

NEWS FROM THE LABOR WORLD

Humbler Heroes.

It might not be so difficult to lead the Light Brigade,
While the army cheered behind you, and the fifes and bugles played;
It might be rather easy, with the war-shriek in your ears,
To forget the bite of bullets and the taste of blood and tears.
But to be a scrubwoman, with four Babes, or more,
Every day, every day setting your back On the rack,
And all your reward forever not quite A full bite
Of bread for your babes, Say!
In the heat of the day
You might be a hero to head a brigade,
But a hero like her? I'm afraid! I'm afraid!

It might be very feasible to force a great reform,
To saddle public passion and to ride upon the storm;
It might be somewhat simple to ignore the roar of wrath,
Because a second shout broke out to cheer you on your path.
But he who, alone and unknown, is true To his view,
Unswayed by the crush of the mutton-browed Blatting crowd,
Unwon by the flabby-brained, blinking ease
Which he sees
Throned and anointed, Say!
At the height of the fray,
You might be the chosen to captain the throng;
But to stand all alone! How long? How long?
—Edmond Vance Cooke, in Philadelphia Post.

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD.

Items of Interest Gathered from Many Sources.

The validity of the eight-hour ordinance for public work in the city of Milwaukee will in all probability be tested in the courts, so as to furnish a precedent for other cities. The A. F. of L. will make the case.

It is stated that the United Typothetae of America is at present accumulating a defense fund in order that the eight hour day enforcement may be combatted. It is hoped by the employers to gather together at least \$500,000.

Of 1,237 unions making returns to the American Federation of Labor for November, with an aggregate membership of 84,663, there were 3.9 per cent without employment. In the preceding month 1,006 unions, with a membership of 105,667, reported 1.2 per cent out of work.

Repairs having been made in the plate and rail mills at the South Chicago plant of the Illinois steel works, fully 2,500 men are at work in those two departments. More than a month ago 3,000 men were notified that their services would no longer be required. About 500 of this number, however, returned not long afterward.

The National Alliance of Amalgamated Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers is in favor of amalgamating with the Brotherhood of Painters. At a recent session of the alliance in New York a committee was appointed to arrange a conference with the brotherhood to settle all differences and bring about consolidation.

An act recently passed by the House of Representatives of Rhode Island prescribes a fine of \$350 to \$500, or imprisonment from three to six months, or both, against any employer or corporation attempting to prevent working people from belonging to a labor organization as a condition of new or continued employment.

"Curse of Child Labor," is the title of a circular which has been ordered printed to be distributed broadcast at the instigation of Sena'or Penrose of Pennsylvania, with a view of working up sentiment in favor of the act proposed by Philadelphia trades unions for the purpose of shortening the hours of women and raising the age limit of children. The circular deals with the inadequacy of the present laws.

Florsheim & Co., shoe manufacturers, of Chicago, have found that an

agreement with a union that does not provide for arbitration is not to the interest of the employer. The union officials have been asked to terminate the present agreement May 1, instead of June 1, and make a new agreement for one or two years, covering wages and working conditions and providing that all disputes be submitted to arbitration.

The Chicago South Side Car Men's union and the Chicago City Railway company have made an agreement covering all points at issue. It will expire April 30, 1906. The company had objected to its expiration the coming April, as it would be necessary to begin making a new agreement immediately. There was no change in the wage scale. The union has 2,000 of the 2,300 employes of the company on its membership roll.

At the National works of the American Tin Plate Company at Monessen, Pa., the hot-mill employes were recently paid a bonus of \$18,000 for faithful and continued service with the company, it being 5 per cent of the net earnings of the men for the last year. The National works is one of the largest controlled by the company and contains twenty-four hot-mills and twenty cold mills. The annual output is 35,000 gross tons of black plate for tinning.

After holding out for five months, 2,000 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of New York seem to be on the verge of submission to the conditions required by the bosses, and the strike, or lock-out, as it is called by the men, will be formally declared off. The one moving cause for this action is the fact that the funds of the organization have been exhausted. For two weeks there has been no strike money distributed, and many of the men have been reduced to actual want.

A plan for establishing and maintaining a sanitarium or health farm for members suffering from tuberculosis has been submitted to a referendum vote of the members of the Cigar-makers' International union. If the proposition carries the members will each be assessed twenty-five cents to start the necessary fund, which will realize about \$11,000, and the institution will be maintained by similar assessments, provided that not more than two are levied in any one year. The present scheme suggests that the health farm be established in Colorado.

For the next fifty-two weeks the 50,000 members of the International Typographical union will pay an assessment of one-half of one per cent of their earnings, the total to be used in establishing a universal eight-hour day in all job and book offices in the United States and Canada. While the total membership will pay the assessment, the number to be benefited by the shorter work day will be about 25,000. The average wages for the 50,000 members is said to be at least \$100,000 a day and that the assessment will bring into the treasury more than \$200,000.

The plate workers who are members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers will be benefited by another advance. At a conference at which the wage scale was arranged for the year ending June 30, 1903, the base of the tinplate scale was reduced from \$4.20 to \$3.40 a box. Under the provisions of the agreement wages advanced 2 per cent with every ten cents a box increase in price. By restoring the former rate of \$3.60 a box the price will be twenty cents above the base, and the amalgamated tin plate workers will be given an advance of 4 per cent in wages.

There is a bright outlook for bridge and structural iron workers during the coming year, according to reports compiled at the headquarters of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers. A good idea of the amount of work on hand is afforded by the fact that all of the American Bridge Company's plants are now in full operation, and will soon be turning out their full capacity. In all some fifty odd thousand tons of material will soon be ready for erection by the American Bridge Company. Besides this work there are some thirty odd independent plants that are well supplied with contracts for structural material.

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Representative Adams of Pennsylvania, by request, which is designed to regulate by novel means the employment of labor. The bill provides that any person or company employing journeymen mechanics, laborers, clerks, or other help shall give preference to American citizens and residents of the vicinity in which the work is to be done; that no employer shall have the right to discharge an employe for a petty cause, and that any employer who refuses, without cause, to give work to a citizen of the vicinity in which the employer lives shall pay damages equal to the amount of wages which would have been earned by the worker who was refused employment.

Separate bills have been introduced and the House of Representatives providing for the pensioning of army locomotive engineers, firemen and telegraphers, as well as the widows and minor children of the same. The bills are to the effect that all persons employed by the quartermaster general of the army in these several occupations, under contract or otherwise, during the late war of the rebellion, and who rendered actual service for a period of six or more months, and were honorably discharged, and who are now or may hereafter be unable to earn a living, shall upon the submission of the necessary proof be entitled to receive a pension of \$30 per month, and that such pension shall commence from the date of the termination of his class of service. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is back of the bill to pension the engineers, and the organizations representing the other classes interested will probably take up the pension question in behalf of these men.

William Abraham, one of the British fraternal delegates to this country from the British Trades Union congress, who is at present visiting cities in Wisconsin, says that we are behind in this country in the matter of labor legislation. Mr. Abraham has been a member of parliament for the past twenty years and is well versed in trade union matters. He says: "In several ways the legislation of Great Britain along labor lines is superior to that of this country. For instance, there is the law known as the workingman's compensation law. This measure practically does away with the tedious and expensive suits for damages on account of personal injury. In this country the workingman has little chance to recover, because of the co-employe theory and the theory of contributory negligence. The British law, which has been in effect for about six years, eliminated both of these safeguards to the employer. If a man is injured, unless it can be proved that he did it deliberately, he receives after the first fortnight, a sum equal to half his weekly wage. In case of death from such injury, his family receives a sum equivalent to his wages for three years if not in excess of \$1,000. The result of this measure has been beneficial in every way. The employer is made vastly more careful in the matter of his safety appliances and the condition of his works. It increases the efficiency of the men, as each is anxious to secure a position where he can earn good wages, so as to have a comfortable amount in case of accident, and no man will deliberately take chances of injury to secure only half as much as he can make if he is well."

ALL CROPS GOOD IN WESTERN CANADA.

"Potatoes the Finest I Ever Saw."

Owing to the great amount of interest that is being taken in Western Canada, it is well to be informed of some of the facts that are bringing about the great emigration from portions of the United States.

The Canadian government has authorized agents at different points, and the facts related in the following may be corroborated on application. At the same time they will be able to quote you rates, and give you certificates entitling you to low rates on the different lines of railway. The following letter copied from the North Bend (Neb.) Eagle is an unsolicited testimonial, and the experience of Mr. Auten is that of hundreds of other Americans who have made Canada their home during the past seven or eight years:

"I presume some may be interested to know how we have progressed this year in the Canadian Northwest. We have no complaint to offer. We have had a good year, crops were good and we have had a delightful season. I threshed from my place 8,650 bushels of grain. My oats made 65 bushels per acre and weighed 42½ pounds per bushel. My wheat made 31½ bushels per acre and is No. 1 quality. My barley made about 30 bushels of good quality. My crop is a fair average of the crops in the Edmonton district.

"All crops were good here this season. Potatoes the finest I ever saw, and all vegetables adapted to the climate. We have had a very fine fall, but no exception to the rule, as the fall season is, I think, the most pleasant of the year. We have had no snow yet (Nov. 9), and have been plowing and working the land preparing for an early seeding next spring. Last night the mercury dropped lower than any previous night this fall, and this morning there is a crust of frost on the fields sufficient to prevent field work. No doubt many would imagine that Alberta had put on her winter overcoat before this and that the people were wrapped in furs, but it is only a question of time when this country will not be looked upon as an iceberg, but a country fit for the best of mankind to live in.

"We are now assured of a trans-continental railway, which is to be built to the Pacific during the next five years. The Canadian Northern road is graded to within seventy-five miles of Edmonton. It comes from Winnipeg, and will reach us next summer, so with one railroad already at hand, the second to reach us in less than a year, and the third to penetrate our city and open up this country to the west across the Rockies to the coast within five years, we surely have reason to believe that the country is progressing.

"Very respectfully, L. J. AUTEN."

No News to Her.

The chorus girl was reading the markets and when she came to the poultry division and read "Old ducks are dull," she remarked that she wondered why anybody wanted to spring such an old and well known piece of information.—Baltimore American.

Every housekeeper should know that if they will buy Defiance Cold Water Starch for laundry use they will save not only time, because it never sticks to the iron, but because each package contains 16 oz.—one full pound—while all other Cold Water Starches are put up in ¼-pound packages, and the price is the same, 10 cents. Then again because Defiance Starch is free from all injurious chemicals. If your grocer tries to sell you a 12-oz. package it is because he has a stock on hand which he wishes to dispose of before he puts in Defiance. He knows that Defiance Starch has printed on every package in large letters and figures "16 ozs." Demand Defiance and save much time and money and the annoyance of the iron sticking. Defiance never sticks.

Mistletoe is only one of the fifty-two varieties of excuses for kissing.