers' International union is said to be assuming a controlling influence in the west.

**Boston, Mass.**—Joseph F. Valentine, seventh vice-president of the A. F. of L. and president of the International Iron Molders' union, was operated upon for appendicitis in Cincinnati. A letter lately received states that the patient is making a good recovery, although still very weak.

**Boston, Mass.**—The state senate killed both the bill to permit labor unions to fine their members under certain conditions, and also the bill to have prison-made goods labeled as such. Boston machinists' lodge 264 has condemned the senate for its action on the fine bill, and instructed every member to do all in his power to defeat for reelection every senator who voted against the measure.

**Boston.**—Peter W. Collins, international treasurer of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' unions, has notified the Boston unions that the seceding factions' suits and court procedure in Illinois had all been decided in favor of the International Brotherhood, and of Mr. Collins and the other officers elected at the regular convention.

**Paris, France.**—The French telegraphers held a formal meeting here and joined the postal employes and the teachers in demanding the privilege of forming unions under the laws of 1884, which includes the right to strike.

**Winnipeg, Man.**—The agreement of the Canadian Pacific with its mechanics has expired, and the men are reorganizing.

**Chicago.**—The strike of the sailors on the great lakes, or, rather, their refusal to work, is now in effect. Fully 15,000 men, from engineers to deckhands, are affected by the decision of the union organizations not to operate boats belonging to members of the Lake Carriers' association until its avowed purpose to enforce an open shop on the lake boats is abandoned.

**Washington.**—Sufficient funds for the present to meet the expenses of the federation's legal defense in the injunction and contempt proceedings in the case of the Buck's Store and Range Company of St. Louis have been raised and it will not be necessary to levy an assessment of one per cent. per member per month, as authorized by the Denver convention.

**Chicago.**—The strike of the electrical workers, which began on April 1 and involved nearly 1,000 men, was ended when a committee of the union and of the Electrical Contractors' association signed an agreement to run for two years at an increase from five dollars to \$5.50 a day from April 1. The strikers returned to work.

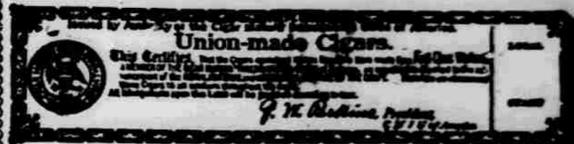
**New York.**—New York Typographical union recently decided to donate \$50 weekly to the locked-out hatmakers.

**London, Eng.**—The national union of boot and shoe operatives of Great Britain, according to its half-yearly financial statement, just issued, has \$594,200 in its treasury. The membership of the union is 30,508.

**Glasgow, Scotland.**—The Hamilton Corporation will in the future pay all workmen for holidays, half pay to be given to employes in cases of sickness, while foremen are to be paid full money when ill.

**Belfast, Ireland.**—As showing the increase in the Belfast linen trade, some of the mills have commenced working 12 hours extra a week.

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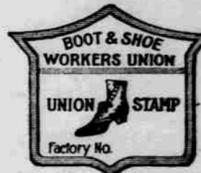
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