

### British and Foreign You Workers are the Empire

One of the First Ladies of Britain Declares for the Workingman and Advises Them to Sow Seeds of Freedom

Lady Waryick, the court beauty, known as the democratic countess, took a hand in the election struggle recently, addressing her "comrades and friends," the dock laborers of Westham, in support of the dock laborers' candidate, "Will" Thorne. The countess, in a dainty Parisian costume, braved the bleak wind while from a tradesman's wagon she urged the laborers to work to secure an independent labor party in the House of Commons. She asserted that she was convinced of the ultimate victory of the democratic movement, and prophesied that the new Government would not last longer than eighteen months.

"You workers," said the countess, "are the empire. Remember your responsibility and sow the seeds of freedom for your children." Her ladyship was accorded a tremendous ovation by crowds of dock laborers, who went without their dinners to listen to her speech.

The Perth (West Australia) Building Trades Vigilance Committee has succeeded in organizing the local electrical engineers, fitters and wiremen into a good union, forty of these craftsmen joining as members at the initial meeting.

The Gympie (Queensland) Mineowners' Association has promised to give every consideration to the request of the local Miners' Union for the granting of a half-holiday on Saturdays to mine employees, so that they can indulge in football, cricket or other forms of recreation on that day instead of on Sundays, as at present.

Preference to unionists is granted in the last four awards given by the New Zealand Arbitration Court. In every case the usual provision for incompetent workmen, to work at less than the minimum rate is also included. The awards apply to the carpenters and joiners and operative bakers in the Auckland district, and the Gisborne district carpenters and joiners, painters and decorators.

Sixty disputes (including one lock-out) were reported to the Italian Labor Department as having begun in August, compared with ninety in the previous month. The number of work people taking part in fifty of these was 11,129, as compared with 18,592 who took part in seventy-nine of the July disputes.

**PREMIER ONCE STONECUTTER.** Thomas Price, the new premier of South Africa, was born in North Wales in 1852, and was brought up to his father's calling as a stonecutter. Curiously enough, he worked on the Parliament House in which he now sits as premier.

The first payments in New Zealand under the provisions of the old age pension amendment act of 1905 have been made, and pensioners hitherto entitled to \$1.50 per week receive \$2.50 per week, or about \$11 per month. Under the provisions of the act a couple who come within prescribed conditions of the act now receive \$5 per week.

### United States

**Insured for a Quarter of a Million.**—A Pennsylvania capitalist pays \$18,270 per annum for a five per cent. gold bond policy. Charles T. Schoen, of Philadelphia, president of the Pressed Steel Car Company, has taken one of the five per cent. gold bond contracts issued by The Prudential Insurance Company, of Newark, N.J. The policy issued amounts to \$250,000, requiring an annual premium of \$18,270. The settlements under the contract are unique, the heirs of Mr. Schoen having the choice of two options: First, \$304,250 in gold; or second, the company to issue to the heirs \$250,000 in bonds of \$1000 each, on which five per cent. interest in gold is guaranteed annually for twenty years by The Prudential, the interest to be paid semi-annually. At the end of the twenty years, the company then pays \$250,000 in gold as a final settlement, making in all half a million dollars paid by the company.

Glove workers won a strike for higher wages in Milwaukee and another against a reduction in Ripon, Wis.

Trunk and bagworkers of Los Angeles, Cal., have secured the eight-hour day. Indications are that the movement will spread to other cities.

It is announced that 30,000 woollen workers in Fall River have been given a 10 per cent. advance in wages.

pulpit of the Congregational Church at Danvers, Ill., on a recent Sunday. He spoke in response to an invitation upon the subject, "The Church and the Workingman."

Demands have been filed with the railroads by the 2,800 union switchmen in Chicago for an increase in wages and fewer working hours. In support of their claims the employees present the argument that the cost of living has increased 37 per cent. in the last twenty years, whereas their wages have been raised only 10 per cent. in the same length of time. Vice Grand Master James B. Connors has prepared a table which each of the committees selected by the various unions of switchmen will use in seeking to convince the railroad officials. The statistics are taken from United States Government reports.

Which was the first labor union organized in the United States? The statement is made in a number of exchanges that the first national trade union was that of the journeymen printers, which was formed in 1850. Although the printers are given credit for having organized the first national union, the tailors are said to have formed the first local union in 1803. The real beginning of the labor movement in this country was an industrial congress which was held in 1845.—Shoe Worker.

The courts of New York have decided that the closed shop is lawful. The decision passed off thus: A contract existed between a union and an employing firm for a closed shop. The firm ignored the contract, broke it, and the case went to the courts. It was held that the contract was not unlawful—that it violated no principle of right. If employer and employee made such a contract both were bound by it until the term expired.

The purchasing power of wage-earners is to be used as the central force to strengthen the newly formed International Union of Employees recently formed at Chicago, and promote the welfare of its members.

A new wage scale making an advance of \$2.50 a week (about 9 1/2 per cent.) for skilled labor has been agreed upon by the wage committee and executive board of the Amalgamated Window Glass Workers of America.

The Switchmen's Union of North America is not in the movement launched

by railroad brotherhoods in Chicago for the purpose of opposing Government regulation of traffic rates, according to F. T. Hawley, grand master of that organization.

The American Federation at its Pittsburgh convention decided that all teamsters, engineers and firemen who are members of the Brewery Workers' Union must withdraw and join their respective unions. This settles one of the most difficult questions that has come up for action in recent years.

It is announced that as a result of a conference between officials of the Lake Shore Railroad and representatives of the International Association of Machinists over the entire system between Chicago and Buffalo the workers will receive an increase of one cent an hour over the present wages. The advance is effective at once.

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers suffer more injuries from the dangers of their work than any other Chicago trades union. A report for the past eight months shows the Chicago local No. 1 has paid to injured members \$1,780, for total disability \$400 and for deaths \$1,300.

A great strike of boot and shoe workers is threatened in the New England States. The lasters and their bosses at Lynn, Mass., have been at odds for some time; the Brockton unionists have pledged the Lynn lasters \$5,000 a week, and now some of the Brockton manufacturers are said to be planning an attack upon their employees.

After a three weeks' strike the elevator constructors of Philadelphia won their demands for better conditions.

John B. Lennon, the national treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, and who is also the national secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of North America, occupied the

Women in all parts of the United States are to be asked to join in the fight against the age limit which bars men above forty-five years of employment. A letter of appeal has been prepared by the Anti-Age Limit League, recently formed in Chicago, and it is expected to spur the fair sex to action.

The central bodies of East St. Louis, Ill., have issued a stirring address to the local unions and members, calling upon them to cut loose from the old political parties and join in a Union Labor party, and assist in benefiting working class conditions.

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