

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Out of a total of over one hundred votes cast by the union printers in Grand Rapids, Mich., twenty were cast against the nine hour rule.

The Typographical Union at Grand Rapids, Mich., has made a temporary scale for the type setting machines, to hold good one month. The scale fixed was \$16.50 per week for eight hours.

Cigar Packers Union No. 251 has almost unanimously sustained the appeal against President Strasser's decision, by which it is intended to keep tenement house cigarmakers from becoming members of the Cigarmakers International Union.

For the beneficiary fund of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen \$49,402 were received last month, and the disbursements for benefits amounted to \$94,989.75, while the balance on hand was \$54,499.75.

The Illinois miners, after a strike of three months, have gone back to work at the company's terms. They gained nothing by the attempt.

The Ehrmann Manufacturing Company of Terre Haute, Ind., which has been paying women as high as 40 and 45 cents per dozen for making men's pants, overalls, jackets, etc., has discharged them because they formed a union. Their goods are being boycotted.

The members of Progressive Painters Union No. 1 working on St. Bernard's Church, Fourteenth street, won their strike against the employment of non-union men and suspended members.

During the past eighteen months, if not two years, the railway shops in Dallas, Tex., have been run on the nine hour labor system. Under orders from headquarters the old ten hour standard was resumed last week; the men found it useless to resist, and they submitted meekly to the outrage. Wages remain as they were.

About 100 quarrymen of Darling Bros., Milford, Mass., are on strike against the employment of expelled members.

The Chicago coopers are agitating against prison contract labor by which their wages were reduced to 60 cents per day, as for convict work, bosses only pay 45 cents. The shoemakers, cane workers, stone cutters and granite workers joined in the agitation.

The employees of the West End Street Railway, Boston, are dissatisfied with the result of their conference with the officers of the road, and have reterred their grievances to the Executive Board of the Federation of Labor.

The long and bitter fight of the Cincinnati trades unions against Heuck's Opera House has resulted in a victory for the men. The employees have been compelled to join the State Employees Union, and the boycott was lifted by the Central Labor Council.

All men who now work for the Brooklyn Eagle as Compositors have been declared to be scabs by Typographical Union No. 98, who are on strike for nine hours. The strikers receive \$12 per week from the funds of their union. The International Typographical Union has indorsed the strike.

EUROPEAN.

A meeting of iron and metal workers at Steiermark, Germany, was broken up by the police upon the ground that they had no constitutional authority. The chairman protested, but the police captain threatened to run him through with his sword.

The annual report of the Swiss Typographical Union expresses the sentiment that the complete emancipation of labor can only be accomplished through socialism, and it urges its members to affiliate themselves closely with the political organization.

The statistics of child labor in the German Empire show 14,000 children between 12 and 14 years to have been employed at the factories in 1882; 18,359 in 1883; 18,895 in 1884; 21,096 in 1885; 21,035 in 1886; and 22,913 in 1888.

The druggist clerks of Paris have begun to organize in order to shorten their hours and obtain better pay. They now work from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Of the 10,000 workmen employed in building the Heho palace for the mother of the Chinese Emperor, 3,000 carpenters struck, and after a conflict with police and militia succeeded in obtaining somewhat better wages.

A committee of miners employed in the State mines in Austria waited upon the Minister of the Interior with the request that their wages be slightly raised and that certain provision be made for the better protection of life and limb. The Minister answered that so long as he was in authority such requests would not be granted, because they were against the interests of the State.

The four children of Jean Culine, who was sent to prison for six years for alleged instigation to riot at Fourmies, France, on May 1, have been adopted by the National Executive Committee of the French Labor party. They will be cared for and educated at the expense of the organization. At Roubaix, where Culine was convicted, the Labor party has demanded the resignation of Gen. Moreau who, as a member of the

Municipal Council, favored the suppression of the demonstration on May 1, and Culine will be nominated to succeed the General.

Some of the shopkeepers of Paris have appealed to the Pope for protection from the big concerns that are driving them out of trade. They ask his Holiness to formulate some plan for applying the law of justice and charity to the freedom of trade and competition, so that the little dealers can live in the presence of the great.

A society of women at Halle, Germany, has been prohibited by the police because the purpose of the association is the advocating of the political rights of females.

INSULTING YOUNG WOMEN.

Dastardly Propositions Made by Some of the Payers of Low Wages.

Women are the greatest sufferers from low wages. The cruelest feature of the wage situation is, that women standing side by side with men in the same shops and stores are paid far less wages for the same work. This is an aristocracy of sex that shames and belies all our claims to democracy. The injustice in the wages of women is already beginning to bear fearful fruitage.

During the past week a thoroughly respectable young married woman, whose evidence is indisputable, and who, prior to her marriage, had worked several years as saleswoman in the Boston stores, told me that at one time her employer told her that, on account of the dull season, he would have to discharge her, but that he would give her a good recommendation, and if she would take it to another prominent dry goods house, which he named, he thought she would at once secure employment. She took the letter of recommendation, and went as directed.

The employing agent of the firm to which she was sent asked how much salary she had been receiving, and she answered, "five dollars a week."

He replied: "I cannot pay you that much; I can only give you three dollars a week," to which she answered, "I can hardly live on what I have now, and I could not possibly live on three dollars a week." He replied, with an insulting and meaning smile, "You would have to depend on the outside friend for that."

She looked him in the eye and said, "I want to earn an honest living, and I don't want any outside friend," and at that she walked away.

She told her employer of her reception, and he said he did not intend to discharge her, but had heard that this firm were in the habit of doing this sort of thing and was determined to find out if it was true.

I received a letter from a gentleman in Conway, N. H., a few days ago, who, without knowing that I was intending to discuss this question, wrote: "After you have given the sweating system one round, can you not take up the question of the girls working in the big stores? I have just heard a well authenticated account of a man high in authority in one of the largest stores, suggesting the way to ruin a young girl from the country, who said, when she learned what her wages were to be, that they would not be sufficient to give her a bare support. This not only shows the attitude of these wealthy merchants to the souls of their working girls, but it shows that they are conscious of their attitude, and have deliberately chosen to take it."

I am informed upon undoubtedly credible testimony of another young woman who came to Boston from the country, and sought work in several stores, and was so outraged at the vile suggestions that were made to her about means of adding to her salary that she went back to the house of her friend—a lady of as high standing as any in the city—and cried and sobbed all night long. She said she would beg or starve before she would submit herself to such outrage again.

It is impossible to turn these incidents aside as exaggerations. They are horrible, I know, but the most horrible thing about them is that they are true. But you will say, perhaps, as some have said during the past few weeks, at my exposure of the sweatshops, "What good will it all do, this harrowing of people's minds with these cruel stories?"

I do not know how much good will be done. I only know that I could not retain my self respect and keep silent. Shall we look to the sweatshop, or to the chattle mortgage shark, or to the lecherous merchant to reform themselves?—Rev. Louis A. Banks, of Boston.

On Tuesday night between eight and nine o'clock an inmate of the Hamilton asylum, Mrs. Wilson, went to the bedside of another unfortunate named Mrs. Strachan, seized the latter by the throat and choked her into unconsciousness. The attendants discovered the woman in the act before she could kill her victim. For two hours the physicians and attendants endeavored to restore respiration, but their efforts were useless, and Mrs. Strachan died about eleven o'clock.

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