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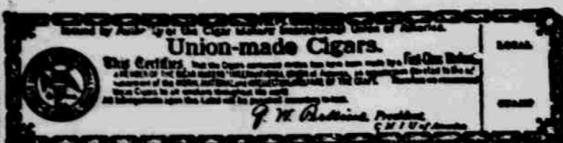
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Pittsburg.—The Sons of Vulcan have won their demand from the United States Steel Corporation for an increase of wages. This organization is made up of the iron puddlers of the Pittsburg district and is recognized as a rival of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, which is now fighting so hard against open shops at the tin mills of the steel corporation. Some time since the Sons of Vulcan served notice on the Oliver Iron and Steel Company and the A. M. Byers Company, both Steel Corporation plants here, that they would strike August 1 unless an increase of 12½ cents per ton was granted to the puddlers. The mills declared there would be no advance given, but when the puddlers went to draw their pay they found the increased pay in their envelopes. The old scale had expired June 30, but the men had continued at work until the new scale could be arranged.

Denver, Col.—At the international convention of machinists, to be held in this city in September, an effort will be made to change the present method of selecting the vice-presidents. The proposed amendment provides that there shall be a board of vice-presidents, each selected from a geographical district, and to be placed in charge of it during his term. The claim is made in behalf of the proposed change that a man from his own district knows the needs there better than one who does not know anything about the territory and the lodges of machinists in it.

New York.—Under the new law permitting the erection of tuberculosis sanatoria at certain points within New York state, which was passed by the recent legislature at Albany at the behest of the organized workers throughout the state, the Central Labor union of Manhattan has made a move looking toward permission to establish on its site, at Medford, Suffolk county, a hospital of such description. The proposition as now outlined, comprehends a hospital costing around \$100,000, the amount to be raised by contributions from the various local unions.

Milwaukee.—For refusing to join in the strike at St. Mary's hospital, where it was alleged non-union workmen were employed, the Plumbers' union was fined \$100 recently by the Federated Trades council. Upon the refusal of the organized plumbers to pay the fine, the union was expelled from the Building Trades' section. If the plumbers persist in their refusal to pay the fine the union may be expelled from the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor.

St. Paul, Minn.—From now on it is the intention of the officers of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor to make every effort to bring about peaceful settlements of all labor disputes where such a thing is possible. Whenever any controversy comes up these officials will at once proceed to the seat of war and will use every honorable means so to arrange matters that a settlement may be arrived at by conference or arbitration should this means fail.

New York.—A movement is on foot for the organization of a wireless telegraph operators' union. The following official statement was circulated: "President Konenkamp of the Commercial Telegraphers' union says that within the next few weeks he expects to have all wireless operators in the country and on ocean steamers in a new branch of the union, to be known as the wireless department. It is expected that 600 persons will join the organization."

Philadelphia.—About 3,000 motor-men and conductors employed by the Interstate Railway Company on traction lines in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware were notified that after August 1 there would be a resumption of the 18½-cent-an-hour wage rate from which a reduction of one and one-half cents was made a year ago. The company had promised an increase as soon as business would warrant.

Copenhagen.—A bill to empower municipalities to grant unemployed relief, which is not to be treated as poor law relief, to members of unions and societies who have exhausted their right to draw relief, but are still out of work, was passed by the Denmark parliament recently, the said act to remain in force until April, 1910.

London, England.—The Society of Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists of Great Britain is one of the younger offshoots of the engineering trades. Its headquarters are at Birmingham, and it has 52 branches in all parts of England and Scotland. Its membership is not large, only 3,710 all told, but the society appears to be held together firmly.

St. Louis, Mo.—Gov. Hadley has signed the woman's nine-hour law. The law regulates the employment of girls and women in factories, restaurants and other such places. Employment is limited to nine hours a day and prohibits their employment later than 10 p. m. or earlier than 5 a. m.

Minneapolis.—The jurisdiction dispute between the Electrical Workers' union and the theatrical stage employees as to the right to do certain work, will be presented at the next meeting of the international of the latter organization, that is to be held here in September.

Kenosha, Wis.—After the stormiest week in the history of the city peace reigns supreme in Kenosha. The deputies were nearly all withdrawn from the N. R. Allen's Sons' plant, and the regular force of watchmen took their place. Every department was working with a full force when the plant shut down for the night. The manager of the tannery asked that all men arrested in connection with the strike be released from jail and no charges filed against them. This was done, and the men who had been imprisoned returned to work. The men claim that it is a victory for them on account of the fact that several of the departments received a small advance in wages.

Lynn, Mass.—A plan has been elaborated whereby an end can at once be put to all labor disputes, if such plan be generally adopted. As set forth, it contemplates the organization of a fraternal body in which both the shoe workers and the shoe manufacturers may hold memberships, the grand lodge or supreme body having jurisdiction over all questions on which there may be disagreement between employers and employed. This grand lodge to be formed from the various local lodges, which are to be made up of manufacturers and the several branches of the shoe-working crafts, taking the place of the present local unions.

London, England.—The Miners' federation of Great Britain after a prolonged meeting has decided in favor of balloting to decide whether its million members shall go on national strike in support of the Scottish miners, who are resisting a wage reduction of sixpence a day. The present feeling seems to be in favor of the stoppage of all mines, a condition which would practically paralyze British industry. In view of the consequent expected shortage in the coal supply many factories already have served notice to their employees of the termination of contracts.

New York.—Not for years have the clothing trades in Greater New York won such a notable victory as that achieved by the pants workers and knee pants workers after a desperate contest of seven weeks' duration. At the commencement of the strike the pants makers were practically unorganized, but to-day the 7,000 who came out to battle are marching under the union banner. The results of the strike are: An increase in prices from 20 to 25 per cent.; that the operators be paid in cash, instead of checks and the formal recognition of the union.

Lafayette, I. d.—The Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, whose headquarters are here, recently decided to reduce the number of local unions in Brooklyn, N. Y., from ten to four, with an extra one in the Bronx, local No. 1011, known as the Hebrew local, refused to abide by the decision of the brotherhood, however, and has taken steps to sue out a writ of injunction restraining the membership from putting into effect the new order.

South Bend, Ind.—The annual convention of the Indiana Federation of Labor, which will be held in South Bend September 28, 29 and 30, will be, according to information furnished by officials of the organization, now in the city completing preliminary arrangements for the meeting, the biggest convention ever held by the body. Arrangements have been made to care for 500 delegates and as many more visitors. The convention will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the federation.

Philadelphia, Pa.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has just compiled a statement showing that the amount of wages paid on the system was \$125,543,947, a decrease of \$29,471,961, as compared with 1907. The number of employes was 24,000 less than in the previous year, when 199,000 men were employed. The rate of pay, however, was as high in 1908 as in 1907, when it was increased over that of 1906 about 10 per cent.

Washington.—The boot trades convention in New Zealand has passed a resolution urging the abolition of the existing duties on imported boots, as the country is being taxed to support an industry which could not give recent conditions of employment. The union also urged the government to start state boot factories and offers to lend \$10,000 for that purpose.

Concord, N. H.—A lodge of the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks has been instituted here to be known as Merrimack lodge. It is expected that lodges will soon be instituted in Manchester, Dover and Worcester. This will practically complete the organization on the Boston & Maine system.

Detroit, Mich.—A law was passed recently in Michigan making it unlawful for women and minors to work more than nine hours a day.

Indianapolis, Ind.—President T. L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers has been in the anthracite districts arousing interest in organization. The union has a large number of organizers in the field.

Belgrade, Servia.—According to figures just published, there were 5,424 persons affiliated with the organized labor movement in Servia at the close of 1907.

New York.—The gravediggers have organized a union in New York city.

Fort Worth, Tex.—A state bureau of labor and statistics has been created by the Texas legislature.

W. T. Stevens

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