

THE WAGEWORKER.



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THE BARBERS

What They Have Done During the Year Just Past.

During the year ending November 1, 1910, the International Union of Journeymen Barbers has shown a decided gain, both in membership and in finances. Forty-two new charters were issued and sixteen cancelled. A gain of 1,550 in membership is reported.

Death benefits to the amount of \$22,445 were paid, and sick benefits paid amounting to \$40,111. The Barbers have no strikes; they simply walk quietly out of shops where the shop card is not legally placed. The organization is growing in numbers and influence daily, and now there is a movement in favor of establishing a home for aged and incapacitated members.

THE BOILERMAKERS

Doing Something Every Day in the Year Just Ended.

The Brotherhood of Boilermakers have been doing things all the time. During the year ending November 1, 1910, 76 new charters were issued and 42 surrendered. The net gain in membership was 6,485. There were 39 strikes during the year, 11 of which were won, 5 compromised and 23 pending; among them being the Havelock strike. The number involved in all strikes was 1,427, and 605 were benefitted by the struggles. An average gain in wages of 10 cents per day per member was secured. Thirty lodges secured satisfactory agreements without strike. The strikes cost the Brotherhood \$48,000. No reductions in wages were reported for the year.

Death benefits amounting to \$3,200 were paid during the year. The year showed an increasing spirit of unionism and the Brotherhood enters upon the new year with better organization, better discipline and better prospects.

THE BOOKBINDERS.

Small in Numbers But Strong in the Fighting Spirit.

The Bookbinders have made a good record for the year that ended the first of this month. During that time 10 charters were issued and 1 surrendered. Five strikes were experienced, all of them now pending. But through organization the Bookbinders have successfully resisted every attempted wage reduction, have increased wages about 8 per cent per member and established the 8-hour day in the trade.

The number of persons involved in the strikes is 350. Death benefits amounting to \$3,700 were paid during the year.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

Locals Fewer in Number But Membership Greatly Increased.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners does not have as many local uni-

ons as it had a year ago, but it has greatly increased its membership. The number of charters issued during the year ending the first of the present month was 201, and 271 charters were surrendered. But the membership increased 20,963. This apparent discrepancy is explained by the fact that in a number of cities two or more locals combined under one charter. There were 60 strikes during the year, 30 being won, 20 compromised, 8 pending and 2 lost. Taken altogether the year showed an increased wage throughout the country, the gain being very gratifying in some localities.

During the year death benefits to the amount of \$250,000 were paid. In addition death benefits to members wives were paid amounting to \$33,500. Sick benefits \$90,000. The strikes cost \$63,000. The 8-hour pay has been established throughout the entire jurisdiction, and the general conditions of the craft improved.

THE BLACKSMITHS.

Men of Hammer and Anvil Made Good Record For Year.

The Brotherhood of Blacksmiths has reason to be proud of the showing made during the year ending Nov. 1, 1910. During that time 35 charters were granted and 11 surrendered. The gain in membership was 1,200. There were 5 strikes, 2 being won, 5 compromised and 1 pending. Only 110 men were involved in these strikes, but 3,000 were benefitted. A wage increase averaging 8 per cent per member was secured, together with an average reduction of 1 hour per day per member. The strikes cost \$4,500. Every effort to reduce wages was successfully resisted. As a result of the organization's work the membership secured better sanitary conditions, better fuel, and in nearly every instance the union shop.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

Hold Their Own as to Locals and Gain in Membership.

The Cigarmakers did not make any gain in number of locals during the year ending the first of this month, 7 charters being granted and 7 surrendered. But they made a gain of 4,250 in membership. There were 53 strikes, of which 22 were won, 4 compromised, 3 lost and 24 pending. The number of persons involved was 6,548, of which 2,212 were benefitted. These strikes cost \$19,000. Death benefits to the amount of \$226,000 were paid, and to members' wives \$4,800. Sick benefits \$186,000, out-of-work benefits \$76,000, traveling benefits \$41,000.

Study this record for a few minutes—in twelve months the Cigarmakers expended \$347,000 in benefits. It is one to be proud of. An organization that can do that—and does do it—is entitled to all the credit there is for good works.

THE LATHERS.

The Lathers issued 40 charters last year and 6 were surrendered. There were 5 strikes, all now in process of settlement. There was a general wage increase throughout the country. Death benefits approximating \$6,000 were paid during the year ending the first of this month.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

street car facilities are horribly inadequate. In fact the only sign of doing the right thing was giving us a concert by the famous St. Louis symphony orchestra the morning convention opened. They took a majority of delegates through a brewery—where girls are worked in slop to their ankles and boys are employed wherever possible. Aside from this St. Louis has won the record for punkness. St. Louis is remarkable for many things—or should be. It has the Eads bridge, from three to seven saloons in every down town block, vacant houses on every side, dozens of five and ten story buildings wholly vacant in the business section, the Shaw gardens and a four-to-one majority against prohibition because it would "ruin business." But it also has one of the best police forces in the world, a fire department that can not be excelled and boot, shoe and garment factories that are as big as they make 'em.

The convention will have adjourned by the time this reaches Wageworker readers. There have been some exciting scenes on the floor of the convention, and there are significant signs of a growing revolt in the ranks of organized labor. No one charges "graft" or dishonesty. It is merely a revolt against what a lot of thinking men have concluded is autocratic rule. Unless the executive council settles this Electrical Worker squabble, and settles it fairly and squarely, there will be hell-a-poppin' at the 1911 convention—if not before.

—W. M. M.

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