

LABOR AND WAGES.

Cleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.

Springfield freestone cutters have won their eight months' contest.

Southern Pacific Railroad matters in dispute have been settled without a strike.

A strike is in progress on the Duluth Tribune against the introduction of boiler-plate.

A bill to distribute \$50,000 among the unemployed in San Francisco is before the Legislature.

San Francisco moulders, who have been locked out for some time, are bringing the bosses to time.

Printers on the three papers at Frederick, Md., struck for increased pay and started a paper of their own.

Painters' Union, No. 103, of Birmingham, N. Y., has a little theatre of its own capable of sitting 200 people.

The Cigarmakers' Union of Chicago has decided to demand an advance of one dollar per thousand after May 1st.

Three hundred and fifty Durham (England) strikers have been fined \$2.50 each for quitting work without notice.

Worcester, Mass. tin and sheet iron workers will demand the nine-hour day May 1. One employer has already granted the request.

The labor unions of Denver, and their recognized leaders, seem to be unanimous for Billy Milburn, the union printer, for Mayor of Denver.

The New York Tin and Sheet Iron Workers' Union has notified all employers that eight hours will be a day's work on and after August 1st, with no reduction in wages.

The threatened strike of the Hunter's Point & Steinway Surface railroad has been averted by the company reinstating five Knights of Labor who had been discharged without cause.

A general congress of the railroad employees of France will take place at Tours on May 1. A pension fund is to be established by the government and the eight hour day will be demanded.

The coming convention of the Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union, which will be held in Boston June next, will be the largest, as well as the most important convention yet held by that organization.

The Knights of Labor of Chicago have agreed to patronize only those stores that sign the early closing agreement. The merchant tailors along Clark street from Adams street to the river have already signed an agreement to close at 6.30.

According to the union's official organ it is dull for painters in Peoria, Ill.; New Castle, Pa.; St. Paul, Minn.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Chicago, Ill.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Matteawan, N. Y.; Ottawa, Canada; Toledo, O.; New Orleans, La.; Kansas City, Mo.; Columbus, Ohio.

During the big strike of cigarmakers in Binghamton, N. Y., last summer, in which some 3,000 employes were interested, a number of the strikers were arrested on a charge of riotous conduct, and after a trial before Recorder Downs, who, it was charged, was financially interested in some of the factories, were sentenced to 100 days' imprisonment in the Albany penitentiary. An appeal was taken to the Court of Sessions, which has just overruled the decision of Recorder Downs and ordered the prisoners discharged. There are a number of other cases to come up, and the probabilities are that the same action will be taken in them.

The February report of the Amalgamated Carpenters shows 506 branches and 32,508 members, of which 1,1819 members are in the United States and Canadas. They have last month gained four new branches and over 600 members by the consolidation with them of the old carpenters societies of Dublin, Ireland. In 1458 the first carpenters' trade guild was formed in Dublin. In 1838 they built their own headquarters in Dublin, and in 1866 the first branch of the Amalgamated was first established on Irish soil, and last year the nine-hour day was established in Dublin by the joint action of the Dublin Union and the Amalgamated. This led to the final consolidation of the two bodies.

The strike of the blowers at the Bridgeport Glass Co's works was satisfactorily settled on Saturday and the works went on in full. About 25 men were thrown out by the strike, which was caused by the fact that the men were not paid for imperfect ware, and they claimed that the molds were not in condition to make a sufficient quantity of good ware to pay them fair wages.

The brick manufacturers of Philadelphia demanded a reduction of 15 per cent in the wages of the brickmakers. The brickmakers are members of Clay Assembly No. 6788, K. of L., and numbers nearly 800 in all. There had been no change in the scale for the previous four years, and the men

were satisfied. The manufacturers refused to treat with the Arbitration Committee representing the workmen. The strike involves 3,200 men. It is said that several of the manufacturers are dissatisfied with the action of the Brick Manufacturers' Association in refusing to treat with the men, and as a consequence a rupture is looked for which will eventuate in a withdrawal of the demand for a reduction.

A thousand journeymen painters of New York went on strike last week for the purpose of enforcing the demands of eight hours work per day at the rate of \$3.30 per day. Hitherto the men have received \$3 for eight hours' work per day. According to the reports received at the strikers' headquarters at Clarendon hall, all but 25 of the shops out of the 85 in which the demand was made had yielded. The strikers are confident that all the shops will concede their demand. This is about the busiest time of the year for painters, and many of the bosses have contracts which they must carry out. The building traders will be called on to co-operate with the painters, and the stubborn firms will probably yield.

RETORTS TO LAWYERS.

Amusing Answers of Witnesses Under Examination.

It has sometimes happened that a lawyer has, in the language of the street, "given himself away" to a smart adversary. Garrow did this once when examining a witness in the Court of Queen's Bench.

Are you a fortune-teller? he asked. I am not, replied the man, but I can tell yours.

The shrewd counsel tripped and was worsted. What is that to be, said he.

Why, sir, was the response, as you made your first speech at the Old Bailey, so you will make your last there.

In like manner, arguing before a jury of judges, an oversmart counsel stopped short in his pleadings. He was confident of obtaining a successful result, and Lord Newton vexed him by seeming to be in a deep slumber. Addressing the other Lords on the bench, he said:

My Lords, it is unnecessary to go on, as Lord Newton is fast asleep.

What was his consternation when an answer came:

Ay, ay, cried the angry judge, you will have proof of that by and by.

And to the astonishment and chagrin of the young advocate and the intense interest of others, Newton luminously reviewed the case and gave a decided judgment against the too sanguine counsel.

Even the cleverest lawyers have been set down in open court by equally ready witnesses.

Did you see that tree, that has been mentioned, by the roadside? an advocate inquired.

Yes, sir; I saw it very plainly.

It was conspicuous, then?

The witness seemed puzzled by the new word. He repeated his former assertion. Sneered the lawyer.

What is the difference between plain and conspicuous?

But he was hoisted with his own petard. The witness smoothly and innocently answered:

I can see you plainly, sir, among the other lawyers, though you are not a bit conspicuous.

In another comical instance the attack was directed against the character of the witness. But it recoiled.

You were in the company of these people?

Of two friends, sir.

Friends! Two thieves, I suppose you mean.

That may be so, was the dry retort. They are both lawyers.

The blow that destroys the effect of an adverse examination is occasionally more accident than conscious effort. In a trial not long ago a very simple witness was in the dock, and, after going through his ordeal, was ready to retire. One question remained.

Now, Mr. —, has not an attempt been made to induce you to tell the court a different story?

A different story to what I have told, sir? Yes; is it not so?

Yes, sir.

Upon your oath, I demand to know who the persons are who have attempted this? Well, sir, you have tried as hard as any of 'em, was the unexpected answer.

It ended the examination.—Cassell's Saturday Journal.

So Very Sick.

A little beggar newsboy on Park Row got a quarter the other afternoon for his shrewdness and honesty. He approached a kindly looking man just in front of the Journal office and asked for a few pennies, explaining that his father was sick and that his mother was in need of money.

What is his complaint, asked the man, as he put his hand in his pocket.

He's sick of work, sir, said the little fellow, and then he grinned with joy as the man smiling gave him a quarter.

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