

**LABOR AND WAGES.**

**EUROPEAN.**

The impulse given to the labor movement in France by the eight hour demonstrations on May 1 has been marvellous. Omnibus drivers, steam railway employees, firemen, sailors and canal boatmen, clerks and bookkeepers, watchmakers and jewellers, as well as the undertakers' employees and the clerks of the Municipal and State Departments, have powerful organizations and affiliated with the Social Democratic Labor party, while trades unions, comprising over 12,000 members, were formed since the International Congress took place at Brussels by men employed on the public works of Paris. Central bodies were formed at Rouen, Nancy, Besancon, Lille, Poitiers and Nice. The workingmen's unions of Germany are now publishing an official organ entitled Die Arbeiterin, and about one hundred female agitators are at work in all parts of the country to enlarge organization.

Under the auspices of the Leeds Trades and Labor Council, a demonstration took place last week on Woodhouse Moor, Leeds, prior to which a procession, numbering about 16,000 representatives of different trades, paraded the principal streets of the town. Assembled on the Moor to meet the procession were several thousand persons. Addresses were delivered from two platforms, the chief speakers being Mr. Ben Tillet and Mr. Tom Mann. Resolutions were adopted in favor of the abolition of systematic overtime as a prelude to an eight hour day, and in favor of the direct representation of the artisan and labor classes by men of their own order in all local governing bodies. The third resolution was in favor of assisting the Trades and Labor Council to return its three candidates at the coming municipal elections.

The railroad employees of Portugal recently sent communications to the different companies of that country demanding a reduction of the hours. For four weeks they waited for an answer, then committees were sent to directors threatening a general strike. The promise was made the demand would be considered.

The following agreement has been come to between the Pastoralist Federal Council and the Amalgamated Shearers' Union at a conference held in Sydney: "That the employer shall be free to employ and the shearer be free to accept employment, whether belonging to shearers' or other unions, or not, without favor, molestation, or intimidation on either side." The agreement only applies to New South Wales, but it is expected to hold good all through the other colonies. The shearers must now make every man a union man or make him a social outcast.

The strike of glassblowers at Lyons is now over, after a tough fight of many months' duration. Concessions have been made on both sides, and on the new terms and the promise that no "spotting" shall take place, the men have been persuaded to go back to their work.

The Parisian Socialists are making a new move and are founding a Maison du Peuple. The inaugural lottery tickets have been taken up, a second lot issued, a library of 5,000 books promised, architects have decided to provide plans free of cost, painters promised to decorate the building, and masons, joiners and locksmiths are going to do their share of work free. The shares upon the building are 50 francs, payable by instalments of 25 to 50 centimes. Interest on founders, shares to be used for the purpose of spreading unionism and socialism, and establishing other Maisons du Peuple.

The bakers of the United States have been requested to send delegates to an International Congress of Bakers to be held next year in Hamburg, Germany.

There is great excitement about Wapping over further trouble among the dock laborers. The carmen's, sailors', firemen's and ballast heavers' unions have commenced to block Carron and Hermitage wharves owing to the employment of men at weekly wages when, under the unions' rules, the work must be done by piece work. Work on the Carron and Hermitage wharves is almost suspended. Messrs. Tillet and Mann addressed meetings of men, telling them not to attack the "blacklegs." Several bodies of non-unionists, accompanied by policemen, entered the wharves, which were strongly picketed by union men. Some gangs of freemen (non-union) who were proceeding to the docks were attacked by the unionists, who hurled bricks and stones at the newcomers. The police eventually appeared in force and rescued the freemen. Many eating houses and public houses in the neighborhood have posted notices that they will not serve "blacklegs" with food or liquor. Leaders on both sides are preparing for a long struggle. The carmen and others have struck in sympathy.

**AMERICAN.**

The Brotherhood of Railway Station Men which was organized last July, has commenced the publication of an official journal called the Monthly Balance.

The Retail Clerks' Union, of Denver, Col., has decided to place agitation matter on linen dusters, and have its membership take turns in wearing them on the streets; also to maintain the banners which are tacked on the union express waggons.

The window glass trade at Pittsburg has settled upon the old wages, the workmen withdrawing their demand for an advance and the bosses promising not to reduce the wages.

The employees in the Elgin watch factory are being organized. There are 3,000 employees, two-thirds of whom are women.

The Trades Assembly of Western Pennsylvania, recently organized in Pittsburgh, comprises about 150 labor organizations at present.

The National Secretary of the Potters' organization reports that scabs in potteries are very scarce. The important potteries in this country are all under the jurisdiction of the Knights of Labor.

The Secessionist Carpenters' Association of Philadelphia has now over three hundred members.

An Italian Labor Fraternity has been organized in Newcastle, Pa. The members are quarrymen and railroad laborers. Its leaders say that they expect the 2,000 Italians in the neighborhood of Newcastle to join them.

The Buffalo Central Labor Union has adopted resolutions against the proposed change of the text books in the public schools of that city, denouncing the change as a robbery intended to benefit a book concern in which School Superintendent Crooker is interested.

**The Deadly Pilgrimage to Mecca.**

An Indian journal says that of all the pilgrims leaving Bombay for Mecca and Medina more than a third never return. Out of 64,638 pilgrims who left in the six years ending 1890, 22,449 were missing. In 1888, of 13,970 who started, 7,465 did not return. The vast proportion of those missing owe their deaths to epidemics, starvation, and, it is said, murder, between Jeddah and Mecca. It is said, we know not with what truth, that gangs of budmashes travel regularly by the pilgrim steamers so as to select as their victims such pilgrims as betray the possession of means while on the voyage.

On the return voyage the deaths range from 200 to nearly 400 per 1,000 per annum. This is due to privation before leaving Jeddah, to overcrowding and sickness on board, to insanitary ships and want of supervision, and to the age and infirmity of many of the pilgrims. The voyage to Jeddah is long, and the allowance of space between decks is 9 superficial feet per adult, or 6 by 1 1/2 feet so that if each pilgrim lay down and the deck were free from baggage there would be just room and no more for the passengers.

The health officer of Bombay, in his report for 1890, describes the voyage of the pilgrim ship Decan, on which cholera appeared on the eighth day out from Bombay. Disease and starvation decimated the passengers—113 perished in 85 days, and of 1,246 passengers who set out on the voyage only 1,113 returned.

The appearance of the survivors when the vessel arrived at Bombay was heartrending. The physically strong had become feeble, and the passengers were, with comparatively few exceptions, emaciated, fever stricken, scorbutic and dropsical; and the sufferings they had undergone at Camaran were clearly and unmistakably depicted on their bodies.

**Attaching a Hole.**

A laughable instance of legal sharp practice is recorded in the Rev. Frederic Denison's history of the town of Westerly, R. I. It occurred almost a hundred years ago when, it seems, lawyers were quite as adroit at quibbling as their successors are at the present day. A farmer of broken fortunes hired for cultivation a piece of land, agreeing to pay for its use with a certain proportion of the crop.

He planted potatoes and had an unusual degree of success. Being without a store-room, he obtained the consent of a neighboring landholder and deposited his share of the potatoes in what farmers call a potato hole; that is, an excavation in the earth into which the potatoes were placed and covered with earth and straw in the form of a pyramid.

Shortly afterward he had occasion to go to Connecticut and one of his creditors seized the opportunity to attach the "potato hole."

Upon this another creditor bestirred himself and consulted a lawyer, a Mr. Cross, as to what could be done to secure his claim. Mr. Cross was equal to the occasion. He secured the issuing of another writ, by which an attachment was levied upon the potatoes in the potato hole, the document specifically setting forth that the potato hole should be left upon the land where it was found.

The warrant was promptly served, and when the first creditor appeared on the scene he found the potato hole but not the potatoes.

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