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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

THE Chaudiere mill men say the outlook for the lumber trade is good.

QUEBEC province maple sugar makers expect to supply 15,000,000 pounds this season.

MAJOR EDWARDS, of Kingston, will settle in Dover, Eng., and will, it is said, take an active lead in socialist advocacy, with parliamentary possibilities.

MESSRS. HUNTING, of Hamilton, has secured the contract for the construction of waterworks for the town of Amherstburg, at a cost of $30,000. He has also on hand a reservoir for Walkerton.

THERE is likely to be trouble between the Hamilton brickmakers and their employers over a proposed reduction of wages, on account of the introduction of new machinery. The brickmakers met on Monday night and organized a union.

AN attempt was made to reduce the wages of corporation laborers in the Ottawa Council Monday night, but the friends of the workingmen, led by Ald. Devlin, Hill, and J. A. Stewart, rallied and carried an amendment making the rate $1 25 for nine hours work.

THE new officers of the Kingston Typographical Union are: President, R. J. Bennett; Vice President, Scanlan; Recording Secretary, A. McKechnie; Financial Secretary and Treasurer, E. E. Horsey; Sergeant-at-Arms, A. McEwen. The union is in a good condition financially and otherwise.

A DEPUTATION from the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council waited on Provincial Secretary Gibson on Saturday night, and laid a complaint before him as to the inefficient inspection of factories there. Mr Gibson intimated that he thought the inspection of factories should be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to that of Public Works, and promised to bring the complaints before the Government.

THE fourth annual assembly of Montreal Local Union 24, American Flint Glass Workers, came off in the Queen's Hall on Easter Monday evening, the 30th ult., and was in every way a magnificent success. About 100 couples were present, who danced to music furnished by Illain's orchestra. At twelve o'clock supper was served in elegant style, after which dancing was kept up till an early hour. Mr James Kerman was master of ceremonies, assisted by Mr Alphonse Shaffe and the following committee: Messrs Thomas Lee, John Malloy, Patrick Finn, Patrick Findlay and Edward Fordham.

THE Hamilton Trades and Labor Council met Friday evening, a large number of delegates being present. A committee was appointed to wait on the members for Hamilton in the Dominion Parliament, and discuss with them their probable course of action regarding the expenditure of $50,000 voted for immigration purposes, and on the bill to prohibit the importation of alien labor under contract. The council reaffirmed its approval of the motion introduced in the City Council to make nine hours a day the rule on all corporation work, whether contract or otherwise, and to fix a minimum rate of wages of fifteen cents an hour. Petitions in favor of it will be prepared and sent to from the council and other labor organizations. The Legislative Committee was instructed to watch any legislation intended to mar the efficiency of the Landlord and Tenant Act.

ABOUT 150 representatives of the Knights of Labor Assemblies in District 19 sat down to dinner on Monday night, April 30th, at the Richelieu Hotel, Montreal. Mr. J. Lepage, Master Workman of the district, occupied the chair, and opened the after dinner proceedings by an address, in which he referred to the progress the order had made in the past year. The toast of the Knights of Labor and their Grand Master Workman, Terence V. Powderly, was enthusiastically received and eloquently responded to by Messrs. O. D. Benoit, D. Ravanet and W. Keys. The toast of the Central Trades and Labor Council found fitting representatives in Messrs. L. Z. Boudreau, President; Mr. T. A. Lepine, M.P., and Mr. J. J. Ryan, Recording Secretary. His Worship the Mayor and Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., having entered the dining hall, were received in a most hearty manner. There were numerous other toasts, many songs were sung, and a very pleasant evening was passed.

UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON painters are out for eight hours.

BUFFALO unions oppose the manual training schools.

BROOKLYN housesmiths want eight hours on May 1st.

NEW YORK furniture workers are working thirty two cents an hour without strikes.

A NEW YORK bill will reduce ten hours a day on street railways.

NEW YORK beer brewers want ten hours, $16 to $18 a week, and weekly payments.

THE Maine Legislature prohibits intimidation of employes under a $500 fine or two years in prison.

BOSTON contractors have granted the request of the painters that nine hours shall constitute a day's work.

THE strike at Beatty's glass works in Tiffin, Ohio, was settled on Saturday, the men winning the contest.

ALL the section men on the Vandalia road, Indiana, have quit work, having demanded an increase of wages.

THE striking planing-mill employes in Indianapolis have decided to start a co-operative mill with $100,000 capital.

ABOUT 1,000 stonecutters, bricklayers and hod carriers have quit work at Milwaukee, demanding a readjustment and increase of wages.

MISS RHODES, of Marks, Miss., intends to start at once through the eastern portion of Texas on a lecturing tour in the interests of the Reform movement.

THE wages of the employes of the Reading Iron Company at Reading, Pa., were reduced from three to five per cent. on April 1, owing to the dullness of the trade. The puddlers were reduced twenty five cents per ton.

THE labor organizations of San Francisco are considering a plan to form a free employment bureau for all unemployed, and an Equitable Produce and Labor Exchange for the co-operative establishments under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Council.

TWELVE hundred brickmakers struck at Trenton, N.J., on the 6th inst. Last week the manufacturers fixed a scale of prices, which is about twenty per cent less than they have been paying. The operatives settled on the same scale as has been paid. The men presented their scale and it was refused.

SUPERINTENDENT of Immigration Weber says the immigration from Italy is rapidly increasing, in fact leading that of all other countries. The figures for March are:—Italy, 7,899; Germany, 7,687; Great Britain and Ireland, 4,386; Hungary, 3,891; Austria, 3,484, and Russia, 9,923. Total, 38,138. On the same date last year the total was 17,657. Italy was last year fifth on the list.

THE difference between the Carpenters and Builders' Association and the journeymen carpenters of Chicago have been satisfactorily adjusted by both parties entering into a two years' agreement, whereby the minimum rate of wages will be thirty five cents per hour, eight hours to constitute a day's work, the hours being from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All work performed outside of these hours shall be considered over-time and charged at the rate of time and a half. Sunday work to count double.

THE Massachusetts Labor Bureau investigation into the tenement-house system of making clothing develops the fact that eighty eight per cent. or $16,033,839 worth of the work of forty three establishments that turn out more than three-fourths of the product of this industry in Boston, was done under contract; and 47 per cent. of the contract work was done in Boston, 269 per cent in Maine, 167 per cent in New York, and the rest scattered among the towns in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE North of England ironmasters have given notice of a 12½ per cent reduction of wages, alleging that the cost of production exceeds the market price $4 per ton.

A MOVEMENT has been started to create a gigantic trust to control the output of the collieries in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire, England.

THE total of wages paid annually in Great Britain and Ireland does not exceed $1,500,000,000 per annum, while the entire product of labor in these countries is valued at $6,000,000,000 per annum. Consequently, about $4,500,000,000 go for profits, rents and other societies and benefits for the capitalistic minority.

A DISASTROUS explosion in a coal mine took place on the 3rd inst., at Apedale, Staffordshire. Ten persons were killed outright and several were severely injured. The bodies of the dead miners have been extricated from the portion of the mine where the explosion took place. The cause of the disaster is said to have been the presence of fire damp.

EIGHT men employed at the cutlery works of Messrs. George Westonholme and Sons, Sheffield, have handed in their notices. For some time the firm have wished to reduce their wages by five per cent., which the men decline to agree to. The firm is largely engaged in the American trade, which the McKinley tariff has interfered with.

THE largest firm in England, if not in the world, is Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., and the report of its operations last year is of interest, as exhibiting the extent of a business under one management. There were employed in the various departments 13,075 workmen, receiving over $4,500,000. The chief products were 1,377,094 tons of coal, 595,061 tons of coke, 4,713,662 tons of iron ore, 475,340 tons of pig iron, and 194,067 tons of finished steel. The net profits for the year were $1,300,000.

ON Monday, the 16th of March, the official *responder* to the coal owners reply, on the eight hours question was issued by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and forwarded to all members of Parliament. The responder reiterates that why the miners want *eight hours* by legislation, is in order to give more time for recreation and self improvement. The owners' allegations that the movement would injure trade and raise the prices of coal are denied. The responder contends that the history of the last fifty years proves that wherever the hours have been shortened, the output has increased and foreign competition been fully met. The unhealthiness of, and mortality in mines is discussed.

EUROPEAN AND GENERAL

IN Germany 2,000,000 average $150 a year wages.

SILESIAN linen weavers earn twelve cents a day.

THE labor unions of Australia have collected over $5,000 to erect an eight-hour monument, the design of which represents the march of intelligence and labor.

DURING the last sixteen years the number of children employed in the factories of the small Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, has increased from 9,815 to 13,929.

VINCENZO ROSSI, an Italian socialist, has organized a co-operative colony at Palmeira, Brazil, from where he recently returned to Italy to gain additional recruits. He says that the colony, which has adopted the name of Cecilia, is flourishing. The socialists in many cities of Italy have contributed some tools, money, raw material, etc., to assist the colonists.

THE streets of Melbourne, Australia, swarm with unemployed, and yet they have a protective tariff in Melbourne. The streets of Sydney, Australia, swarm with unemployed, and yet they have free trade in Sydney. Perhaps some of the wise people now swear by protection, and the other wise men who believe in free trade, will explain how it comes that neither of their panaceas seem to work?

PARIS, April 4.—The English delegates to the miners' congress to-day accepted to the proposal made by the Belgian delegates to support a strike of foreign mine owners sent coal to Belgium. The German and French delegates also concurred in the proposed movement after agreeing upon a committee to draft a Constitution for an international federation for the future discussion of matters concerning miners, the session of the congress closed.

"THE present revolt in Chili is a protest against landlordism." So says Dr W. A. Edwards, of Denver, Col., who was for ten years a resident of Valparaiso "Chili is nominally a republic," says the doctor, "but practically it has long been an oligarchy controlled by thirty or forty rich and influential landlord families. While the rising is nominally one against the President, it is in reality directed against the system of which he is the representative, and while the personal causes for complaint brought matters to a focus, they had little to do with the origin of the trouble." For years all legislation has been in the interest of the landlord class, and the people have been almost completely ignored as if they had no existence.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

AS THE ENGLISH PRACTICE IT—A POINTER FOR AMERICAN ATTENTION—THE SOLECISMS OF PRIVATE COMPETITION PLAIN AT FORTH

IN the matter of municipal administration America has something to learn of England, is the opinion of Arthur Warren, the London correspondent of the *Boston Herald*. The United States has not begun to learn how to construct pavements yet. Mr Warren adds:—

When one recalls the recent legislative opposition in Massachusetts to proposals for permitting the cities and towns of the state to manufacture and distribute their own gas supply, the quaint arguments that were used regarding the impossibility of the notion appear positively ludicrous in the light of the fact that 166 English towns make their own gas and supply it to the inhabitants. It is, in deed, a fact that nearly one-half of the gas consumers of England consume gas which is made by themselves collectively as corporate local governments. The number is constantly increasing. In one year alone fourteen towns obtained authority to raise loans for the establishments of gas plants.

Huddersfield is one of the towns which make its own gas and supplies the illuminant to the consumers. The illuminating power of the gas supply for 1890 was 20.16 sperm candles. The amount of coal used was 44,030 tons, the gas consumed, 453,018,000 cubic feet, an increase over the preceding year of 20,000,000 feet.

The accounts of the gas department for the year, notwithstanding the reductions in charges for meter rents, street lamps and fuel gas, show a net profit of nearly £9,000. But Huddersfield means to supply itself with the electric light as well as with gas, and the members of the electric light committee have been busily making preparations to this end.

Huddersfield is one of the "woollen towns" of Yorkshire. It is about twenty five miles northeast of Manchester, and has a population of 100,000 within the Parliamentary borough, and about 34,000 more outside it. Huddersfield owns its streets, under ground as well as above ground. It permits no gas, electric or other companies to dig up the streets, destroy the pavements, or impede the traffic. It succeeds in preventing these nuisances so common in American towns by the simple process of making such companies unnecessary, and supplying their places by corporate action.

Huddersfield owns and operates its street-car lines. It sees no reason why it should give its streets over to the control of any private monopoly. Nor is there any reason why it should yield such privilege to others. Huddersfield can be eminently practical, and they would not, for a moment, entertain the thought that for the public service a private company should be permitted to interfere.

One is told by one's own countrymen that it is impracticable to govern American cities as the English cities are governed. "Politics," it appears, "will ever prevent that." One is told, frankly enough, that there is already plentiful corruption in American municipal politics, and that to place gas and electric lighting, the street car service and the rest, under the ownership and control of the "city governments," would make matters unspeakably worse. There is a confession for you. What could be more direct? It certainly is not flattering to the national pride. It is an open declaration that we, in America, are not capable of managing our municipal affairs as respectably as the English. If it means anything, it means that. Does anybody in America believe it? On the other hand, does anybody in America believe that we do manage our municipal affairs as respectably as the English?

So far as I am aware, nobody holds that there is absolutely no "jobbery" in English municipalities. English towns and cities are managed by human beings, not by angels. But nobody who has investigated the matter can reasonably doubt that there is immeasurably less opportunity and incentive for "jobbery" in the government of English municipalities than with us. Nor can it be reasonably doubted that these affairs in England are administered by men whose intelligence, practical knowledge, probity, influence and standing will show a higher average than pertains in the "governments" of American cities. In England, connection with public affairs is still honorable and honored. In this fact you can perceive the root of the difference.

A SUGGESTION TO TRADES UNIONS.

An interesting suggestion was made by a Salvation Army captain who recently addressed a strike meeting at St. Pancras Arches, London. "Why," he asked, "do not the trades unions adopt an occasional self denial week?" The "Army" net £50,000 by their members' Abstention from liquors. Why should not trades unions do the same? Self denial, when work is plentiful and pockets fairly well lined, is a discipline which would be more valuable in the formation of an ideal trades unionist character than the forced denial during lockouts, bad trade and strikes. — *London Tit Bits*

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