THE LABOR ADVOCATE.

We Demand all the Reform that Justice can ask for, and all the Justice that Reform can give.

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WORK AND WAGES.

LABOR NOTES AND NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS.

Interesting Items, Facts and Figures—A Bird's Eye View of the World of Industry.

CANADA.

MR. JAS. J. HUNTER delivered an address before a Brantford audience, Monday, Feb. 22nd, on the eight hour movement.

THE Rathbun Company is going to build a side wheel steamer to take the place of the steamer Quinte burned last year.

TWENTY persons, nearly all belonging to the working classes, left Kingston via Cape Vincent on Monday for different points in the United States.

THERE is renewed trouble in Chown & Cunningham's foundry, Kingston, because it is proposed to reduce the wages of the hollow ware moulders. They have been getting twelve cents each for pieces which will only realize them ten cents in future.

It is stated that work will be resumed on the Calgary and Edmonton Railway as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and that the line will be completed to Edmonton early in July. When that line is completed work will be commenced on the Calgary and Port McLeod section, which will be ready for operation, according to present calculations, next fall.

GEORGE E. TUCKETT & SONS NEW tobacco factory, situated on Queen street north, Hamilton, was formally opened on Saturday afternoon. It is one of the finest factories in the province. The building is of brick, with red stone trimmings, four storeys and basement, with two extensions for engine house and bonded warehouse at the west end. It is 200 feet long by 75 feet wide.

UNITED STATES.

THE Cigarmakers' Union has nearly $300,000.

NEW YORK slipper makers working from sixteen to eighteen hours a day get $1 25 to $1.50.

SEATTLE has the world's largest lumber mill. The capacity is 300,000 feet in twenty-four hours.

ALL the blacksmiths at Gloucester, Mass., who demanded nine hours, with full pay, went to work Monday, the employers consenting to the change.

STATE Factory Inspector James Connolly, of New York, has appointed Miss Annie Campbell, of Binghampton, as a deputy factory inspector for the southern tier counties.

THE first break in the strike of the flint glass blowers at Glassboro, N. J., which began September, 1890, occurred here last week by several men going to work in the Whitney Brothers' factories.

Many of the shop carpenters of Gloucester, Mass., went to work Monday on their new schedule of nine hours and $2.50 daily. Charles Parkhurst & Co. declined to accede to the demand and the men left the yard.

AFTER negotiations which have been pending a year or more the big type founders of the United States have about effected a consolidation of their interests. The capital invested is reported as $6,000,000. Establishment of uniform prices and the protection of the printer are said to be the chief reasons for consolidation of the thirty odd type foundries.

BELLAMY'S *New Nation* says: "The number of idle laborers in Boston is estimated as follows: Longshoremen, 2,000; coal heavers, 500; gas-house men, 300; iron workers, 1,000; day laborers, 4,500; mechanics, 10,000; salesmen and clerks, 2,000; street car employees, etc., 2,500; hotel employees, 400; women, all branches, 8,000; miscellaneous, 7,000; total, 38,200."

A MANUFACTURER of dog biscuit, who has for some time noticed the large sale of his product in districts occupied by Italian laborers, has recently made the discovery that these poor people, not being able to buy meat, have been substituting largely the dog biscuit as a substitute, buying it when freshly baked, and soaking it in their soup. *Pharmaceutical Rev.*

UNTIL recently fifty per cent. of the immigration to the United States was Irish, about thirty per cent. German and twenty per cent from various European nations. Now the Irish immigration has almost ceased and that from Italy, Russia, Hungary, Bohemia, Poland, Sweden and Norway is rapidly increasing. Most of these immigrants formerly went west, but now about two-thirds of them remain in the New England and middle states.

THE limited concessions of the Pennsylvania Company to their men were accepted by the men on Friday of last week, and all threatened trouble has disappeared for the time at least. Still further concessions will be made by the company. The extra time which has been the cause of so much complaint will be done away with. The men have received concessions in almost everything they asked except an increase of wages. This was firmly denied.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE dock laborers' strike has been commenced in Hull at the docks used by the Shipping Federation.

THE laborers employed upon the Belfast railroad works at Clifton, County Antrim, Ireland, have struck for an increase of wages.

THE English plush trade is stagnant since the McKinley Bill passed. There is much distress among the operatives.

THREE hundred and fifty of the striking miners at Durham have been each fined ten shillings for leaving their work without giving notice to their employers.

ALL of the dock laborers employed about Aberdeen have gone out on strike, and a severe struggle between the men and the Shipping Federation is looked forward to.

THERE was some rioting in Aberdeen on the 24th ult., growing out of the strike in the shipping trade. The police charged the mob repeatedly, and a number of heads were broken.

IT is reported that the Cabinet has decided that the Labor Commission shall meet before Easter, and make its report before the end of the year. Mr. Goschen will preside at the meetings.

AT a meeting in Glasgow of the Shipowners' Society, President Dunlop, of the Allan line of steamships, declared that the depression existing in shipping circles was phenomenal, and that only vessels of the most economical type paid.

THE London dock laborers have removed the boycott which they had placed on one of the three steamship lines belonging to the Shipping Federation. The Federation, however, insists upon the removal of the boycott on all the lines before treating with the boycotters.

A MEETING of the executive Ayrshire Miners Union was held recently in Kilmarnock. It was decided to make a special effort to raise a fund to be devoted in furthering the labor movement at Parliamentary elections, and that all trades be invited to join in the effort.

As the result of the demand of the cotton tenters for higher cost, advance and the masters decline to accede a strike has commenced throughout the cotton trade of Hudderfield and the district. The men state that they have a large fund in hand, and mean to carry on the strike until the advance is conceded.

THE London Society of Compositors has just completed arrangements with the master printers of London whereby an advance of 2s per week will be granted after March 1st to all union compositors employed in the metropolis, alike on men having also been secured for piece workers. Overtime rates have in each case been increased fifty per cent. and in the case of weekly newspaper compositors even more, with a view to reducing overtime as far as possible to a minimum.

RIOTING at the scenes of the evictions of the families of the striking Durham coal miners from the houses which they occupied on the property belonging to Lord Londonderry and others, has taken place. The strikers stoned the police, and the police replied by charging upon the crowds of people who assaulted them. During the course of the day the strikers attacked and wrecked a number of houses occupied by the new men, or "black legs," who have been employed by the coal companies in place of the strikers.

At the Albert Docks, London, on Friday evening of last week, a number of striking firemen and coal porters, armed with iron bars and sticks, attempted to board the Shipping Federation steamer Scotland, but were resisted by the Scotland's officers and crew and by the nonunionist laborers employed. A serious conflict followed, during which the nonunionists fired revolvers at their opponents, injuring a number of them. Several of the attacking party were thrown from the Scotland's deck to the water of the dock, and were with difficulty rescued from drowning. The police arrested eight of the ringleaders of the attacking force.

EUROPEAN AND GENERAL.

AT a recent meeting of persons who wish to improve the dwellings of the working classes in Berlin Byron von Herlepsch emphatically advocated the erection of model houses for three hundred families each.

A DOMESTIC Servants' Union has been formed in the Blackhall district, Queens land, and a committee appointed, which has laid down the following scale of wages as the minimum to be striven for: Housemaids, in hotels, not less than 20s per week; housemaids, in private houses, not less than 18s per week; nurse girls 12s per week; women cooks, 40s per week. All members to have one hour off two afternoons in each week; also off from eight to ten three nights in each week, and every Sunday afternoon from three to five o'clock, and every alternate Sunday night from eight to ten.

AUSTRIAN census takers have discovered a score or more persons in the empire who have passed their 100th birthday. The oldest was the widow of Peter Hanes. She has a certificate of birth dated December 24, 1776. Of her four living sons, the youngest is seventy years old. In Szegedin a man named Isak showed a birth certificate 105 years old.

LOCAL NEWS.

AT the meeting of the Nationalist Association on Tuesday evening, the deputation appointed to wait upon the street Railway Committee to urge the civic operation of the railway, reported that they had received a favorable hearing. A representation of a company had presented objections to such a plan, which were effectually met by members of the deputation. Efforts are to be made to secure the membership of many Nationalists who are not connected with the society. The discussion of "The Politics of Labor" was continued, the subject taken up being the usury and money question.

THE 6th annual dinner and re union of Hand in Hand Assembly No. 5743 K. of L. Bookbinders, took place at the Commercial Hotel on Friday evening, February 27th, about one hundred and twenty five members and their friends being present. Bro. Robert Glocking occupied the chair; the first feature of the proceedings was an address by the chairman, in which he traced in a very interesting way the rise and progress of the organization since it was founded, after which those present enjoyed the good things prepared for them. The usual toasts and music completed a very enjoyable evening.

THE United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners held an open meeting on Thursday, February 26th, in Room 5, Richmond Hall, being one of a series of open meetings which are held fortnightly for the purpose of organizing the trade. A goodly number of carpenters were present, and several expressed their intention of joining Union 27 at their next regular meeting day. A feature of the meeting, at which all present took a decided interest, was a resolution proposed as follows: Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting an indentured apprenticeship system would be in the interest of the trade, and that organization is necessary to obtain the same; which, after a spirited debate, was carried unanimously. The results of these meetings have been very gratifying to those engaged, as new applications are received at every one, showing a large increase to the membership of the Union.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Eight Hour League was held at Richmond Hall on Tuesday, March 3rd, Mr. T. W. Flanton, president, in the chair. Mr. T. C. Waghorn, representing the Bookbinders' Assembly, No. 5743, K. L., secured the affiliation of that organization, and a number of new members were enrolled. There are now over 1,150 organized wage earners represented in the League, and labor unions not at present federated are requested to send delegates in at the next meeting, April 5th. Steps were taken to organize a demonstration to be held in the city at an early date, in view of the importance to labor in general of the eight hour movement. Answers from the parliamentary candidates, to the question of supporting legislation favoring an eight hour legal working day, were received satisfactorily as follows: E. Coatsworth, Alex. Wheeler, W. F. Maclean; the illness of one candidate prevented his attending to the matter. A warm discussion on the advisability of obtaining shorter hours of labor by legislation concluded the meeting.

AT the regular meeting of the Single Tax Association on last Friday evening, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Richard Lewis and seconded by Mr. Samuel Jones, was unanimously adopted: "That this society regards with deep and earnest sympathy the sufferings of the unemployed poor, and protests against the statement frequently and publicly made that the drinking habits of the laboring classes are chiefly responsible for the prevailing destitution, and condemns that statement as a libel on the character of the wage earning class and calculated to mislead public opinion." An address was delivered by Mr. George Howell on "Socialism and the Single Tax," in which he took the ground that the latter reform, though it might effect a considerable improvement in the condition of the workers, would not of itself secure to every one a rightful share of the produce of industry or present poverty and injustice. That could only be effected by the entire abolition of the competitive system, and the substitution of some form of socialism for existing methods of distribution. Messrs. Lewis, McCorquodale and Sheppard took part in the discussion which followed.

THE BILLIONAIRE MUST BE CRUSHED OR CROWNED.

We have in this country to-day a body of nobles more powerful than any who have existed in England since the wars of the roses. These nobles, called in modern phrase "money kings," hold the world of business under their feet, and industry and commerce go on by their sufferance. They are altogether such a body of oligarchs as no monarch in Europe, having regard to the safety of its throne, would tolerate for an hour.

A number of New York ladies, wives of these masters of the country, have recently taken a notion to wear ornamental crowns and coronets of gold and gems with their evening costumes. Some people have waxed very indignant over this, but why? Who could have a better right to put on crowns?

No countess or duchess in Europe has a claim so well based on fact, to wear the outward and visible symbols which have been historically associated with power and lordliness as these ladies.

There are some people who are much more afraid of names than things. The *New Nation* is not. If we are going to have the reality of oligarchical government, it is absurd to object to the paraphernalia and fixings. If we are going to have a nobility, let us have a complete one. If the American people are going to permit the existence in this country of hereditary fortunes of one and two hundred million dollars, carrying with them as they do irresistible power over the welfare and livelihood of the people, why, it would be a step in the interest of good government to introduce at once a full set of titles of nobility, with a House of Lords and an hereditary peerage. The real power should be the responsible one.

If a score or two men are to rule the country, it is far better they should do so openly. Let them be ennobled, let them must be crushed or crowned, and within twenty years one or the other will have happened. That time will either see the republic redeemed by the establishment of nationalism, or else an oligarchy supporting a throne.—*New Nation.*

WESTERN UNION DESPOTISM

How little do our people know about their relation to the Western Union Telegraph Company. We absolutely need at our breakfast tables to read the daily press just about what that company chooses to have us know! It is Republican, capitalistic, monopolistic. Labor reform, temperance reform, the woman movement, can by no means get a hearing along its wires. It is loath to send out the date and place of meeting of a national convention of any one of these workers. I am told that Alonzo B. Cornell, Republican candidate for governor and politician of New York State, is the Western Union manager. There can be no question but that the Western Union has its black list of persons and societies. It will on no account report the vote of the Prohibition party. It likewise withholds the news of the Knights of Labor and other industrial organizations. There is something bewildering about this domination of a monopoly over the very sources of information of a great people, but it is perhaps most of all astounding that the people will put up with it from year to year. In Germany the telegraphs and telephones belong to the government. There would be a civil war if the attempt were made to put them into the hands of private individuals. The plan works admirably, and would in any and every country. Happily, nearly all the later political movements place planks in their platforms to the effect that all means of general public locomotion and communication shall be operated by the government. Let the Prohibition party give no uncertain sound on the great reform. Free speech is impossible in a country where Jay Gould and his minions decide what shall go to the press and what shall not. Even the news they do send they can "water" as they do their stock. But every evil tends to its own cure. The fact that Jay Gould now controls all the transcontinental railroads is the most hopeful fact in connection with the ownership of these roads by the government, and the more he suppresses the news about his telegraph wires of the Western Union, the more is he preparing to have those wires turned into the thousand of the modern Juve, whose name is Public Opinion. May they soon, metaphorically speaking, concentrate on his own breast. *Frances E. Willard in the Voice.*

ABOUT 3,000 men employed at the Singer Sewing Machine Works, Glasgow, struck because of the dismissal of unionist workmen. The strike interferes with the labor of 9,000 other workmen.