

LABOR AND WAGES.

CANADIAN.

The Ottawa Journal stated on Monday night that about 400 men at work on the Gatineau Valley railway have not been paid for several weeks and that a strike will probably take place in a day or two. The men employed are nearly all Italians.

AMERICAN.

The Retail Clerks' Protective Association of Detroit has nearly 8,000 members, 500 of whom are women.

Typographical Union No. 53, Cleveland, O., has adopted a new scale which is to go into effect on Nov. 1.

The labor organizations of Omaha, Neb., have organized a political party and nominated a local ticket with Dr. J. R. Conkling at the head for mayor.

The Journeymen Bakers' International Union will send a representative to the Bakers' International Congress about to be held in Hamburg, Germany.

The union cigarmakers of Three Rivers, Mich., have written to the local unions that they no longer need assistance as their strike has resulted in favor of the union.

The Franklin Association of Pressmen and Assistants, L. A., 2228 K. of L., last week won a strike for the scale of wages in Clarke & Zingala's shop, 33 Gold street, New York.

The Amalgamated Brassworkers' Union, at its last regular meeting, tabled a communication from the People's Municipal League and endorsed the candidates of the Socialist Labor Party.

The Boilermakers' National Union has notified every employer in their trade throughout the United States that the journeymen boilermakers will demand eight hours, to go into effect on May 1, 1892.

The general executive board of the Atlantic Coast Seamen's Union, now in session in Boston, has agreed to co-operate with the American Shipping League in recommending to Congress the adoption of the Tonnage bill.

A bakers' union of New York has declined an invitation to a ball of another local bakers' union, stating that its members are of opinion that their condition as wage slaves is too miserable to allow them attend such entertainments.

The Connecticut State Federation of Labor is in session at South Norwalk, Thirty-eight delegates, representing 32 organizations, answered the roll call. The reports of the officers showed that during the past year twenty new unions were organized in the State under the auspices of the Federation.

The street cleaners of Fort Wayne, Ind., are demanding more pay because they were put on night work instead of working in the daytime. The labor organizations of that city oppose the demand, stating that the change from day to night was made by the politicians for the simple purpose of getting more money from the city treasury for election purposes.

The Printing Trades Council was reorganized last week at the rooms of Typographical Union No. 6 at 240 William street, New York. Thirteen organizations, unions and K. of L. assemblies were represented. The next meeting will be held on October 29, to which twice as many organizations as were represented at the first meeting will send delegates.

The special committee appointed by the miners' conference recently held at Columbus, O., reports that the disorganized and demoralized condition of the miners in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia Clay County, of Indiana, Illinois and large portions of other States, has been so marked that special efforts should be made at once to reorganize them.

EUROPEAN.

The ebony workers' strike at Mainz, Germany has been lost. A large number of the strikers left the city.

The miners at Genoa, Italy, 800 in number, have dropped their work upon a refusal of their employers to grant higher wages.

At Ilmenau, Friedrichshagen, Burg, Osterwick and Leignitz, Germany, the glovers are out on strike. Over 1,500 male and female operatives are involved.

The London fruit porters have scored a decisive victory by regaining the privileges which they had lost some years ago. All hands are now back in their work.

After a strike for five months for a reduction of hours, the cabinetmakers at Mayence, Germany, have resumed work at the old conditions. They have spent about \$10,000 for benefits.

The London master builders are threatening to import scabs from abroad to replace their workmen now on strike, but the strikers have sent agents to the Continent of Europe to counteract the move by the masters.

The weavers of Roubaix, France, who went on strike against being compelled to work on two looms at one time were beaten,

and they went back under their heavy yoke. There are weavers in this country who work on three and four looms and never went on strike against such a terrible task.

Mr. David Scott, senior labor member for Newcastle, N. S. W., has suffered a vote of censure by the Labor Electoral League for not voting with the party. The terms of the motion were: "That this meeting deeply regrets that Mr. Scott, M. L. A., cannot see his way to stick to the Labor party like tar to a blanket both in and out of the caucus.

The Labor party in South Australia intend putting forth their full strength to secure representation in Parliament at the next general election. And the most democratic method yet pursued is to be adopted in the choice of candidates. A plebiscite or poll of all members of trade and labor organizations is to be taken and the selected ones held ready for the general election or any by-election that may take place.

Interesting Industrial Items.

The recent lockout of cigarmakers in Hamburg, in which about 3,000 union men were involved, cost the union over \$100,000, and they were compelled to accept the terms of the bosses after a struggle of seventeen weeks. At present the union has more members than it ever had.

A number of organized bakers in London have formed a co-operative society under the title of "The Workers Co-operative Productive Society. Limited." They have been successful, and now the shoemakers, cigarmakers, hatters, millers, painters, tailors and cartmen are to follow their example.

The word "sweater" derives its name from the Anglo-Saxon word swat, and means the separation or extraction of labor or toil from others for one's own benefit. Any person who employs others to extract from them surplus labor without compensation, or extract a double amount of labor, either by lowering wages or working longer hours, is a "sweater."

Carroll D. Wright says: "It is probable that the time has arrived when every person in the United States who desires remunerative employment cannot find it. Five hundred thousand people must compete for 460,000 places. What I am saying has nothing to do with the great army of the unemployed, which through all ages has hung upon the outskirts of civilization. I am dealing simply with currents in the way of occupation."

Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott says: "So long as there are women in cities who buy their food only by selling their womanhood; so long as there are men in the rich coal fields of Illinois that must stand without, shivering at the door, with pick in hand and muscle ready for work, while wealth locks the door up against them and a shivering population; so long as in the iron fields of Pennsylvania men work twelve hours a day, with no time to court their wives and kiss their children, so long my hand and my heart are enlisted in any and every movement that gives fair promise for the emancipation of man by the emancipation of industry."

Mrs. Alexander Bremer, one of the Factory Inspectors of N. Y., affirms that children as young as 8 years are employed in mercantile houses from 10 to 12 hours a day, at wages often as low as \$1 per week, and seldom above \$2 per week. She believes that, all things considered, the work of these children is as hard as that of many employed in the factories, for 60 hours a week is the maximum permitted for the employment of children in factories, and the work of the inspectors insures some attention to sanitation. Mrs. Bremer thinks the worst feature in the case of young children employed in mercantile houses lies in their lack of opportunity for education and the impossibility of knowing aught of home life. It is not unusual for children thus employed to pass a whole week without a sight of their parents.—New York Recorder.

The headquarters of the International Cigarmakers' Union will be in Chicago after January 1, 1892. The membership of the organization is now over 25,000. In the past two years 46 new unions have been chartered and 28 dissolved. There were 254 strikes, 153 successful, 4 compromised, 48 unsuccessful. Strike benefits were \$48,792.12; out of work benefits, \$35,975. The general fund on hand July 1st was \$373,403.25.

An Electric Pile Driver.

Electricity has been successfully applied to a pile-driving machine in putting down the foundation of an annex to a paper mill near Paris. As the old section of the mill was supplied with an electric light plant lying idle during the day, it was decided to use the pile-driver. An Edison motor was mounted in the lower part of the pile-driver frame and transmitted power to a chain drum fitted to the fast and loose pulleys. By means of a suitable cut-out the current could be diverted from the motor to a resistance box when power for hoisting the pile-driver was not needed. The machinery weighed 1,100 pounds, and the height of fall ranged from sixteen to twenty feet. A current of sixty-three amperes and 100 volts was employed, and the generator was about 330 feet distant. The conductor was a copper wire, 0.2 inch in diameter.—Iron.

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