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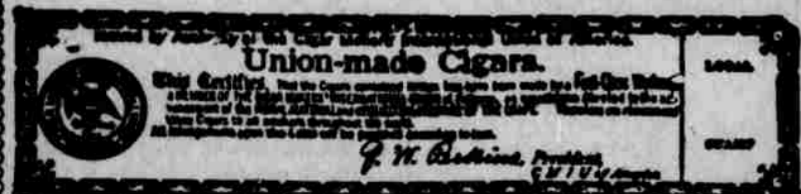
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In Labor's Realm

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

Boston.—A gigantic movement, born of long time unrest, is in progress in the leading cotton textile districts of the world, looking toward a general curtailment of production for the remainder of this year and during 1910. The reasons advanced are the gradual increase in the cost of raw material and the failure of the dry goods markets to respond in a way to assure continued profits to manufacturers. The curtailment movement had its inception in Lancashire, the greatest cotton goods producing district in the world. On September 15, the Arkwright club of Boston, representing 14,000,000 of the 17,000,000 spindles in New England, sent out to all the cotton mills in this district, which is second in the industry to Lancashire, an agreement for signatures for a curtailment. The proposition calls for suspension of work for 224 working hours between the date of the agreement and August 1, 1910, to become effective when 7,000,000 spindles have been signed up. The curtailment is not likely to become effective in this state in the immediate future, as many mills that will sign will be unable to fill present orders without steady running until well into January. The Rhode Island and Fall River manufacturers are, as a rule willing to curtail production. The curtailment has also been taken up by southern cotton mill owners. The board of governors of the American Cotton Manufacturers' association, at a meeting in Charlotte, N. C., adopted resolutions setting forth their claim that the present disparity between the price of cotton and cotton goods precludes the possibility of the successful operation of southern mills. A committee was appointed to formulate a curtailment agreement which every mill in the south will be urged to sign. The cotton mills of New England, including yarn mills, employ upward of 200,000 hands.

Chicago.—The recall of the charter of local union No. 3 by the International Union of Steam Engineers was sustained by Judge Pett in the circuit court when he dissolved a temporary injunction formerly entered which restrained Matt Comerford, general president of the union, from revoking the charter and taking the books, seals and records of the local. The local union of engineers offended the international union several months ago by entering into contracts with the Chicago and Milwaukee Brewers' association without having them sanctioned by the general executive board.

Orange, N. J.—Rumors of a settlement of the hatting strike, which have been circulating here for the last week or more, were intensified when it became known that the firm of E. V. Connett & Co. of this city had laid off permanently 85 per cent. of its non-union force, with a view to re-opening its factory at the end of next week with union employees. The 15 per cent. retained, it is understood, will get union cards. They consist of union deserters or men who have contracts with the firm.

Gary, Ind.—The total contracts placed with all rail manufacturers this year have aggregated a little over 2,500,000 tons, 800,000 tons of which are for next year's delivery. It is estimated that the rail mill capacity of the country is now between 4,000,000 and 4,500,000 tons annually. It is expected that the Gary mill will be able to turn out 1,000,000 tons per year when the plant is completed. The estimates of total production include light as well as standard sections.

Pittsburg, Pa.—With nearly half a million tons of standard rails on the books of the Illinois Steel Company, over half of which is Bessemer, it seems certain future demands of the Steel Corporation for Bessemer rails must come to the Pennsylvania mills. The Alabama mills already are well filled, a large part of their tonnage being for export.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The International Printing Pressmen and Assistant's union has gone heart and soul into the movement for the conquering of consumption among its members. A proposition is now advanced for the entire membership to contribute annually one day's pay toward the establishment of a tuberculosis hospital.

Pittsburg, Pa.—At the recent glass bottle blowers' convention it was decided not to publish an official trade journal. The organization has a system of keeping the members posted and fears that the publication of a journal would tend to give important information to outsiders for whom it is not intended.

Washington.—The labor situation in Switzerland has peculiar features. A considerable part of the country's industrial operations are carried on in the rural districts, the employes working in their own little strips of land during the short farming season of the summer, and in the factories or other industrial establishments the rest of the year.

Victoria, Australia.—At a meeting of the Dockyard and Ship Laborer's union it was decided to take into consideration the advisability of joining in a federation of all dock laborers in the commonwealth.

Stockholm, Sweden.—Trade unionists in Sweden have a novel way in stav-

Pittsburg, Pa.—M. O'Sullivan of Crafton, general president of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International alliance, and N. S. Glass, business agent of local union No. 12 of Pittsburg have returned from the fifteenth general convention at Denver. President O'Sullivan was re-elected. Beginning with October the monthly per capita tax, payable to the general office, will be 35 cents. This will cover all obligations and will do away with funeral benefits and journal assessments. The due stamp system of crediting payment of dues to the local unions will be in effect January 1, 1910. In future all trade agreements must be filed at the general offices, Kansas City, at least 90 days previous to becoming operative, if the support of the international body is expected in event of a strike.

New York.—A split has taken place in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Several locals, after making charges of several kinds against the general officers, among which are incompetence and wastefulness, have seceded from the brotherhood. An effort is to be made by the officers of the American Federation of Labor to reunite the factions. Meantime the officers of the brotherhood have notified the different unions that the seceding faction is not to be recognized.

Buffalo, N. Y.—The Erie, Lackawanna and Buffalo Creek railroads pleaded not guilty to 25 indictments charging them with violation of the labor law requiring them to pay employes twice a month. The attorneys reserved the right to demur later. The cases had been presented to the grand jury in September on evidence furnished by the state labor department. There is no dispute about the facts. The fight will be on the constitutionality of the law.

New York.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, who has been in Europe studying continental labor conditions and problems, returned to the United States. Labor men here gave him a rousing welcome home. A more elaborate reception was accorded him in Washington upon his arrival there. Mr. Gompers left New York on June 19 and since that time has visited most of the important European countries.

Berlin, Germany.—Germany has a law that provides that if it can be proved that a man is earning a sufficient wage to support those dependent on him, but that he is dissipating that wage by vicious habits, he can be declared a minor, and he is then treated as a child. His employer is told that the wage must not be paid to the man, but to a guardian appointed by the magistrate of the district in which he lives, who uses it for the support of the wife and children.

Ottawa, Canada.—The act for the maintenance of industrial peace in Canada, which went into effect March 22, 1907, shows by actual operation that 96 per cent of strikes were avoided or ended. These pertained to disputes concerning mines, railroads, street railways, longshoremen, teamsters and sailors.

Watertown, N. Y.—Workmen employed at the United States arsenal are expressing indignation at some new working and discipline rules established at that plant. The men claim they are drastic and onerous, also that the men are being so driven in their work that its quality is materially suffering.

Boston.—During the past year Massachusetts has placed in employment on an average 49 men a day through its three employment bureau offices in Springfield, Fall River and Boston. This year the Boston office alone has obtained work for 50 or more men a day.

Munich, Germany.—At the recent convention of waiter girls, it was resolved that efforts should be made to emancipate themselves from the fee system by insisting on minimum wages in hotels and taverns of 75 cents to one dollar a day.

New York.—The Women's Trade Union league is carrying on an active campaign among the white goods makers, the corset makers, the dressmakers and textile workers and the dressmakers of that city to bring about more thorough organization.

London, Eng.—In England the trade unionists are interested in the establishment of a central labor college, which they will finance.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The official journal of the International Association of Steam Engineers will hereafter be printed in this city.

London, Eng.—According to the annual report of the British chief inspector of factories and workshops for 1908, the total number of accidents occurring that year throughout his jurisdiction was 122,154, a decrease of 2,171 as compared with 1907. Of these 1,042 were fatal accidents, a decrease over the previous year of 137.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The Cambria Steel company of Pittsburg has purchased 18,000 tons Bessemer pig iron for delivery this quarter at \$18 valley, and 23,000 tons for delivery during the first quarter of next year at \$18.50 valley, making a total of 41,000 tons.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Throughout continental Europe the Metal Workers'

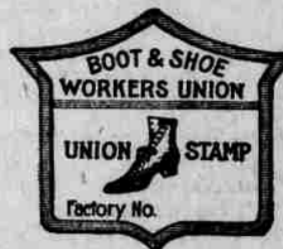
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