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H. O. BARBER & SON

In Labor's Realm

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

Norfolk, Va.—The machinists and blacksmiths of the Seaboard Air Line railway general shops in Portsmouth, who have been on a strike, returned to work following an agreement brought about through a grievance committee headed by H. M. Fallon of Savannah, Ga.; E. R. Pace, Raleigh, N. C., and W. G. Bagwell of Portsmouth. According to the strikers the differences were settled in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

Hartford City, Ind.—There is every indication that the American Window Glass Company is preparing for a long contest with the only two skilled workers it employs, the 300 window glass cutters and fitters, who are on strike. No word has been received from Pittsburg which would indicate that the company proposes to accede to the demand of the workers.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Labor day in western Pennsylvania presented a unique and grim anomaly. Nearly thirty thousand men are idle as a result of strikes, lockouts and walkouts. The 5,000 glass workers of the American Glass Company, who paralyze the glass industry throughout the country; 3,500 unskilled and nonunion strikers of the Pressed Steel Car Company at Schoenerville; 18,000 organized but dissatisfied coal miners in this vicinity and 5,000 union tinplate workers aided in making the day set apart for the workingman one to be remembered in labor circles for years to come.

Vienna.—The report on the activity and finances of Austrian trade unions for the year 1908 shows that there has been a diminution of the total membership amounting to 18,815, which is equal to 3 1/2 per cent. on the total for 1907, 501,094.

Albany, N. Y.—A large pavilion for consumptives has been erected by the unions in this city and is now in operation. The unions of Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo and other cities are also taking steps to acquire similar institutions.

Washington.—Advices from Manila indicate that the strike fever has reached the Philippines. It is said that the leaders of the strike and boycott against the Manila street railway and one of the commercial houses of that city have called them off. Both strikes have failed from their inception, but the boycott against the street car system has been partially effective. The union in control of the strike has announced plans to reorganize along lines which will lead to greater sympathy between labor and capital. The general labor situation has improved and it is doubtful if any more strikes will occur.

Cleveland.—The newest thing in trade schools probably will be established by the structural ironworkers this winter, says Secretary Charles Smith of the union. He declared that the technical part of the trade was learned by the men at work, but that the theoretical part of the trade should be taught. He and others of the union will urge the hiring of a teacher to give instructions to the members of the union at least once a week, so that they may be better fitted for the work. Thomas Graves a member of the executive committee of the union, will aid in establishing the school.

Chicago.—The constitutionality of the ten-hour law prohibiting women in factories from working beyond that limit is attacked in a suit filed against State's Attorney Wayman and State Factory Inspector Edgar T. Davies. W. C. Ritchie & Co., paper box makers, and Anna Kussorow and Dora Windeguth, two of their employees, are the complainants. It is charged that unless overtime is permitted, the business will be ruined and the employees will suffer, for the business is such, the petitioners say, that for six months the demand exceeds the normal capacity of the factory. The two women aver that conditions are healthful and comfortable, and that they need to work overtime when the opportunity offers in order to support their families.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Reports received from towns in the Pittsburg district are that 5,000 men employed by the American Window Glass Company are idle as a result of the strike inaugurated to obtain an increase in wages. Notices were posted in six machine blower factories of the glass company that the plants would be closed forthwith. These notices constitute all that the company officials have to say in regard to the trouble. The men have asked for an advance approximating 20 per cent., this being refused by the company.

Stockholm.—The labor federation has called off the general strike, which has been in progress for several weeks. This decision was the outcome of government intervention, which was directed toward arranging a settlement of the difficulties satisfactory to all parties.

London, Eng.—Workmen employed in the British ordnance factories have recently been negotiating with the British secretary of state for a pension scheme.

New York.—Upward of 1,400 girls are members of the Women's Bindery union in this city.

Chicago.—The Compressed Air Workers' union and the employers have agreed on a new scale of prices. The lower the work the greater the air pressure and the more destructive to health and even life. So the wages are increased with the depth. At 22 pounds pressure the pay will be \$3.50 for a six-hour day. At 40 and 45 pounds pressure the day's work will be only 80 minutes long and the pay \$4.50.

Hartford City, Ind.—The fight between the American Window Glass Company and the Window Glass Cutters' & Flatteners' association is on in earnest. Both sides are confident of winning and no one can predict at this time which side will be successful. The company has informed the only two skilled trades it now employs that it will pay the same scale of wages that has been agreed upon between the National Window Glass Workers' association and the independent, or hand-operated manufacturers, and no more. The workers have demanded a differential of 12 per cent. more than this scale and 20 per cent. more than has been paid the last year.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The McKees Rocks strike, which has been in progress 53 days at the Pressed Steel Car Company, is over. The workmen, numbering over 5,000, have won. Practically all the demands made by the men have been granted. One point, that of an increase in wages, has been compromised. The company is said to have promised to pay the 1907 rate of wages as soon as present contracts are filled.

St. Paul, Minn.—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.

Evansville, Ind.—The loom fixers at the Evansville cotton mills are on strike. The men say they have been subjected to what is practically a reduction in wages. They say that in addition to tending the 128 looms they have been asked to measure the cloth, but for the same wage scale, \$1.75 a day. They demand 25 cents a day extra for measuring the cloth.

Lynn, Mass.—Arvid Erlando of Chicago was elected general organizer at the closing session of the first national convention of the United Shoe Workers of America in this city. The next national convention will be held at St. Louis, Mo., September 6-10, 1910. The United Shoe Workers of America represent the so-called independent shoemakers of the country.

Norfolk, Va.—Machinists and blacksmiths at the Seaboard Air Line railway's general shops at Portsmouth have struck because of the alleged employment of non-unionists. It is stated officially that 46 per cent. of the machinists and all but six blacksmiths have gone out.

St. Joseph, Mo.—John A. Crawford, local manager, and Frank Hutton, night manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company here, pleaded guilty and were fined ten dollars and costs on two charges of violating the child labor act by employing boys under 14 years old. The costs were \$29 in each case. Several cases in which the deputy state labor commissioner is complainant are yet to be tried.

Washington.—Timothy Healy of Yonkers, N. Y., who came to Washington several years ago and settled the brewery strike of the stationary firemen in a jiffy, has been re-elected president of the International Union of Stationary Firemen. He is a veteran of the war with Spain. Two years ago Mr. Healy was the Democratic and Labor nominee for congress from the Yonkers district. He started into the political campaign with but 85 cents in his possession. He was not elected, but the majority of his opponent was whittled down to a splinter. He is again being urged to enter the race for congress by his friends.

London, Eng.—Four-fifths of the Lancashire mills which spin American cotton are on systematized short time owing to the depressed condition of trade in cotton goods abroad. The president of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation says that the present crisis is one of the worst the trade has ever experienced.

London, Eng.—Last year there were 309 important disputes between workmen and their employers in England, of which more than 65 per cent. were settled by compromise.

Detroit, Mich.—The marine engineers now have a total membership on the coasts, the lakes and the rivers of the United States of more than eleven thousand.

New York.—State Labor Commissioner Williams issued a bulletin stating that only 21.6 per cent. of the 350,000 organized laborers of that state are unemployed, against 35.7 per cent. this time last year.

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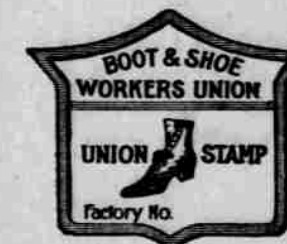
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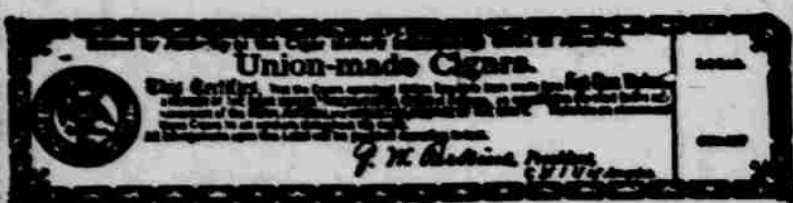
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