LABOR WORLD

News and Views of the Ever Advancing Army of Workers

BY UNIONIST

The strike of the Dundee engineers continues. The men are standing out against a reduction of wages.

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There are no factory laws in Japan, and children are wrought frightfully long hours for a mere pittance.

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Leeds steelworkers have offered to continue at work pending submission to arbitration of the proposed 10 per cent. reduction.

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At the recent conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation there were sixty-eight delegates representing 55,000 members of the union.

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Political war often stems the tide of industrial war, and this war is just what Russia needs to put the bit on the signs of war among the workers.

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Provision was made for nearly 74,000 people by the various Poor Law authorities in London on Christmas Day. This was an increase of over 2,000 over last year's provision.

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Judge Dickey, of the New York Supreme Court, decided that the stereotypers of the metropolis had no right to attempt to force men to join their union.

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The miners are having some difficulty in fixing up wage conditions. The operators' committee and the miners' committee are attempting to adjust matters.

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The Hamilton street railway men are having a bit of trouble with the company. They hope, however, to have the justice of their claim against the new rule established without recourse to a strike.

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Michigan State Federation of Labor has issued a call asking local unions to go into politics. They are urged to support a number of labor bills before the Legislature. The Parry bosses are trying to defeat them.

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With the view of providing for the wants of men who have been ill, the executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation are considering a proposal that a convalescent home should be established for the use of the miners of Scotland.

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The English building trades say that if Canada is given a preference on timber they will likely demand one besides on corn, and a crushing blow will be given to British trade, and the occupation of a million persons will be imperiled.

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The number of failures for the year 1903 are 2 per cent. less than for 1902, but the liabilities are 45 per cent. greater, showing that the programme of concentration goes merrily on just the same, and the squeezing process is reaching higher up in the business world.

The per capita tax receipts of the American Labor Union just closed, show a gain of over 30 per cent. as compared with the preceding year.

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The concert under the auspices of the Street Railwaymen on Friday night next in Massey Hall promises to be the usual success. The talent is of the best, and a good night's amusement is in store for those who attend.

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The Machinists' Ladies' Auxiliary made a success of their first at-home last Friday night. Those present thoroughly enjoyed the evening spent with the ladies, and will no doubt look forward to future entertainments under their auspices with some degree of anticipated pleasure.

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The Ennis piano factory in Hamilton is again the scene of trouble. The cause of it is the discharge of some of the men employed there, presumably because they are members of the union. The rest of the employees have asked permission to strike unless these men are reinstated.

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Judge Dwyer, of San Antonia, Texas, decided that the anti-trust law of that State, under which union brewery workers and electrical workers were dragged into court, did not apply to trade unions, but combinations of capital. Now the Parryites are displeased and threaten to see about it.

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The telephone girl is almost a thing of the past in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Citizens' Company displaced the girls with an automatic switchboard, which will work 24 hours a day without a murmur, and will absolutely refuse to flirt over the phone. The services of about 45 girls are dispensed with.

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The 3,000 journeymen steamfitters in the National Association are so dissatisfied with the American Federation's refusal to grant them a separate charter from the Plumbers' National Union that they threaten to withdraw all their locals from the A. F. of L., and then join in a body the National Building Trades Council.

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Mr. Robert Smillie, as president of the Scottish Miners' Federation, in his address to the annual conference, said that far from ruining it, the minimum wage principle had fostered the trade of the country. He did not believe that any class of employer would be foolish enough now to go back to the old state of matters. They must press forward to the ideal minimum wage.

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The harvester trust have given notice of a reduction in wages. It discharged 3,500 employees when the consolidation took place, making a saving of $500,000 a month in wages, while producing as much machinery as formerly. It was not satisfied with this added profit, but raised the price of harvesters. Still not satisfied, it now cuts the wages. Those trust magnates are determined to have their profits.

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After a strike of 15 weeks, that tied up every plant in the United States, the typefounders have been ordered back to work by their international officers. The men asked an advance of 12½ per cent. When they walked out the proprietors of the typemaking shops were unable to get other help, so thoroughly was the craft organized. The founders in Chicago and Boston are kicking, claiming that they would have won out.

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The trunk and bag workers have recently been holding meetings of an open variety in an effort to induce the girls to join and to perfect their organization with the hope of shortening the hours of labor. The female help are sometimes hard to convert, but once they are converted stick to the union. We trust the trunk and bag workers will get them converted to the idea that "in union there is strength" and thus strengthen the position of the workers in this industry.

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Thomas Edison, the "wizard" of Menlo Park, N.J., has come out and declared himself most emphatically an enemy to labor organizations. He has "fired" every union man in his laboratory; and even went so far as to go through the Edison Storage Battery Company, a shop not implicated in the present strike, and discharged every man that admitted he was a member of the union. The International Association of Machinists wish this matter given the widest possible publicity.

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The Journeymen Tailors' Union are making an effort to organize the shops on Queen street west. They have a number of stores on this street using their label, and in justice to these it follows that the others should be working under the same conditions. Their scale has been presented to a number of these stores, and a meeting will be held in Ocident Hall some night next week, when they hope to get those working in these shops into their union, and thus strengthen the position of the union and employer at the same time.

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The chairman of the labor representative committee, addressing 400 delegates at Bradford, last Friday, said Mr. Chamberlain desired the help of the workers, but where was Mr. Chamberlain's sincerity when the trades' dispute bill came on, nor did he ask the government to give the labor party fair play in selecting commissioners to deal with the trade union law. The chairman of the tariff commission had some of his printing done in Holland. No wonder the workers doubted Chamberlain's sincerity.

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The result of the arbitration in the strike of the Chicago livery drivers is a renewal of the old contract against which the men struck, with the exception of two items, which were eliminated in favor of the owners. These two items are that there shall be no delegates of the unions posted in the stables and the livery men are not bound to have uniforms made by union tailors. The men are to receive $12 a week, with 25 cents an hour for overtime, with one day off in each week. These were practically the conditions before the strike.

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Unions of Colorado are holding mass meetings and denouncing Governor Peabody in unmeasured terms. He is accused of trampling under foot, denying free speech and public assemblage, ignoring civil process and suspending habeas corpus, abolishing a free pass, and forcing the entering wedge to overthrow American institutions. About 400 delegates from labor organizations all over the State held a conference in Denver and took preliminary steps to form a political movement destined to wipe the capitalistic lackeys of Rockefeller out of office.

One of the results of the national election in Australia was the defeat of Tom Glassey for Parliament. Glassey was originally elected by the workers, but became too big for his shoes, and came out as a "harmonizer" between labor and capital and stood for re-election as an Independent. The average labor vote in Brisbane was 38,000; capitalists, 18,000, and Glassey received a few over 12,000.

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Building contractors from all over the State of Pennsylvania met at Scranton in convention. The main object of the gathering was to originate a gigantic fight with organized labor in the building trades, and the methods they are to employ in gaining their ends are outlined in the following, which is a part of its constitution: First—In case of a lockout by any employer or employers affiliated with a local Builders' Exchange it can issue an order prohibiting the employment of the locked out men by any contractor affiliated with the State Association. Second—In case of a strike or lockout in any city or town it can order all affiliated dealers in building materials not to sell any of their products in that city.

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The new refrom club's political committee has issued a 20-page pamphlet, entitled British Workmen or Chinese Slaves? It argues that the real demand for Chinese labor is due to the fear of an influx of white labor, which would speedily end the political influence of the mining magnate. The New South Wales labor party has emphatically protested against Asiatic labor in South Africa. Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, replying to Thomas Lough, M.P., the end of last week, said that the British government being of the opinion that the introduction of Asiatic labor was desired by the people of the Transvaal, would not agree to a referendum. The question was urgent, and the government could not postpone a decision much longer.

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The Typographical Union has given notice to the employing printers of its desire to inaugurate an eight-hour working day for the craft in the city. A number of the employers have notified their employees that their desires do not run in the same direction. The agreement term between the Typographical Union and the Typothetae ran out at the end of January, its conditions being observed however till a further one is made. The Typos have put in a request for the services of International Organizer Hays, who has previously assisted when scale agreements have been made. The regular meeting of the union takes place on Saturday night, and will be of an important character, for in addition to this matter a new president has to be elected on account of the retirement of President Thoms, after holding office for three years. The Pressmen's Union has notified the employers that it wishes to be governed by any concessions that may be granted to the Typos.—Winnipeg Voice.

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The British Labor Gazette's review of wages and disputes in 1903 contains some striking facts. There were fewer industrial disputes in 1903 than in any of the previous ten years. "The net result of the changes in 1903 was a decline, but the decline was less than in 1902 and 1901, and was chiefly confined to the coal mining industry, which, significantly enough, was responsible for a very large proportion of the year's disputes. Such changes as occurred in the hours of labor were in the direction of a decrease, averaging about 2½ hours per week. As to the year's disputes, it is stated that "taking the percentages based on the number of workpeople directly involved, the balance of success would appear to have been in favor of the workpeople, e. g., unionists and non-unionists are excluded, the balance of a gain is in favor of the employers." Altogether the year appears to have been comparatively quiet, and the figures seem to indicate that strikes as a means of settling industrial disputes are being increasingly discredited.

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The negotiations respecting the reduction in wages in Northeast Coast ship building yards only concluded on the 31st of December, and now the engineering employers have given notice of reductions which are very similar. Two months' notice is given of the intention to reduce wages 5 per cent. on piece rates, 2s. per week on time rate of 30s. per week or over, 1s. 6d. per week on wages between 25s. and 30s., and 1s. per week on wages below 25s. It is less than twelve months since a reduction took place in many of the trades affected, and it is thought probable the bulk of the proposed reduction will be accepted as trade continues very depressed.

An important point as to the right of a trade union to threaten to withdraw men from the employ of a master who was also a member of the union, but who, in their opinion, had acted beyond the rules, was decided in the Court of Appeal recently. The case was that of Read vs. The Friendly Society of Co-operative Stonemasons and Others. The court found that the plaintiff was not bound by any union rules, that he had suffered a loss, and he could maintain the action. The evidence was sufficient for them to enter judgment for plaintiff for £50.

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SINGLE TAX MEETINGS.

"The Religion of the Fiscal Question" was the subject of a discourse at the Single Tax Association meeting in the Grand Opera House last Sunday afternoon. Mr. J. W. Bengough was the speaker, and dispite the rigors of the climate a large and enthusiastic audience turned out.

"It is a new idea, no doubt, to many to associate religion with fiscalities," said the speaker. "To those I say that the Creator who made the world, who made man to live in society, and who foresaw that revenue was essential to that society, indicated the true source of revenue, by a law as simple, obvious and unfailing as the law of gravitation, viz., the law of land values. And as to trade, I assert that there is no more necessity for human regulation than there is for human superintendance and guidance in the process of digestion or any of the other vital processes that we call unconscious.

The fiscal question is not a thing of statistics and wire-drawn arguments; it is at bottom what Carlyle called the "Condition of the People Question," and that nothing more nor less than the question of religion.

After fifty years of trial the free trade policy of England finds a large percentage of her population in poverty, manufacturers depressed, artisans out of work and the general symptoms of hard times. The so-called free trade as a means of alleviating the misery of the land has been a failure, and now Mr. Chamberlain comes forward with the proposal to go back to the old system, declaring that it was not the corn laws that cause the "bad old times." His proposition, in brief, is this: He would do away with the present tariff and replace it with a general duty of 10 per cent. on all manufactured goods from foreign countries. For the benefit of the colonies he would put a tax upon wheat, corn, meat and foodstuffs in general (excepting maize and bacon), and admit the colonial products in these lines free. The colonies in return are to reserve these lines of manufacture not already occupied for the British manufacturer. He says that the volume of trade of Great Britain has dropped £30,000,000 as between 1871 and 1901. But the Liberals have pointed out that in 1871, being the year of the Franco-Prussian war, prices were unusually high, and exports exceptionally large. The recently issued Blue Book has also brought to light the fact that the last year's trade has been the biggest in the history of the country.

Any artificial scheme which requires a central authority in London to adjust or attempt to adjust an infinity of warring interests, will never work, or will only work the disruption of the Empire. Trade consolidation must be brought about not by arbitrary inter-imperial tariff arrangements, but by the gradual approach of free trade on the part of the colonies. In short, I think a free trade Empire is feasible and desirable; a protectionist Empire is impracticable—fortunately so, for if accomplished, it would be a gigantic wickedness.

In 1881 Mr. Chamberlain said: "I can conceive it just possible though highly improbable that under the sting of great suffering and deceived by misrepresentation the working classes might be willing to try strange remedies and might be foolish enough to submit for a time to a proposal to tax the food of the country; but one thing I am certain of—if this course is ever taken and if the depression were to continue or to remain, it would be the signal for a state of things more dangerous and disastrous than anything which has been seen in this country since the repeal of the corn laws." To-day this gentleman is trying to convince the people that taxes on food will not increase the cost of living.

The fiscal issue in Britain is but one phase of the labor question of the world—the question of ten men to every nine jobs, which will never be settled until the system has been so amended as to bring about the normal condition of ten jobs for every nine men. That involves an Escape from the overcrowded labor market for the tenth man, and that can be accomplished only by tearing down the bars of land monopoly and giving him free access to the possibilities of self employment such as his father Adam enjoyed. That can be done only by the taxation of land values, which will make it unprofitable for the owners to keep them up.

The landlords of Great Britain take £200,000,000 per annum out of the earnings of people, and ours will take as great a loot in due time. The same causes will produce the same effects. Canada is already in the toils of landlordism, and unless we want to see the awful spectacle of London reproduced in this goodly land we must throttle the monster wrong.

Some men trust to luck in this world, and some others are lucky to get trusted.

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A little girl in the nursery, saying her prayers, was much disturbed by an impish little brother, who would persist in pulling her hair. At length, out of patience with the persecution, the young lady said: "Excuse me, Lord, while I go and give Tommy a good kick."

NOTICE.

The following are the Factory Inspectors for the Province of Ontario:

JOHN T. BURKE, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; THOMAS KEILTY, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; JAMES R. BROWN, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; MARGARET CARLYLE, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; O. A. HOGUE, Orleans, Ont.

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THE BARGAIN GIVING

Stock taking in a store the size of ours naturally enough finds us with many broken and odd lines. We cannot carry these goods over, we never do, instead in goes the price pruning knife, the result being a store full of bargains in Union made goods of every description.

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This special bargain offering, would fail in its primary object and also in its great helpfulness and usefulness to you, if it did not supply "Union made" goods, that were equal in every particular of construction, finish and design to the best goods we have ever offered only we have not the full range of sizes to make a selection from, and the **price difference** your gain, a price reduction of from 25% to 40%. The bargain list appears all over the store, the money saving opportunities are to be found in every department.

GOUGH BROS.

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THE LABOR GAZETTE.

The Labor Gazette for January came along a little later than usual on account no doubt of its increased size. In addition to the customary reports and statistics, it contains a number of articles reviewing Canadian industrial matters of the past year. The Gazette is becoming a very acceptable source of information. In an article on the growth and development of labor organizations the tables show that there were 275 organizations formed during the year, and a total of 54 disbanded.

The new schedules for C. P. R. engineers and firemen are given. By the settlement which was arrived at on Dec. 2 the engineers received a general advance of from 7 to 25 per cent., according to work and location, with shorter hours in certain cases. The firemen received a general advance of from 8 to 22 per cent., with the removal of certain duties hitherto incidental to firing. With both classes the largest increase applied to the west where the cost of living is highest. The agreement took effect from December 1, and may be terminated at thirty days' notice, after which negotiations may be opened by either party.

The Vancouver correspondent gives the result of an arbitration between the Typographical Union and the Master Printers' Association, which resulted favorably to the former, a minimum of $22 per week being set for 7 1-2 hours work per day on newspapers. On this award being made the publishers issued the following:

"In consequence of the increased cost of white paper and other materials, and the higher scale of wages paid compositors, as the result of the recent arbitration, the proprietors of the four daily newspapers published in Vancouver hereby give notice that the price of their newspapers will be advanced on or before August 1st, 1904."

THE COLORADO OUTRAGES.

There seems to be an organized and systematic suppression of news from the strike regions of Colorado. Yet in spite of the conspiracy of silence of the great "molders of public opinion"—the great journals—enough facts have leaked through to prove that the condition of affairs which exists in the mining camps of that State is appalling and almost beyond belief of the citizen who has fondly believed that his sacred rights, voiced by the constitution are held inviolate by the State and National governments. But from the facts before us, which only the labor press seems to be brave enough to publish, it seems clear that the declarations of military law and the accompanying outrages at Victor, Cripple Creek and other points are but part of a general movement to crush out resistance on the part of the working class of America.

The evidence is but too plain. In 1902 the people of the State of Colorado, by a referendum vote, declared by a majority of 40,000 for a constitutional amendment providing for an eight-hour work day in the mines. The miners and the working class generally, however, neglected to elect men of their own class to carry out their desires, and the officials who were elected refused to notice the referendum. The miners therefore went on strike to secure what the people had said was legally theirs and thus gave the Emoloyers' Association the opportunity it had been waiting for. The strike was absolutely without violence, no one was injured, no property destroyed. Nevertheless, troops were at once rushed to the scene. Governor Peabody has since admitted that these troops are in the direct pay of the Mine Owners' Association; that is to say, he has turned the militia over to a branch of the National Employers' Association to be used by them as their private police force.

Houses of the miners were entered and firearms not previously surrendered were confiscated. Thousands of permits were then issued to the hired scabs of the Mine Owners' Association allowing them to carry arms. Thus the union miners were first disarmed and rendered helpless and then turned over to the tender mercies of hireling thugs. Orders were then issued to all the mine managers to discharge every employe who would not sever his membership in the union. Then occurred other outrages. The strikers were arrested in their homes on the charge of vagrancy, thrown into the "bull-pen," denied the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and fined various sums, which they were compelled to work out with ball and chain, under military guard. They were then informed, however, that if they went to work as scabs the fines would be remitted.

President Moyer, of the Miners' Federation, was ordered out of the region on pain of arrest, with no other charge than holding an official position in the union. Practically the entire mining population of the State was union, and there were no scabs at hand, so the miners were denying no one his "divine right to work." Men were shipped under various pretexts from the East, and compelled on their arrival to work as scabs whether they wished or not.

The next step was to keep the workers of the country from gaining a knowledge of the situation. A press censorship was established. For the first time in our country's history a newspaper appeared, as in Russia, with a blank space where the editorial usually appears. Papers have been forbidden to print the official statements of the unions.

Yet the fight goes on. The union workers in Colorado are engaged in the most desperate fight for liberty and elementary justice ever waged in this country. Their fellow-workers in all sections hang breathlessly on the results of this struggle, fraught as it is with such deep significance to the whole working class.

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When you are buying a Cigar
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IT SIGNIFIES BEST WORKMANSHIP

Union-made Cigars

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GOD'S CHILDREN.

I work all day for a living,
And at night I go to bed
When I have asked my Heavenly Father
To give me my daily bread.

But some don't work for a living,
And at night they don't go to bed,
And they don't ask their Heavenly Father
To give them their daily bread.

If we only had the password
When we are in the other world;
We would all be the child of the wealthy
And be born where there is plenty of gold.

But the rich we are told are not happy,
And the poor are weary and sad,
Yet if we loved one another as brothers
We would all be happy and glad.

In this world there is room for us all,
And enough for our wants every one,
If we observe the will of our Father,
As in heaven every day it is done.

As a rule, an heiress is more interesting that she looks.

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A woman's idea of a secret is something worth telling.

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A man seldom knows when he is well off until he is away off.