

LABOR AND WAGES.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A glass combine is announced. Chicago has 30,000 unemployed. Sacramento Bee shares its profits. Chicago has a woman's baking company. New York druggists' clerks have a union. Labor bureaus are in twenty-eight States. London button hole makers get 35 cents a day. Mrs. Vanderbilt pays \$50 an ounce for attar of roses. The Prince of Wales pays \$1,800 a thousand for cigars. Boston unions are vigorously agitating for eight hours. Ogden, Nev., snow shovellers getting \$2 a day struck for free board. The street car strike in Birmingham, Ala., was won by the strikers. One million children work in factories and mills in the United States. Silk workers at Steinway, N. Y., were notified of a cut of 20 per cent. The Brotherhood of Painters organized 86 new unions during the past year. At Manlen, Spain, 3,000 textile workers won a strike for the discharge of non-union men. New York Typographical Union No. 6 has adopted a five-day-a-week law and enforcing it. Some Frisco shoe workers struck against piece work. They had been working for \$3 and \$3.50 a day. The Machinists' International Union has over 300 locals, and is getting back to its old influential position. The labor temple at Indianapolis has received a donation of \$500 from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. The labor organizations of Illinois are raising a fund to compel employers to comply with the weekly payment law. It is estimated that the people yearly pay \$18,000,000 for chicory, acorns, peas, beans, mangel wursel, etc., in buying coffee. After a vigorous boycott the trouble between the San Francisco Post and its printers has been settled by a compromise.

CANADIAN.

C. Armstrong, T. Rutier and G. Dariel, Grand Trunk Railway employees, who live in Stratford, Ont., but work in Buffalo, have been compelled to give up their employment by Inspector de Barry. This afternoon the inspector sent the men back to Canada and told them they could not return unless they brought their families and intended to become residents.

AMERICAN.

At a regular meeting of the K. of L. Brassworkers' Assembly 291, Feb. 5, the National Trade Bureau of Labor reported 400 brassworkers out of work because of factory fires in Chicago, Waterbury, New York and Springfield; 97 out of work caused by reduction of wages in Bridgeport, Burlington and Elizabeth, and trade generally slow throughout the country notwithstanding the fact that the plumbing contract for the World's Fair will require the use of brass goods to the value of \$1,500,000.

EUROPEAN.

At present it seems that the mining department of labor is the most agitated of all. Not in Austria only, but in England, also, strikes are on, or impending. Representatives of the Fife and Clackmannan coalowners, and Miners' Association, met in conference in the City Arms Hotel, two weeks ago, for the purpose of considering the proposed reduction in wages to the extent of 15 per cent. The point in dispute is a good deal complicated by the Dysart strike. The Dysart men are being supported from the funds of the Miners' Association, and Lord Rosslyn's cause has been championed by the Coalowner's Association. The miners take up the position that the present selling prices do not warrant a single fraction of a reduction. They admit that a fall in prices had taken place, but the reduction only brings the coal masters to the point where the last advance was conceded. The miners' representatives have accordingly been instructed to press for the notice of reduction being withdrawn. The coalowners, on the other hand, state that selling prices have fallen from 1s to 2s per ton. They allege that the Fife markets are subject to rises and falls. The Northumberland markets point to the fact that prices and wages have fallen there. They ask that the Dysart men should be instructed to return to work. After discussing the question at great length the employers agreed to modify their demand to 7 1/2 per cent., and the miners' representatives agreed to place this before their constituents. In the present temper of the men, especially at Clackmannan, where the notices for a strike have been lodged, and the men say they will resist any reduction whatever, it is doubtful

whether they will agree to the compromise proposed. Seven and a half per cent. on the standard means a reduction of about 3d a day on the current rate of wages.

Eight thousand coal porters in London have struck in consequence of a dispute with one firm regarding the wages to be paid the men in their employ. There is excitement on the various wharves where the coal porters have been working, and to guard against any disturbance or attempt to destroy property a heavy extra police force has been detailed for duty at the wharves.

A DUEL UNDER WATER.

THE DIVER'S STORY.

'It was way back in '65, when Bill and I were working together on a wreck just inside of Chesapeake Bay, between Cape Henry Light and Hampton Roads.

'We had come down from New York, and were pretty spruce young chaps in those days. Now it seemed, although neither one of us knew it, that we were both thinking considerable of the same girl. We had been aboard of a wrecking schooner about the size of this one for nearly two weeks, when one Sunday I was overhauling my things in the fore-cas'le, and was just taking out a picture of the 'little one' that I'd left up home. Bill came along, and, looking over my shoulder, said: 'Hullo, chum. Who have you got there?'

'Says I, as honest as could be, handing him the picture: 'That's the woman I hope will be my wife some day.'

'Your wife!' says he, as he took the photograph. 'My stars! That's Nancy Stewart!' and, glancing up, I saw Bill staring at the picture with his face as white as a new gaff-top-s'l. Then thrusting the likeness into his pocket, he hissed through his clenched teeth: 'No, Tom Baxter! She will never be your wife!' and, turning, he sprang up the steps out of the fore-cas'le before I could stop him.

'As you may imagine, I was boiling mad, and surprised as well. I followed Bill on deck, and saw him sitting on a water-cask with both hands up to his face. I approached him, and, touching him on the shoulder, I asked as gently as I could for the return of the picture.

'As he looked up to me the expression of his countenance was that of a maniac: his features were distorted with either anger or anguish, I know not which.

'Come, come,' I said, after a pause, during which my chum glared vacantly at me. 'Give me back the photograph.'

'The answer I received was a blow, and down I went as though shot, with Bill on top. I was considerably stronger than he in those days, and soon got the best of the affair. I held Bill down on deck with one hand at his throat, and with the other pulled the picture from his pocket, but in so doing it was torn in two, and I only secured one-half. At this instant our shipmates separated us, and for the rest of that day we avoided each other as much as possible.

'On Monday morning, as we were 'dressing' ourselves side by side as usual, ready to go down to work, I could hear Bill muttering under his breath, and just as his 'tender' was screwing on the face-piece to his helmet I caught a most malignant look upon his features, but he uttered no threats aloud.

'My companion had scarcely reached the bottom ere I was in the water and rapidly descending. I had made up my mind to give Bill as wide a berth as possible during the day, and began my labours, stripping off the copper from the wreck well aft, while he was amidships.

'We had been down perhaps half an hour, and I was commencing to feel a little more at ease, when all at once I heard a slight tapping on my copper helmet, and a hand was placed upon my shoulder. I had been kneeling, but quickly rose to my feet, and turning, saw Bill standing before me; but his aspect sent a chill to my very heart. He was extending towards me a knife, the blade of which he touched with one finger, and then pointed to my weapon, which hung in its sheath at my belt.

'I comprehended his meaning. It was a challenge to mortal combat. But what a place such an encounter! I am ashamed to admit, however, that after the first brief instant of surprise I began to feel an insane desire to overcome and subdue my rival, even though it was in a struggle to the death.

'So, dropping the short iron bar with which I had been previously working, I drew my knife in turn. On seeing this move, Bill reached forth one hand and grasped mine, which he gave a convulsive pressure, and then waved me back to prepare for action.

'Now began the battle. The thrusts, as you must know, were somewhat impeded by the pressure of the water, but still they were given with sufficient force, if they had not been skillfully parried, for any one of them to have proved fatal. In a little while we found ourselves locked, each with his left hand grasping the other's wrist, while the knives waved to and fro above our helmets.

'Suddenly I began to lose my air, and was

horrified to see a small piece of the rubber hose drop down before my eyes, and I knew that Bill had severed the pipe—but still at that moment I remember thinking that it must have been an accident, as Bill, even in anger would not take such a mean advantage over his adversary.

'Suffocation quickly followed, but before entirely losing consciousness I gave the signal to be drawn to the surface; and then I knew no more until I found myself lying upon the schooner's deck, with helmet off, and my head resting on Bill's knee, who was wiping the blood and foam from my lips and nostrils. He was dressed just as he had been when going into the water, barring the removal of the glass 'face-piece' in his headgear. 'When I opened my eyes and looked around, I saw him wave the rest of the chaps aside, and then he bent down until the cold copper of his helmet touched my cheek, as he whispered: 'Thank God, Tom, you're safe. But don't, for the sake of our friendship, say a word of what's happened to our shipmates. And oh, if you can, forgive me yourself.'

'Forgive him? Why, bless him, I've loved him since that moment. And never from that day to this has the affair been spoken of to anyone but ourselves.'

'How was it that he cut your hose, willing to take your life, yet still did so much to bring you to?' asked the captain, incredulously.

'Bill was quick-tempered, and he was in an awful rage. He would not have hesitated to have thrust his knife into my heart, albeit he would have been sorry for it the next instant, but cutting the 'pipe' was an accident—and when he saw the terrible death with which I was threatened, his anger disappeared like the mists of morning before the gentle sea-breeze. The 'boys' told me that when I came to the surface I was in Bill's arms, and it was his own hands which unlocked the helmet from the 'collar' and gave me air. They also told me that he would not stop to have his 'weights' unbuckled, nor his 'head-piece' removed, but just knelt down beside me, calling all the while for me to open my eyes, just as though I had been a brother.'

'How about the young woman who was the cause of all this trouble? What became of her?' inquired the captain with much interest.

'O, Nancy? Poor girl,' said Tom. 'Why, she didn't care nothing for either of us two fools. All the time we were thinking that we might prevail upon her to cruise in our company she had agreed to sign articles with a young mate of an East Indian. So when we found that out we both of us took a job which lasted about two years down in Key West. But when we got back we heard that Nancy had been a bride, a mother, and was then a widow, the poor chap whom she married having been lost at sea his very next voyage.'

'Then Bill and I hunted her up, and when we found her we adopted her for our sister. We came out here to Frisco, where business is better than on the Atlantic coast, and she came, too; and we've looked after her ever since.'

'Her child. Did it live?' inquired the captain, interestedly.

'Well, I reckon it did. Leastwise, it was alive a couple of hours ago, when I saw it going over the rail yonder with a month's pay in his pocket to gladden a mother's heart,' replied the old diver, with a quiet chuckle.

'What! Do you mean that Niddy, your 'tender,' is Nancy's boy?'

'That's just about the size of it, cap'n. And he's a boy that no woman need be ashamed of, either; and if his mother will let the lad follow the business into which he's started—and that's what Bill has gone up to the house to find out—I'll wager my gear and 'dress' that within five years there won't be a diver on the Pacific coast who will 'dip' deeper or work longer under water than the same boy.'

'But Nancy!' asked the captain. 'Will she never marry?'

'Hush, cap'n,' exclaimed the diver, in a low voice. 'Not until either Bill or I have 'sounded' for the last time, and been laid away in our armour. Then, perhaps, she might.'

WILL IT BE DONE?

A workman has no voice in the choice of those he shall work with, no matter how dangerous the occupation may be or how much the safety of all depends on how well each understands his duties and performs them. Still the laws in many states are such that if a man injured through the neglect of a fellow workman the one responsible for his employment is relieved of all liability. The rank injustice of this is evident. In every state where the law allows such, workmen should be up in arms until it is changed.

Besides the unjust statute laws, there is another source of danger to the liberties of the people, and that is from court made laws. Court decisions stand as law, and many of these decisions are based on theories of social relations in vogue hundreds of years ago.

Generally men who get elevated to the supreme branches are those who have inherited or acquired the belief that there are social

strata in society that should have consideration in law decisions, and as they generally owe their elevation to the influence of the would-be aristocrats, feel that it is the proper thing for them to do. Not long since a workman of wealth, returned from Europe with an immense wardrobe purchased there with the expectation of avoiding the custom duties, and which was held by the custom house officers as dutiable, being more wearing apparel than the law allowed. A judge decided it could enter free, being no more than in keeping with her station in life. This is only a sample of many, showing how class distinctions affect decisions. It is in keeping with feudal days, and such decisions are only paving the way to the disfranchisement of the masses, or for a revolution and a new start. The masses must take a greater and immediate interest in such things.

A legislature may pass a law at the demand of the masses, who, on hearing of its passage are satisfied, still its benefits never being seen, for the simple reason they pay no further attention to it, and those whose duty it is to enforce it not being personally in favor of it, it remains a dead letter.

The masses can make laws in accordance with the wishes and thoughts schooled in this democratic age, and judges nullify them by decisions based on customs, theories and precedents handed down from an aristocratic age. It appears as it would be necessary, before the people can ever get free from this influence and completely govern themselves according to the present age, to destroy all law and custom putrified with an aristocratic age, as well as the judges and lawyers schooled in it, and begin over again. The French people found it necessary to resort to it to a certain extent before they could even get started toward a more liberal plan of government.—Union Pacific Employees' Magazine.

Night Workers in the United Kingdom.

The night workers in the United Kingdom include 113,000 fishermen; half the police, which will number 26,753; and 45,000 engaged on the railways, or an eighth of the whole staff. Nearly half of the Post Office officials are required at night, excluding from the calculation 52,000 whose positions are not permanent, and all female workers. This is an addition of 56,706 to the night workers. In the City of London, where the day population is 261,061, out of 560 scavengers 200 are required to work at night for cleansing the streets. At this rate, to cleanse the large cities and towns in which one third of the population dwell, 67,230 night workers must be required. There are about 169 daily newspapers in the United Kingdom, and 2,535 night workers are required by them. There are 44,000 following the medical profession. Each is probably called on an average from two to three nights a week, and we may say that there are, at least, 11,000 of them engaged in professional duties every night. These altogether form a body of 322,224 night workers, and with nurses and night watchmen at buildings and yards added, they will no doubt number 350,000, including bakers, persons bringing their wares to the London markets, those who keep taverns, etc., for them and for those who turn out of newspaper offices; and sometimes members of Parliament.

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