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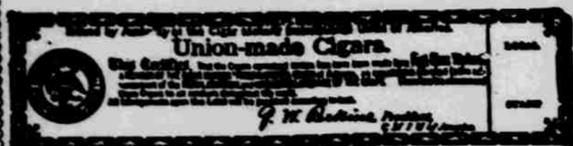
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In Labor's Realm

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

English Building Trade Unions.
According to an article on British trade unions by Hans Fehlinger in the current issue of the Bricklayer and Mason, the official journal of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International union, as compared with 1898, all the main groups of trades in Great Britain, except the building group, which has declined 17 per cent., and the clothing group, which has declined two per cent., show a large growth in membership. The relative increase was smallest in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, where it amounted to 21 per cent. In the printing trades the increase was 25 per cent., in the textile trades 47 per cent., and in the mining and quarrying group 92 per cent.

In the transport group, unions of railway servants more than doubled their membership, while other transport trades increased by one-fourth. Unions of employes of public authorities have increased in membership by 90 per cent., and unions of shop assistants by nearly 500 per cent. The increase of the remaining unions averaged 28 per cent.

A table is given in the article, relating to the unions of building trades and changes in their membership. It shows that in 1898 the number of unions of laborers was 55, with 36,180 members, and 81 unions of skilled workmen, with 195,860 members. In 1899 there were 58 unions of laborers, with 39,919 members, and 78 unions of skilled workmen, with 210,069 members. In 1900 there were 56 unions of laborers, with 38,926 members, and 74 unions of skilled workmen, with 214,486 members. In 1901 there were 57 unions of laborers, with 37,526 members, and 70 unions of skilled workmen, with 211,441 members. In 1902 the number of union laborers was 52, with 33,175 members, and the number of unions of skilled workmen was 68, with 211,966 members. In 1903 the number of unions of laborers was 51, with 28,901 members, while the number of unions of skilled workmen was 67, with 209,240 members. The number of unions of laborers in 1904 was 51, with a membership of 25,081, while there were 60 unions of skilled workmen, with 200,068 members. The number of unions of laborers in 1905 was 51, with 17,971 members, and the number of unions of skilled workmen was 54, with a membership of 187,208. The number of unions of laborers in 1906 was 48, with a membership of 16,494, while there were 53 unions of skilled workmen, with 179,998 members. In 1907 the number of unions of laborers was 24, with a membership of 15,233, and the number of unions of skilled workmen was 53, with a membership of 177,957.

In commenting on this table, the article says: "The decline of membership in the building trade unions, which has synchronized with years of considerable depression in the industry, was proportionately greater in the case of laborers than in the case of skilled workmen, but even with skilled workmen the falling off was considerable, especially in 1905. During the three years, 1905-1907, the Operative Bricklayers' society lost 5,000 members, and the two principal unions of masons lost 10,000 members between them. The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners showed a net decline of 2,000 in total membership, notwithstanding an exceptionally large increase (6,000) in the number of its members outside the United Kingdom. The national painters was the only important union in this group of trades which increased its membership during 1905-1907."

Mortuary Benefit Vote.

The International Typographical union next February will take a special referendum vote on the proposition of establishing a mortuary benefit, in accordance with a resolution adopted at the recent convention of the international. As outlined at the convention the plan provides for the following payments: "On the death of each member in good standing a death benefit shall be paid to the designated beneficiary in amount as follows: For a membership of one year or less, \$75; for a continuous membership of more than one year and not more than five years, \$125; for a continuous membership of more than five years and not more than ten years, \$175; for a continuous membership of more than ten years and not more than fifteen years, \$275; for a continuous membership of more than fifteen years, 400."

The plan provides for the payment of death claims beginning in June, 1910, providing the proposition carries when the referendum vote is taken. The committee on mortuary benefits had also considered the matter of a flat benefit of \$1,000, but decided against that plan. Before taking the referendum vote there will be a careful consideration of the proposition, both at the various local unions throughout the country and also by means of discussions in the official journal of the international.

A Garment Workers' Colony.

Wage earners everywhere, both men and women, will be interested in the plan of the Chicago Garment Manufacturers' association in considering a plan to centralize the business. One promised advantage will be the abolition of the sweat shop. Instead there will be homes, clubhouses, libraries and gymnasiums for 2,500 employes. The plan as outlined is to buy land outside the crowded part of the city and erect a great group of buildings. The estimated cost is \$5,000,000. The concerns interested do an annual business in Chicago of \$40,000,000 or more. Their plants are scattered, and it is thought that by grouping them a large saving in rent, insurance, building repairs and other expenses would be effected. It is proposed that the buildings devoted to manufacturing be built of a reinforced concrete and with liberal provision for light and air.—Washington Herald.

Municipal Homes for Workmen.

The municipality of Genoa, Italy, is constructing two immense buildings, each to contain 72 apartments, termed "popular houses," for the purpose of providing suitable living quarters for the workmen of the city. As it is an impossibility to expand the building area of Genoa, every available site being already occupied, there has been a constant increase of rentals on all classes of property.

The apartments in the new structures are to be from two to five rooms each, and the purpose is to rent each room at \$14 a year. The present plans contemplate the construction of from 200 to 400 apartments, to contain approximately from 8,000 to 10,000 rooms.

Only laborers or salaried employes, with families, whose annual earnings do not exceed \$500, or if without families, \$300, are to be admitted as tenants.

Want to Be Paid \$2.50 a Day.

A convention of the Massachusetts Federation of State, City and Town Employes, held in Lynn recently, adopted a resolution in favor of a \$2.50 wage and pay for all holidays.

LABOR NOTES AND NEWS

Word comes from Pittsburg that the first effort ever made in the United States to stop a strike by enjoining both the principals and the commonwealth failed recently. Judges Ford and Brown of the common pleas court sustained the demurrer of the Pressed Steel Car Company to the petition for injunction made by the Public Defense association of Pittsburg against the company, the striking employes and the sheriff of Allegheny county. The decision of the court establishes a precedent and caused general comment, as the opinion handed down is far reaching in effect. Attorneys commenting upon the action of the court were universal in their opinion that Judges Ford and Brown were entirely within legal right in their ruling.

Steam engineers and hoistmen have organized in Joplin, Mo.

The Colored Waiters' union in St. Paul, Minn., is gaining steadily.

There is a union of the hatmakers at Le Mans, France, in which the offices of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer are held by one man.

By unanimous vote of the recently held convention in Newburgh, N. Y., Union of Iron Ship Builders and Boiler Makers of America has determined not to amalgamate with the International Ship Building and Boiler Makers.

According to the statistics made public by the United States department of commerce and labor, the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners has had the greatest increase in membership of all labor organizations during the past three years, and during the same period the International Typographical union has secured the greatest reduction in the hours of labor, the Machinists' union has had the greatest number of strikes and has, the statistics show, won a larger percentage of contests than any other national union.

Cleveland bricklayers have decided to organize the stone masons and cement block workers, and for that purpose Organizer Joseph Martino of the international union, has arrived in that city and will remain indefinitely.

The union people of Brooklyn are going to build a tuberculosis sanitarium at Riverhead, L. I., to cost \$1,000,000. Three years ago the Brooklyn Central Labor union acquired a tract of 65 acres at Riverhead, and the place has been gradually improved and made ready for the building of a great sanitarium for the benefit of the laboring people.

P. D. Daley, agent of Boston Carriage and Cab Drivers' union 126, reports that all firms employing its members have signed the 1909 agreement. It contains no important changes from that of last year.

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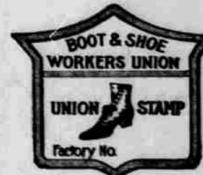
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246 Sumner St., Boston, Mass.

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Hot Weather Comforts

Mr. Inside Man, you have an electric fan. How about your good wife? Has she an electric fan? Is she still broiling herself and the steaks over a red-hot coal range? Why not pause and consider her comfort and convenience a little bit? If not both electric fan and gas range—

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It will make the kitchen comfortable; it will save hours and health, and make home happy. Cheaper than coal—and so clean, convenient and comfortable. We sell the ranges (cash or payments) and furnish the gas. You furnish the match. And then the housewife is equipped with labor-saving machinery. Once used, never abandoned. Ask 5,000 Lincoln women who cook with gas.

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