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SHORTER HOURS.

The following article from the "Inland Printer" should be carefully read by all live printers, especially among the Typographical Unions. "It is admitted by nearly all employers of labor who have studied the short hour question that eight hours will be a day's work in the not distant future. At present, a bitter war is being waged in the printing trade, both in Germany and America, between employers and employees, and the contention is for the same object in both cases—a shorter workday. The German printers have been preparing for four years for the general strike throughout the empire, which began November 5 last, and which they aver was only entered into after all conciliatory overtures to the employers for a peaceful settlement of the matter had been found of no avail. As a result, 16,000 workmen have been out of employment, their base of supplies, £30,000, at their bankers. Recent advices state that over one-half of the German printers have secured the nine hour day which was contended for, but the funds have become exhausted and subscriptions

are being raised in various countries to replenish the treasury. The German printers, it is said, have full confidence that they will finally be successful, despite the intervention of their government, which has infused into the rancor of the contest additional venom by the requirements of military discipline. The German printer in the army must set type, to defeat his civilian brother who is out on strike. It is a question if the German unionists calculated on this element.

Apparently the Pittsburgh strike may be ranked as almost of equal importance and as far-reaching in its results as that in the German empire. The confidence of the union in ultimate success has been strengthened by good generalship, although the conspiracy law has been invoked against them by the employers. The contest is now between the National Typothetæ and the International Union, and should the latter be successful the nine-hour day at least will be an assured fact in a comparatively brief time, for it will be remembered that the vote on the nine hour day would have passed and brought in its train a strike of a magnitude completely dwarfing that in Germany, but for the circumstance that the phrasing of the terms of the vote was misconstrued by Typographical Union No. 91, of Toronto, Canada, which voted solidly against the resolution, though fifty-four hours per week is the rule in that city, arranged for a Saturday half-holiday in the greater number of offices. A presumed interference with this arrangement caused the adverse vote, and consequent postponement of a general struggle for shorter hours until, possibly, next autumn, for it is not to be supposed that the next International convention will not submit the proposition once more to subordinate unions, and certainly in a form which will need no interpretation."

All Canadian employers and employees who are interested in this movement should prepare themselves carefully for the next move of the International Union.

REUNION OF TORONTO TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION 91.

The members of Toronto Typographical Union No. 91 held their annual at home in Webb's parlors on the evening of the 22nd Feb., which were prettily decorated. When Chairman George W. Dower took the platform and announced the commencement of the musical and literary portion of the evening's entertainment there were over 200 members of the "art preservative of all arts" present, including their guests. Among those in attendance were many old-time "prints," such as Messrs. James Coulter, of the Methodist Book Room; William Bonnell, of Dun, Wiman & Co.; W. A. Shepard, president of Toronto Typothetæ; and R. Hinds, president of Hamilton Typographical Union. The programme commenced with a piano solo by Miss F. Brown, and this was followed by a rollicking sea song by Mr. J. H. Winters. Miss Bessie Bonnell, Miss A. M. Harford and Miss Maggie Huston displayed signal ability and showed themselves possessors of excellent vocal powers in their solos. Messrs. F. Wright, T. G. Soole, A. L. E. Davis, gave humorous songs, and two engaging quartettes were sung by Messrs. Putland, Booz, Oliver and Stephens. Mr. George Smedley delighted the assemblage with his harmonious mandolin solos, and no little praise is due Mr. George McBeth for his elocutionary contributions. Most of these gentlemen are members of No. 91.

After a couple of hours spent in mirth and song Ball's orchestra took up its position. The floor of the main parlor was cleared of its incumbrances, and the gathering gave itself up to the dance. Eyes sparkled, faces beamed, forms glided and music swelled and died away again, for a time that was all too short.

Supper was served in the second parlor, which was artistically decorated with flags, evergreens and flowers, garlands of them festooning the walls. The supper was in