THE LABOR ADVOCATE.

We Demand all the Reform that Justice can ask for, and all the Justice that Reform can give.

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WORK AND WAGES.

LABOR NOTES AND NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS.

Interesting Items, Facts and Figures—A Bird's Eye View of the World of Industry

CANADA

FIFTEEN Michigan Central conductors, some of whom reside in St. Thomas, have within the past few weeks received their discharge as the result of the operations of spotters.

THE Indian schooner *Sierra*, arrived at Vancouver, B.C., from Behring Sea sealing grounds. She reports seals are very plentiful, but owing to boisterous weather no catches have been taken. All Indian owl hunters are on a strike and 15 schooners are lying idle awaiting a settlement.

A VERY interesting paper on the principles of Nationalism was read by President Brent on Sunday afternoon at the assembly meeting in Labor hall, London. From the statistics given there appears to be a vast amount of wasted energy in carrying out the present system of industry.

THE by law to bonus Patterson & Corbans street car factory in St. Catharines, Ont., was defeated and not carried as stated in our last issue. There are 1,482 freeholders entitled to vote, and in order to legalize the loan a two-thirds majority of those, or 988, would be required to carry the by law. Only 601 was obtained leaving 387 of a minority.

THE Montreal *Echo* records with sincere regret the death of Mr. G. E. O. Corriveau, a zealous worker in the cause of labor reform. Mr. Corriveau was only thirty years of age, yet by his earnestness and ability he had won for himself a place among his fellows, who, recognizing his sincerity of purpose and security as a worker, had come to look upon him as a leader in French Canadian circles. His loss is a serious one to the various organizations with which he was connected, more particularly Ville Marie Assembly, [illegible] and L. of whom he was Master Workman, and C.T. of whose deliberations he presided with exceptional ability and discretion. The deceased was a prominent member of the Trades and Labor Council and a member of the French Canadian Attitude Society. Mr. Corriveau represented Jacques Cartier Union at the last meeting of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, held in Ottawa, in the proceedings of which he took an active part. The funeral of the deceased took place on Thursday morning, last week, from his late residence on Maple street, and was largely attended.

UNITED STATES

THE American Federation of Labor has boycotted Clark's O.N.T. thread.

MCCARTHER Brothers, contractors, having the work of paving Jackson Park in Chicago for the World's Fair, announce that they will advance the wages of laborers on April 1 to $1.75 per day.

THE North Ashland, one of the Reading Company's largest collieries at Ashland, Pa., resumed work last week, after a three months' suspension. Employment will be given to 650 men and boys.

THE Pullman Company of Chicago has announced a reduction in the price of putting freight cars together from $12 to $10. The men engaged in this branch of work, to the number of 150, have quit work. They have offered a compromise at $11 per car, which the company has refused.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, who has been recuperating since February 2nd in Bermuda, returned to New York on Monday of last week on the steamship *Trinidad*. His friends will be glad to know that he looks ruddy and bright, and is completely restored to health.

AS a result of the great stagnation in coke and iron affairs throughout the country, the Pennsylvania railroad, Baltimore and Ohio, Pittsburg and Lake Erie, Pittsburg and Western, and the Pittsburg and McKeesport roads have been making large reductions in their working forces.

SOME of the railroad employees' organizations in the United States are opposed to reducing the fares of and otherwise regulating monopolies, because they fear that a reduction of wages might result in consequence. They are mistaken for reductions of fares and rational rules simulate travel and commerce, and wherever rates were reduced the business of railroads has increased. The men will maintain and even advance their wages if they close to their organizations.

WORK at the coal mines at Herrville, Hocking county, Ohio, has been suspended for several weeks. The miners are in a destitute condition, and the families of many of them are suffering for the necessaries of life. Fifty of them proceeded in a body to McKay & Williams store, broke it open and carried off thirty barrels of flour and several hundred pounds of meat. They made no attempt to conceal their identity, but said they had to steal or starve. Active measures are being taken to inquire into the wants of the people and relieve the sufferers.

GREAT BRITAIN

THE workmen employed in the engineering trade in the Manchester district have appealed to the employers to adopt a reduction in working time, bringing a weeks work down to 53 hours.

THE Land and Labor League of Carlisle, under the able presidency of Mr. J. C. Kennedy, has resolved to run three labor candidates for as many municipal wards of the city. A parliamentary candidate may also be put forward.

A STRIKE has occurred at the Cleveland Dockyard of Messrs. Bayldon Dixon & Co., Middlesbrough, owing to the firm seeking a reduction in the rates paid for certain classes of piece work, in which the *thickness of the plates has been increased*. Two thousand men are out.

THE Dublin corporation have resolved unanimously that in all contracts contractors shall be bound to pay the minimum standard wages of the trades concerned, to comply with the other trade regulations as to hours and conditions of labor recognised in Dublin.

THE notice given to the men employed at Messrs. J. Hartley & Co.'s Wear Glass Works, Sunderland, for a reduction in their wages of 10 per cent. expired on the 28th ult. The men will not accept any reduction. Work was ceased and about 200 teasers, plate hands, and labourers are locked out.

THE ten hours programme for shanters employed on the London and North Western Railway came into operation on the 2nd inst. The officials have been making inquiries at various centres, with a view to a better regulation of working hours, and large numbers of additional men have been engaged. The number of shunters has been increased by about thirty per cent.

THE London Society of Compositors has just completed arrangements with the master printers of London, whereby an advance of 2s per week will be granted to all union compositors. A 48 hours working week has been secured, while the overtime rates have in each case been increased 50 per cent., with a view to reducing overtime to a minimum. In order to emphasise the *agreement arrived at by the conference*, the society determined to give every member an opportunity of recording his opinion thereon by ballot. The voting was—For the agreement, entered into, 6,167; against, 1,296; majority in favor of agreement, 4,871. The arrangement thus stands.

AN English dairyman has patented an ingenious machine for milking cows, which has been employed by him and found to extract the lacteal fluid in a superior manner from the *most unwilling* animal. The principal feature of the apparatus is the rubber tipped horn cups, which possess novel merits. A number of these cups are connected with a general conducting tube, which conveys the milk into a large vessel where the auction is made. One attendant can milk from four to five cows at a time, the operation only taking about five minutes for the lot. The inventor claims that the process rather pleases the cows, and that the quantity of milk is not affected.

EUROPEAN AND GENERAL

THE workmen of Austria will take part in the coming general elections. Thus far ten labor candidates have been nominated, three of whom are editors.

THE fishermen of France are about to organize a national union. A convention has been called for that purpose to be held in Marseilles in the middle of March.

AMONG the demands of the organized coal miners of Germany is an increase of wages wherever the profit of the mines is increasing. On May 1st a general demand for an advance of 25 per cent. will be demanded.

THE masons' strike at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, has terminated to the advantage of the workers. Two employers have consented to pay their employees forty five centimes an hour. Work has been again resumed.

THE French Labor Commission closed its first session in Paris last week. The Commission has advised the Ministry of Commerce to organize a labor bureau, on the American model, to legislate on wages and arbitration questions.

THE Blacksmiths and machinists of Denmark have invited their fellow-crafts men to attend an International Conference to be held at Odense on March 29th, for the purpose of organizing an International Machinists' and Blacksmiths' Union.

THE authorities of Canton Zurich, Switzerland, have passed a law providing that all contractors doing work for the government must form co-operative firms with their workmen under the profit-sharing system, disputes to be settled by arbitration through the courts.

THE delegation of miners who are going to the congress which is to be held in Paris on March 31st have decided to propose a plan for an international strike, to include the miners in England, France, Belgium and Germany. The scheme includes the controlling of a central co-operative Committee.

THE municipal authorities of Stockholm, Sweden, have adopted an ordinance according which all laborers working for the city will be pensioned in case of disability caused by accidents while at work; the widows and orphans of city employees are also to receive pensions amounting to 35 per cent of the salaries of their deceased husbands or fathers.

COUNT TOLSTOI, in his annual trade report from Taganrog, Russia, says that in the provinces in his district the rate of wages per day in the late harvest "for men was 1s 1d with board, and 1s 4d without." Women are paid at the rate of 7½d per day with board and 10½d per day without. The rate for board is thus 3d per day.

ON the 15th inst. the striking glass blowers at Hildesheim, Hanover, became riotous and the police arrested nine of the ringleaders. The mob surrounded the police, and after a desperate fight in which one policeman was frightfully beaten, rescued the prisoners. A detachment of infantry charged upon the mob and speedily quelled the disorder. The military and the police then arrested 100 or more of the rioters and marched them to the guardhouse. Twenty three of the mob were seriously wounded by bayonet thrusts and were taken to the hospitals.

IN France the National Council of Labor is preparing for the first of May. Life is already boiled, as if for a circus, with enormous posters describing the purpose of the workers' May Day. The most conspicuous poster reads: "On the first of May all frontiers will be effaced, and to the entire universe will be seen a union of that which should be united and a separation of that which should be separated. On one side are the producers hand in hand, determined on emancipation, and on the other the exploiters, trembling vainly before a movement that *nothing* can stop, and that will overturn them."

LOCAL NEWS.

ON Monday afternoon last the boot and shoe manufacturers of the city, and a delegation from the Shoemakers' Union, held a joint meeting in Cooper & Smith's, with the object of arranging a bill of wages in lieu of that which expired in July last. The meeting did not finish the work, and it will be necessary to hold another to complete it.

AT the regular meeting of the Single Tax Association on Friday evening last a paper on "Socialism and the Single Tax" was read by Mr. Gordon Waldron. The ground taken by the writer was that although the system of private land ownership gave rise to many abuses, the Single Tax was too extreme a measure, as its logical conclusion was Socialism, which he did not consider desirable. Messrs. G. A. Howell, Charles Armstrong, Alfred F. Jury, Captain Bengough and others took part in the discussion which ensued. The proposal of Alderman Bell to exempt manufactures from taxation was endorsed.

THE National Association, at its regular meeting on Tuesday evening, appointed a committee composed of Mr. Gordon, Mr. Phillips Thompson, Captain Bengough and Mr. G. A. Howell to wait upon the city members of the Local Legislature and ask for the introduction of an amendment to the municipal law, so as to give every citizen a vote on money by laws. It was resolved: "That in the opinion of this Association the application of the new telephone company for the privilege of arranging new sets of wires in the city should not be granted, that the city should try to make arrangements with the present company for better and cheaper services." Mr. Charles Watts will address the Association on "The Land, the People and the Coming Struggle," on April 15th.

"LABOR and Strikes" was the subject of an address delivered by Prof. Ashley, of Toronto University, in the lecture room of Carlton Street Methodist church on Monday evening last. Combinations to raise wages and strikes, he said, were not wrong in themselves. Where violence was resorted to, the case was accordingly. If educated men and women would cease to condemn strikes as wrong, and to associate them with violence, there would be less likelihood of the uneducated resorting to dangerous methods. It would be against nature if men who have won a strike to work with those who assisted the employers, and if employers decided to build the unions and make bargains which they could not hold, they must suffer the attendant loss. It was unjust for the union men to enjoy the better terms that they have made no sacrifice to obtain, which would allow such men to work would be to create the very competition that unions seek to abolish. The lecturer contended that lower wages seldom gave employment to a greater number of workmen than would be employed if wages were high. Employment was limited by demand for product, capacity for mills, etc., while in large undertakings the supposed rule did not obtain. The lecturer condemned employers who arrogantly refused to recognize such unions as were really representatives of their employees. He showed how unreliable are the balance-sheets showing the loss and gain during a strike. The gain of a strike could be estimated in dollars and cents. The London Docks strike was followed by an increase in the wages of unskilled labor all over England. Even when a hard fought battle is lost, it may often render subsequent battles of labor unnecessary. The machinery of a union is the machinery of industrial warfare. It was reasonable to hope that a better method of deciding disputes would be arrived at, yet it is only through unionism and association that employees can be taught to abide by the decision of arbitrators.

ENGLISH SOCIALISM

OBJECT

The establishment of a free condition of society based on the principle of political equality, with equal social rights for all and the complete emancipation of labor.

PROGRAMME.

1. All officers or administrators to be elected by equal direct adult suffrage, and to be paid by the community.

2. The initiative and referendum, whereby no project of law shall become legally binding till accepted by the majority of the people.

3. The abolition of a standing army, and the establishment of a national citizen force, the people to decide on peace or war.

4. All education, higher, no less than elementary, to be free, compulsory, secular and industrial.

5. The administration of justice to be free and gratuitous for all members of society.

6. The land with all the mines, railways and other means of transit, to be declared and treated as collective or common property.

7. Ireland, and all other parts of the Empire to have legislative independence.

8. The production of wealth to be regulated by society in the common interest of all its members.

9. The means of production, distribution and exchange to be declared and treated as collective or common property.

As measures called for to palliate the evils of our existing society the social democratic federation urges for immediate adoption:—

The compulsory construction of healthy artisans and agricultural laborers' dwellings in proportion to the population, such dwellings to be let at rents to cover the cost of construction and maintenance alone.

Free compulsory education for all classes, together with the provision of at least one wholesome meal a day in each school.

Eight hours or less to be the normal working day in all trades.

Cumulative taxation upon all incomes above a fixed minimum not exceeding three hundred pounds a year.

State appropriation of railways with or without compensation.

The establishment of national banks, which shall absorb all private institutions that derive a profit from operations in money or credit.

Rapid extinction of the national debt.

Nationalisation of the land, and organization of agricultural and industrial armies under state control on co-operative principles.

As means for the peaceable attainment of these objects the social democratic federation advocates:

Adult suffrage. Annual parliaments. Proportional representation. Payment of members, and official expenses of election out of the rates. Abolition of the house of lords and all hereditary authorities. Disestablishment and disendowment of all state churches.

Membership is open to all who agree with its objects and subscribe one penny a week.

AWY.

THE Russian Government discourages the importation of machinery, tools, books, pictures and even of fine goods, declaring that if the common people begin to get new thoughts they will be sure to plot against the Czar.