

NEWS FROM THE LABOR WORLD

The Threshold.

For a hundred years or more
I have guarded well this door,
If in times of peace and quiet
Or in days of war and riot,
Never failing in my duty,
Whether fashion, wealth, and beauty
Ruled this house, or poverty
Walked in squalor over me,
I stood watch, and now, alone,
I remain a wornout stone.

Many winters' silent snow,
Many summers' heated glow
Came and went, and in their pride
Generations grew and died,
I from cradle to the grave
Saw them play, and love, and slave,
Saw them go, that passed me o'er,
Go where others went before;
But forgotten and alone,
I remain a wornout stone.

Now the house is bare of life,
No more sorrow, joy, or strife
Echo from each gloomy wall,
For the house is doomed to fall—
Doomed to fall, as all things must,
That are raised of earth and dust;
Fall, as age must e'er give way
So that youth may have its day—
Have its day, for mine is done—
See, I am a broken stone!

—E. D. Tittmann.

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD.

Items of Interest Gathered from Many Sources.

The eight-hour law of the state of Washington has been declared constitutional by the courts of that state.

Trade unionism's highest aim is to elevate the working class, not to force it downward.—Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Journal.

Recently published census figures show that every fifth child between the ages of ten and fifteen in the United States is a breadwinner.

The striking mill girls of Fall River, Mass., have been appealed to by the Woman's Trade Union League of Boston to engage in household work in that city.

None of the Chicago building trades unions whose agreements expire this spring, excepting the steam pipe and boiler coverers, will ask for an increase in wages.

A series of lectures on the prevention of tuberculosis, under the auspices of the Visiting Nurses' Association, before various labor unions, has been inaugurated at Chicago.

The Canadian Pacific railway officials announce that they have come to an amicable agreement with the Order of Railway Telegraphers, which desired certain changes in the schedule.

The trade unions of Germany, in 1903, embraced 887,698 members, with a fund on hand aggregating \$3,000,000. It is expected that by the end of this year the membership will be fully one million.

A report is current that Andrew Carnegie is planning to present to the labor unions of the United States a handsome hall of labor, to be erected in New York and modeled along the lines of the Palace of Peace recently presented to The Hague.

The headquarters of the International Carriage and Wagon Makers' Union have been removed to Chicago from New York. Charles L. Bausman of Chicago has recently been re-elected general secretary, and William McPherson, general organizer.

The Wall Street Journal, which can hardly be accused of prejudice in favor of organized labor, says that D. M. Parry "is doing the cause he advocates more harm than good, and that the labor unions might help themselves by contributing to Mr. Parry's campaign expenses."

International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union has taken a referendum vote on the question of establishing a permanent home for the organization in some centrally located city. Boston, Chicago and Indianapolis are candidates for the honor to entertain the pressmen.

A recent co-operative enterprise undertaken in Great Britain is the work-

ing of a slate quarry located near the well-known quarries of Lord Penrhyn in Wales. The principal labor organizations of the country have subscribed to the capital, all of which amounting to \$127,000, has come from the unions.

Norway has founded a bank for workmen in order to assist them in buying homes of their own. Money is loaned at the rate of 3½ and 4 per cent, and the borrower is given forty two years in which to pay it back. The total cost of the house must not exceed \$800 and the area of land must not be more than five acres.

The United Mine Workers are, numerically, the strongest subordinate union affiliated with the A. F. of L. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is second, and the Brotherhood of Teamsters is third. According to the report of the A. F. of L. a gain of 900 per cent has been made in the Retail Clerks' organizations.

Commissioner Charles P. Neill of the anthracite commission has fixed the selling price of anthracite coal at \$4.85 at tide water for the month of November. He awards the miners, on this basis, an increase of 7 per cent in wages over the wages fixed by the strike commission. This is in accordance with the sliding scale agreement.

The advisability of enforcing the Saturday half-holiday is being considered by the building trades of Cleveland. The agitation has begun several months ago and has gradually spread through all the local organizations. Reports indicate that the proposed demand will be indorsed by a large majority of the men employed in the building industry.

Through the great drought in the Pittsburg district 10,000 miners have been thrown out of employment. The Pittsburg Coal Company sent out word that only the heads of families could be given work now, and that workmen having no one depending on them should be laid off. The married men will be given employment only part of the time, the mines having to curtail operations owing to lack of water.

The National Alliance of Amalgamated Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers, in session in New York city, is in favor of amalgamating with the Brotherhood of Painters. Action looking to this end was taken when a committee was appointed to arrange for a conference with the brotherhood to settle all differences and bring about amalgamation.

Conciliation and educational methods are being followed by organized labor in Minneapolis in order to bring about a better understanding between employers and employes. Public meetings are being held from time to time, at which speakers from the various industrial and commercial bodies are given an opportunity to express their opinions freely.

An insurance scheme began by coal miners in Illinois has received the indorsement of the United Mine Workers of America. Every miner, by the payment of 50 cents a month in addition to his dues as a member of the United Mine Workers, is given a \$500 insurance policy, payable upon death, while those paying 25 cents a month are to receive a \$250 policy.

Changes in the Michigan mining law are being considered by representatives of Michigan operators and a committee from the United Mine Workers of America. The present law is not sufficiently comprehensive, it is said, and provides for little else than the appointment of an inspector, whose duty it is to gather statistics. One proposed change contemplates more stringent regulations regarding the supply of pure air in mines.

Thousands of idle men in South

Chicago were given employment on the day following New Year's. The two largest mills of the Illinois Steel Company started, and the entire steel plant, for the first time in months, is humming with industry. With the big plant in full operation, the army of steelworkers, normally numbering 6,000, is again busy. The returning workers found lower wages and more work. In some cases, it is said, the cut will amount to 40 per cent.

Twelve thousand bridge and structural ironworkers will strike May 1 unless a new road scale adopted by the executive board of the Bridge and Structural Ironworkers' International Union is accepted by the employers. The board has divided the country into eight districts and fixed wages at from 35 to 45 cents an hour on jobs outside of the cities. Chicago is in the seventh district and includes Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota and Michigan. Every man working in this district outside of the cities must receive 45 cents an hour.

Union laborers were barred from the Inland Steel Company plant at Indiana Harbor when the machinery was again set in operation Jan. 1. The mills have been closed since last July, when 300 men went out because of a 40 per cent cut in wages. The following notice was posted on the mills: "Jan. 1 we will open our steel mill and will employ 300 men under open shop scales. No union men will be accepted. Wages will be paid commensurate with the ability of each man. The company desires a personal interview with each man who seeks employment."

After nine months of the "open shop," the firm of John G. Miller & Co. of Chicago, clothing manufacturers, repudiated this principle of the Chicago Employers' Association and signed an agreement with the union, covering 900 employes, and granting strictly union shop conditions. Recently the Coles Shoe Company also abandoned the "open shop" contention and granted to all its shoeworkers union conditions. A member of the Clothing Workers' Union said: "This firm could not make a profit from its sales without the label. The label won back for us our union conditions."

It is pretty generally known to all concerned that on Jan. 1, 1906, the eight-hour workday will be demanded in all printing concerns under the control of the International Typographical Union. The officials of that organization are aware that the bosses are preparing to buck the union's demand wherever there is a chance. The United Typothetae of America is sending out a circular letter accompanied by a blank, asking secretaries of the organization's local branches to supply information as to the number of union, non-union and doubtful compositors; number of apprentices connected and not connected with the union, and number of union and non-union foremen employed in their jurisdictions. The letter states that it is needless to point out how valuable his information will be in both local and national work, and asks that secretaries have their answers as nearly correct as possible. This looks like preparing for war.

Proud of Senator Son.

Mrs. Ingeborg Nelson, mother of the Minnesota senator, has reached the late twilight of life, having passed her 90th birthday. She is good health and spirits, however, and passes much of her time in carding and spinning wool, which she learned as a child in the mountains of Norway. The old lady follows closely the career of her distinguished son, who frequently visits her at her home in the village of Deerfield, Wis., twenty miles east of Madison. The old Nelson homestead there has been much improved by the senator, who has taken great pains to make it an up-to-date farm.

New Monkey for "Zoo."

The baby "Chego" just added to the London Zoo was caught in the African Gaboon, and is regarded by naturalists as coming between a gorilla and a chimpanzee.

AGRICULTURE



Progress in Gardening.

What an advance has taken place in gardening is well illustrated in the difference in the yield per acre of onions in some gardens of to-day and those of the old-timer. It used to be considered that 600 bushels an acre was a good crop, but not any longer. A Michigan gardener is credited with a harvest of 966 bushels this fall, but in this day of new and improved methods of culture the yield is not remarkable, as yields of even 1,200 bushels have been secured. Many of the large-rooted vegetables make the most of their growth during the cool months of the autumn. Carrots, parsnips and beets are of the number. During the summer their energies are given to the growing of top in which is stored a large amount of raw material that is prepared by the sun for use later in the growth of the root. When the top begins to ripen and die it is evidence, if the plant is healthy, that the foliage is being deprived of its store and that the root is profiting thereby. For this reason such roots should be left in the ground till the top is dead, or as long as it is safe to leave them. Here is an instance where "haste makes waste." Parsnips, one might wonder when they stop growing, or if they keep at it all winter. What appear to be small roots in the fall prove to be large fellows when dug in the spring.

Bees Carry Clipped Queen.

"I will give you the proof of a statement I made two or three years ago, namely: that sometimes, at swarming-time, bees do carry a clipped queen," remarks Gustave Gross in the American Bee Journal. "A friend of mine hived a swarm which, on the next day, left the hive and started for the woods; he being present at the time drove them back by throwing water on them. After a while they came out again and then he clipped the queen. But the next day they left for the woods; his family noted the direction they took, and about a week after he hunted them up cut the tree down and there was his clipped queen. At that time there were no bees nearer than four miles. The tree he cut down was a quarter of a mile from the yard.

"As I clip all my queens whenever a swarm issues while I am in the yard, I hasten to the hive in order to cage the queen, so as to make sure of her. It has twice happened that I did not see the queen, but afterward found her on my hat. How did she get there?"

"Several times also I have seen the queen come out last of all, one or two bees bringing her out 'by the ear,' so to say. In such cases I have caught her and put her in a cage. But next time it happens I shall watch to see what the bees do."

Limited Capital.

When one has had no experience he should begin with the lowest risk. If the capital is small, it is better to rent for a year or two than to buy. If one buys he reduces his working capital, and should he be unsuccessful he must stay on the farm until he can sell it, while if he rents he can return the farm to the owner, and leave. It is claimed that if one buys he can when beginning get everything ready for a permanent stay, which is true but that is just what an inexperienced person should not do. He should start in a small way, and add to his capital by increasing his flocks every year, so that by the time he has a large number of fowls he will know much more than when he began. He can then take his fowls to a purchased farm, and feel that he has made a good beginning.—Farm and Fireside.