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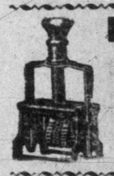

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LABOR WORLD

News and Views of the Ever Advancing Army of Workers

BY UNIONIST

The Labor Gazette says coal miners contributed $2,000,000 to the striking anthracite miners.

✣ ✣

Cleveland Bench Moulders are slowly but surely winning their strike. Five large firms have signed the scale.

✣ ✣

Woodstock T. & L. Council, but recently organized, also succeeded in electing their candidate for the mayoralty.

✣ ✣

In Kobe, Japan, two linotypes are operated on a daily native paper, the Japanese language being printed phonetically in English characters.

✣ ✣

Mr. Robert Gloekling, secretary of the Labor Bureau, has been in Niagara Falls this week endeavoring to settle the Rock Drillers' dispute in that city.

✣ ✣

Locally, things are doing this week. Wednesday night John B. Lemon, General Secretary of the International, addressed an open meeting of the Tailors, while on Thursday night Nicholas Duttle, President of the Metal Polishers' International, did likewise to the local men in his trade. The Machinists' at-home to-night is another of the doings of the week. Altogether the week has been quite a busy one.

✣ ✣

The Journeymen Plumbers, Steam and Gas Fitters are beginning the new year by inaugurating a policy of greater centralization in their organization, the international headquarters of which is at Chicago. This policy was decided upon at the international convention at Omaha, Neb., in September last. Under the new order of things each local union will pay a fixed per capita tax direct into the reserve fund at headquarters. All strikes and other matters affecting the welfare of the order at large will be controlled direct from Chicago, which will have the effect of making the organization more powerful. The new policy will be to permit only a certain limited number of strikes to be called at one time, which will be controlled from headquarters, and for which the central organization will be responsible. Such has not been the policy heretofore, when local unions had more or less latitude and sometimes declared strikes on their own responsibility. Members of the Local Union, No. 46, are all looking forward with interest to the annual at-home to be given by them in the assembly hall of the Temple Building on Jan. 30th. The plumbers always provide a first-class social entertainment. Mr. J. A. Dougan is chairman, and Mr. W. N. Braybon secretary. At the meeting of the union in Temple Building Wednesday evening officers were elected for the current year.

✣ ✣

International President Robert O'Neill and Vice-President D. Stamper are now in the city in the interest of their organization, the Brotherhood of Railroad Freight Handlers of America. This international railroad brotherhood, formed two years ago in the Eastern States, is the representative and sole organization of this craft in existence in America. It has the endorsement, approval and co-operation of the other legitimate railroad craft organizations. Within the past six months fifty-eight local divisions have been organized under the banner of the brotherhood. It is established on a safe, conservative business basis, and conducts its business strictly as a business institution. It does not advocate extreme measures, and stands against arbitrariness and strikes. Conciliation, diplomacy and arbitration are the methods of the organization. Representation for all of the craft over an entire system of railway for equal conditions is the procedure of organization of this craft. The brotherhood is in no way connected with men engaged in like occupations outside of the railroad service, being like the other railroad organizations, it is strictly a railroad craft brotherhood. The organization provides for and takes care of sick and the burial of deceased members by furnishing a weekly sick indemnity and a death benefit to all of its members. All men engaged in the freight department at freight stations and baggagemen at the passenger stations of any railroad within the bounds of North America are entitled to join. The international headquarters is located at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. All communications will be cherrfully answered by communicating with the same.

✣ ✣

About 250 employees of the McKinnon Dash and Metal Works Co., St. Catharines, went on strike Saturday morning last, and as a result the company's works are closed down, and probably will be for several days. The trouble centres in the moulding and annealing rooms, where the men ask for a better scale of wages and better regulations. The moulders ask that a schedule of prices for piecework be arranged so that a first-class moulder will not average less than $2 per day. The 23 annealers are receiving 12 1-2 cents an hour. They complain of the work they have to do in the moulding room "shifting weights," and object to going cold from the annealing room into the hot moulding room and vice versa, but are willing to do this provided their demand for 15 cents an hour is granted. The men claim one man who has been moulding some six weeks made only from $2 to $3 per week, while men who have been working two and three months average from $1 to $1.25 per day. The moulding department ask for a new schedule and increased prices. They ask that the wage for any day work be not less than $1.50 per day. On days when one or more bad heats come, the men to be paid the day work wage of $1.50, regardless of the number of heats and the number of moulds poured. Superintendent McKinnon came over from Buffalo Friday night, and met the men and asked for a week's time to consider the demands made. This, however, the men refused to do, and the above resulted. The men working in the other departments went out in sympathy with their fellow-workers.

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At New York City the Musical Protective Union has appealed to President Roosevelt for a "fair and just interpretation of the alien contract law as applied to the importation of foreign musicians." The union holds that orchestra players should be classified as "artisans" instead of "artists."

✣ ✣

By a vote of two to one, 3,000 Chicago cigarmakers decided to wait another year before demanding an increase of wages from $4 to $6 a thousand, and the introduction of the Spanish bill system. The union does not wish to increase the expenses of the employers who are fighting the so-called tobacco trust.

✣ ✣

The advantage and superiority of the day labor system in connection with municipal works is again conclusively shown in the statement of City Engineer Rust, that a saving of $10,000 was effected this season. Even from the point of view of the almighty "proputty" owner, the showing ought to be satisfactory.

✣ ✣

The Miners' Union of Nanaimo has been formally constituted a local of the Western Federation of Miners. Mr. Smith has resigned the secretaryship of the union, by way of showing his disapproval of the union affiliating with an international institution. About three years ago the union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and Mr. Smith did not resign, but used his influence (then considerable) to allow the affiliation to die on account of non-payment of per capita tax.

✣ ✣

The following officers were elected by Brass Workers' Union, No. 53, at their meeting on Jan. 13th: President, Wm. Breakey; Vice-President, W. J. Farley; Recording Secretary, Geo. Dunlop; Financial Secretary, J. Fiddis; Treasurer, Fred Gange; Guardian, E. Popham; Trustees, Fred Purvis, Frank LaPlante, Ed. Robinson; Statistician, E. Hamilton; delegates to District Labor Council, Wm. Breakey, W. J. Farley, Frank LaPlante; delegates to Metal Trades Council, S. C. Morrison, Fred Purvis, Tom Marley, Ed. Robinson, Ed. Gilroy.

The employees in the car shops at Moncton and on the eastern division of the Intercolonial have asked through the executive of the P.W.A. an increase in wages. Telegraphers, dispatchers and conductors are not included, but about twenty classes of workmen are represented in the demand. The management will reply in a few weeks. The treatment accorded the I.T.R. employees has often been exposed in Parliament.

✣ ✣

It is suggested by the London Outlook that Mr. Kier Hardie's recent brush with the Brussels police may have been in part due to the eccentricity of his costume. His headgear at all times consists of a rough tweed cap, sworn at various angles, while the rest of his garb is equally unconventional. In his early Parliamentary days his style of dress made him the victim of some amusing mistakes. "Are you working here, mate?" once queried a friendly policeman at the Palace Yard gate. "Yes." "On the roof?" (which was undergoing repairs at the time). "No; on the floor." The puzzled policemen sought an explanation, and got it. But this is only one of many such incidents.

✣ ✣

The regular meeting of the Upholsterers' Union last week was made the occasion of honoring one of its worthy members in the person of Bro. [illegible]ab, who was presented with a handsome gold locket in recognition of his valuable services to the organization during the past year. The election of officers was held, and resulted in the selection of the following: President, A. R. Hosier; Vice-President, M. Memory; Recording Secretary, A. R. Lee, Financial Secretary, George Saunders; Treasurer, Frank McLaren; Guide Martin Kane; Conductor, S. Breen. The convention of the International Union will open on the 16th of next month in St. Louis, and the Toronto local will be represented by Mr. A. R. Lee, who was also elected at this meeting. The upholsterers have been making good progress during the past year, and hope to continue along the same lines during the present year under the guidance of the above set of competent officers.

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The Cigarmakers' Mutual Association of London, Eng., has adopted a union label similar similar to the cigarmakers' blue label of this country.

✣ ✣

At a meeting of the Building Trades Council in Richmond Hall Monday night it was announced that a satisfactory agreement had been come to with Messrs. Illsley & Horne, contractors for the King Edward Hotel, by which all future instalments of stone for the hotel will be cut by hand labor here, instead of by machinery before arriving here, as is said to have been done heretofore.

✣ ✣

Officers were elected as follows at a meeting of the Journeymen Tailors' Union in Richmond Hall Monday night: President, George Saagster; Vice-President, N. Hoff; Business Agent, J. Watt; Treasurer, J. Addison; Trustees, E. Harding and J. Lindale. A special meeting of the union will be held on Wednesday evening in Richmond Hall to hear an address by the General Secretary, Mr. J. Lennon.

✣ ✣

That disgusting farce of Roosevelt becoming a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen is now over, thank the Lord. Chief Hannahan presented his Excellency with his card last Saturday, and the reporters duly chronicled the important event. Now let us hope that the country will be given a rest, at least until the next grand high chief is given a political job, so that union men won't be compelled to blush when the capitalists and politicians laugh.—Railway Employees' Journal.

✣ ✣

The printing trades of Germany, after many years of strikes, have agreed on a uniform scale of wages in the entire German Empire. An increase is added to the regular scale to compensate for the expense of living in the large cities. The agreement is to continue for six years. All disputes are to be settled by an arbitration committee composed of both employers and employees, either having the right to demand arbitration proceedings. Working hours are fixed at nine a day, with "intervals," but the actual hours of labor must not exceed eight a day.

✣ ✣

There is trouble in the factory of the Menzie-Turner Co. over the placing of a forelady over the girls in the factory, which they have no desire to have ruling over them. The trouble culminated on Thursday in the girls all going out on strike against this condition of things. We have not a very extended account of the grievances, but the young ladies who have left the shop desire to notify those seeking employment to keep away from this factory until the trouble is settled. Keep away from Mengie, Turner & Co.'s factory and you will be assisting them to gain their rights.

✣ ✣

Six hundred persons are affected by an announcement of the Equitable Life Assurance Society at New York that the life of each clerk at the home office would be insured for $1,000, and the policy kept in force so long as he remains in the employment of the society, one-half the amount of the insurance to be paid at the employee's death to his wife or family, or any designated beneficiary, the other half to go into a fund to be used by the officers for pensions or in other ways provide for living employees who have grown old or infirm in the service of the society.

✣ ✣

And now the mosaic workers are up against it. A machine has been put to work on the new Pennsylvania building in Philadelphia, which completely revolutionizes the trade. The new machine is used to polish the mosaics after they are laid in cement. It is run by electricity, and one machine will do the work of fifteen men. The mosaic workers are on strike to secure control of the machine and enforce union conditions, but while they are striking the machine is working. The Era, the Philadelphia labor paper, says that "in discussing what should be done to regulate the running of the machine so that it would not displace a large majority of the mosaic workers the union men were all at sea. They realize they cannot fight against an improved machine, and they know that they cannot regulate the use of it by their union so that it will not displace a great number of workmen." This is one of those economic facts that the working people are always compelled to bump into and wrestle with, and little sympathy they get from the capitalist class. In fact, the latter class uses the machinery to oppress the workers.

WOULD CARRY A CARD.

Dr. Lyman Abbott recently delivered an address in Chicago, from which the following paragraphs are culled, illustrating, as they do, some very pertinent truths which a great many may take unto themselves.

✣ ✣

What we have to work for is not a greater wealth in this country, but a greater diffusion of wealth. Our common duty to the community is to work for a wider distribution of wealth—not for the sake of the community, but for the sake of humanity.

✣ ✣

Every man owes a duty to the man working at his side at the bench. If I were a laboring man I would not be without a union card. The more independent a man is the more able he is to do for himself, the more imperatively it is his duty to join a labor union, and help those who are less able to help themselves. It must not be a battle of capital against labor or of classes against classes, but a combination of all forces for the accomplishment of mutual good.

It is the duty of every laboring man to join his trade's union.

✣ ✣

A man's first duty is to put into the world by his productive power as much as he takes out of it; his second duty is to his home instead of to his shop; his third duty is to his neighbor, whose rights he must aid in preserving. His neighbor's interests must become his interests, for injury to one means injury to the other.

✣ ✣

We must have a government strong enough to control all organization in the country, both of labor and capital. We must have a government strong enough to control all of the giant corporations, the railroads and the highways, the public utilities. Whenever the organization is not controlled by the state it becomes superior to the state. We must have a government strong enough to establish the price of coal when the contingency for such action arrives—a government that shall administer to the interests of all the people, for the benefit of all the people. Our government must stand at the door of the nation more eager to get good citizens by emigration than good laborers by emigration.

✣ ✣

We must have a government strong enough to prevent child labor, which is the great shame of America to-day; strong enough to regulate the work of women and to regulate the wages and hours of all labor.

✣ ✣

When you ask a man's worth it is usually measured by the dollar sign. We need a public opinion that places character above everything else.

SINGLE TAX TALK.

All those who visited the Toronto Opera House last Sunday with the expectancy of listening to an intelligent and unbiased exposition of the cause of the present day wrongs in regard to taxation, were, to say the least, more than satisfied. Of all the speakers who have spoken on the injustice of the present system of taxation, none have delivered such an eloquent and masterly address as was delivered by the Rev. Father Cox, of Chicago. Taken from a trade unionist's point of view, we have nothing to fear from any "ism," or the effect of any deliberation when such comes from the lips of a master, it matters not what policy he advocates.

Unionism, said the speaker, is one of the necessities of war. That is all trade unionists want acknowledged by those who are in government sits, or draw a yearly stipend, for it is on practical lines we are organized. Theory won't butter our bread, fill our coal bins, nor will it pay our next month's rent. But everything that is or is likely to become, possible to be put into practical operation, it matters not to us unionists what "ism" claims it, we will, as has of late been proven, adopt it.

The chairman, Mr. W. A. Douglass, pointed out that the large attendance on such a stormy day was a high tribute paid to the reverend father.

The reverend gentleman at the outset pointed out how necessary it was, while claiming the right to think on a certain line, to always allow that privilege to others. The music was a delight to him, inasmuch as harmony at the outset was assured, even though discord might come in at the end. The last century, said the speaker, stands out as the century which increased the material welfare for man's benfit, economically, but as a few have received the whole benefit, the result is discontent, and it is up to us to settle who it is that is to receive the benefit. The coal situation has been the cause of a good deal of thinking; in fact, it is an ill wind that blows no one any good. It has set the magazines, the politicians and the church to thinking that there is something radically wrong with our present distribution of modern blessings. But thinking is a very slow process, but the workman is thinking quicker than he ever thought before. As to trade unionism, it is absolutely necessary; it is one of the measures of war, but when the time comes bringing justice in the land question, the speaker claimed, trade unionism won't be necessary. Those who deny the rights of labor to its share from labor are claiming the right of power. Makership should claim ownership. What I create is mine—what you create is yours, what we create is ours. (Applause.)

There are two kinds of taxation—direct taxation and indirect taxation. The indirect taxation reminded the speaker of a left-handed, cross-eyed baseball pitcher, who, while tossing the ball behind his back, was asked by the pitcher which eye was he going to pitch it from. The indirect tax was a bleeding tax—taxing something that the people won't know of, the tariff for instance. Here the speaker ridiculed the idea of a workingman favoring the tariff, and tried to prove where he usually paid a dollar more for tariff goods than goods that are manufactured at home. It was like giving a dollar to get back a penny. Inland revenue was also condemned by Single Taxers. Though the speaker was one of the first donators to Father Mathews' movement in the temperance cause, yet he believed that the liquor traffic should not be taxed. If it happened that a man was done harm either by liquor or drugs, the liquor fiend or drug fiend should pay for it. That drink was the cause of poverty was an old saying, that all thinking men forced to think as the speaker was, by the instances that came under his notice, must be regarded as a proverb turned the wrong way. Poverty, said the speaker, was the cause of drunkenness.

God gave the earth, and it has no value, unless it is wanted by some one else; then it becomes valuable. Opportunities go with increased population. Whoever improves, the improvement is theirs, and should not be taxed. The income tax is an unjust tax, though it is aimed at the rich. To tax a man for his accumulation, is an acknowledgment that it was an unjust accumulation; stop it, though it seems to favor us. As to who pays the taxes, the speaker said, the poor girl going down town to her business drops in her fare; one cent goes to the city for taxes, one cent goes to the company, and the remainder runs the concern. Now think for yourselves, who is it that pays the taxes?

The poor are hurt by being unnaturally poor, the same as the rich are hurt through being unnaturally rich. You cannot speak to a man of heaven while his stomach is empty. Single Tax will assist in the equal distribution of wealth, assisting us to make men of ourselves; then we will have an opportunity of becoming angels. Methuselah came in for some hard knocks at this point, and Henry George was eulogized, the former for his fear of the future and his unholy remedy, the latter for his manliness in facing and attacking social rottenness of our methods of taxation, whereby the few make it next to impossible for the many to exist. Yes, it is the man who consumes the goods that pays the taxes, and the men that do the work of the world pay the debts and bills of the world. The young man that asked, what was he to do to be prosperous? was told to be industrious, educated and talented, but the young man found out that to be industrious meant working one hour a day longer than the other young men. The speaker claimed the same disadvantages faced the educated and talented. But it is proven that if you want to become prosperous employ the most industrious, the most talented and educated and get them to work for you. As to the individual selfishness of man, the speaker said the fear of want is the cause of it. It is very easy to be polite when their is no fear of want. F.G.

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