

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

The Hamilton Trades and Labor Council now meets every first and third Friday in the month.

The two St. John, N. B., cotton mills are running full time, and output at profitable figures are abundant.

The plumbers of Winnipeg have gained an increase of wages from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day by throwing a strike. The number of working hours has, moreover, been reduced to nine.

Mr. Johns Hertz, of Hanover, Ont., was convicted of a contravention of the Ontario Factories Act, on May 29th for employing a boy between the ages of twelve and fourteen years, without having certificates of age as required by the act. He was fined \$1 and costs.

On Wednesday morning of last week, while some men in the Canada Pipe Foundry, Montreal, were mising a barrel, the fastenings came loose and the barrel dropped, striking one of the men, Michael Griffin, on the head. After being for an hour unconscious he suddenly expired. The deceased was married.

The total number of girls manufacturing in Canada for the year ending June 1890, is 100,260,970, as follows - Ontario, 32,324,222; Quebec, 60,662,410; New Brunswick, 2,452,922; Manitoba, 825,100; British Columbia, 2,392,972; Total 100,260,970. This is an increase of 8,280,775 over the year ending June, 1889.

Luxton and the Grand Trunk have come to terms about the erection of workshops there. The company agrees to locate in London the principal works west of Toronto, at a cost of \$150,000, and will employ at least 600 men on the average all the year round, on condition that the company pay a bonus of \$100,000. The council agrees to do so.

GENERAL MANAGER SHERBORN of the Grand Trunk Railway has been notified to the effect that those employees receiving from \$50 to \$75 per annum would have their salaries reduced by five cents; those acting \$75 and upwards would have their stipends reduced ten per cent. When asked as to how long the reduction in his estimation, will likely last, Mr. Sergeant said that he anticipated it would only be for a short period. If the employees are not satisfied, the strike will commence to revive in June and that August there will be a complete relief.

UNITED STATES.

The union strikers of Detroit have gone on strike for \$4 per day of eight hours.

The Illinois Legislature has passed a law obliging corporations to pay their employees weekly.

New men will take the places of 600 striking coal and iron haulers at a tubular harbor, Ohio. Trouble is anticipated.

The Massachusetts Legislature has recommended that the State should have a day's work for state, county, city and town employees.

The Knights of Labor, of New York, will petition the common council to establish a municipal labor bureau, similar to that of Paris.

Five hundred Chicago harem struck Monday for an increase of twenty per cent. in wages. All the big contracts in the city are interrupted.

The police at Cleveland, Ohio, on July 6th, it is expected 20,000 men will be in line. The date of Thomas Armstrong will be celebrated.

Five cents employed on the boat defeated in the House of the Legislature of Massachusetts, by a vote of eighty-two to eighty-eight against.

The workmen are rapidly falling into line, for they have seen how the present system of taxation works. Every day brings out men from unprosperous quarters who have renounced their way to the conclusion that the Single Tax is the only proper tax.

Thirty-six lumber firms of Brooklyn and Long Island City have closed their yards in support of the New York Lumber Dealers' Association, in its fight against the boycott of the labor unions. One hundred firms in New York, eight in Jersey City and Hoboken and thirty-six in Brooklyn and Long Island City make a total of 114 that have ceased to deliver lumber. Building operations in New York and Brooklyn are almost paralyzed in consequence of the boycott. Thousands of mechanics are idle as a result of the difficulty.

The labor disturbances in Pittsburgh, Pa., and vicinity are wide-spread in their effects. It is estimated by the officials of the various railroads operating in that city that the loss is over \$2,000 per day. The iron trade has also fallen off, for without coal the furnace men can produce no pig-iron, and carrying on the iron in a metropolitan to the railroads, but not only that, the manufacturers, who need the iron for their machinery, are unable to get it, thus necessitating the closing of many important works.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is reported that Michael Davitt's speech at the London Labor World, has proved a financial failure.

Tom M.S.'s co-operative scheme introduced by him at the London docks, is reported to be working splendidly. At the Victoria docks the men are said to receive 10 cents per hour.

Over one thousand drivers employed by shipbuilding firms on the Clyde struck a Glasgow on Monday. The trouble is spreading and threatens to paralyze shipbuilding operations of the thousands weavers in Perth also struck.

In the third week of April there were 90,710 paupers in London - 47,465 indoor and 43,245 outdoor. A striking commentary on England's industrial and social system. No wonder the cry of reform is heard throughout the length of the island.

The Executive Committee of the Proceedings Committee of the Royal Commission on Labor has been held when the members agreed upon a number of resolutions for the purpose of taking evidence the Commission should draw itself into three sections, devoted to leading industries and allied trades - namely, one with reference to mining, iron, machine engineering and shipbuilding; the second with reference to the textile industries, building, gas, chemical and miscellaneous trades, and the third which regard to transport trades and agriculture. The full Commission were to meet on the 26th of May.

THE number of children employed in the factories of Saxony, Germany, has increased 9,816 since 1874.

FRANK CROOK, the labor candidate at the recent election, was defeated at the recent election by only 314 votes.

The miners and bricklayers of Germany held their eighth national congress at the end of April. There were 312 delegates from 107 different localities, represented by 102 delegates.

The National Congress of the Netherlands Bakers' Union which met at Amsterdam in the middle of the month, adopted resolutions in favor of universal suffrage, loaves for all, and the eight-hour day.

There is very great misery among the working classes in Rome. Owing to the decline in value and stagnation of the market, the unemployed are out of employment. The multitude of beggars has never been so great or importunate.

The Russian Siberia, has planned to employ convicts at hard labor on the trans Siberian railroad. For every year such convicts are employed on the road, they will be credited with eighteen months of the term they have to serve. Since the Crimean and Russo-Turkish wars, a great many large parties of laborers and materials for the new road are sent to Siberia by government and military authorities.

At a Grand C. and H. held at the Ellysce Palace, on the 2nd inst., the Ministers discussed the scheme for the establishment of a national fund, which would provide \$20 to \$120 annually to those entitled to the money after having been thirty years at work, the money to be drawn on either by the individual or a fund to which the masters and the men will contribute equally. The Government will contribute two-thirds of the fund. The cost to the State will be \$20,000,000 annually.

In Australia, brick and stone masons get 27 1/2 for eight hours; tenders \$2.00 for eight hours; gas fitters \$2.50; painters \$2.25 to \$2.50; plumbers \$2.50 to \$3.00; sheet metal workers \$2.50 to \$3.00; woodworkers and tinners \$2.00; other trades in about the same proportion. There is a little difference in the rates of wages in Australia and the United States. In Australia all the building trades work eight hours, and a majority of the other trades work the same, though many of the poorer crafts

such as shoemakers, tailors etc. work nine hours. All railway men work eight hours, and their pay averages higher than in the United States.

News from the Argentine republic foreshadow a crisis in the relations between labor and capital engaged in the building of the trans-Andino railroad. Speculation has been carried on to such an extent with the stock of those works that almost all the companies are the verge of bankruptcy. One of them, Clark & Co., failed, and 1,600 workmen have been left without the wages due them for two, three, and in some instances four months. The wages are as low as 60 to 80 cents a day; labor, native and imported, is plentiful; yet the companies are steadily stimulating immigration; hundreds of foreigners are pouring in from all parts of Europe, allured by false promises, and help to press wages down.

LOCAL NEWS.

The Single Tax Association held no meeting last Friday, the use of the hall being granted to Mr. Skeach-Smith for a concert in connection with her new book part. There was a large attendance, and the entertainment, which displayed much proficiency on the part of some of the youthful performers, was much enjoyed. The violin playing of Miss Winnie Smith was much admired. The program was a most interesting reading from Messrs. Arthur Smiley and Samuel M. Jones.

At the meeting of the Eight Hour League on Tuesday evening, a resolution that the city should operate the street car service experimentally for one year was unanimously adopted. Mr. F. E. Titus addressed the League on "The Best Method of Obtaining Social and Labor Reform," explaining the principles of the Single Tax, and urging that all labor and other progressive bodies should unite to secure its adoption in Canada. His address was followed by a spirited discussion.

MANAGER GIBBS, of the street railway, has sent a report to the City Council regarding the changes in the hours of labor and the increase in the pay of the employees. It is stated that conductors and all other employees had had their hours of labor reduced to ten per day; that watchmen, haycutters, teamsters, shedmen, and general laborers were now paid fifteen cents per hour, and the foremen's wages increased \$1 per week. The wages of conductors had been \$110 per week, no reduction having been made, although the hours were reduced. The drivers of one-horse cars are also paid \$10 per week. Drivers of two-horse cars and the stables are paid \$9 per week, some of the latter having to work six hours on Sundays. All these changes will result in an increased expenditure of \$1,100,000.

The meeting of the West End Single Tax Association on Wednesday evening was largely attended, the hall being crowded. Mr. D. S. Macgregor spoke on the subject of "What the Government has to do for us," from the standpoint of philosophical anarchism, arguing that government was an evil and did nothing for the people that they could not do equally well for themselves. Dr. H. Augustus Kimball, of Chicago, replied, arguing that government should be popularized, and that the proper function was the organization and direction of industry. She contended that it was not fair to condemn all government, because governments in which class interests were supreme, and which did not represent the whole people, were unjust and oppressive. After some other speeches a resolution was unanimously adopted in favor of the city continuing to operate the street railway for one year as an experiment.

At the regular weekly meeting of the Nationalist Association on the evening of the 28th ult., Mr. G. G. Pursey occupied the chair. The speaker of the evening was Rev. John Burton, who delivered an interesting address on the relations of Christianity to Socialism. He contended that although in the minds of some there seemed to be an antagonism between them, genuine Christianity embodied the principles of Socialism. He presented a graphic picture of the misery and degradation to be seen in all large centers, and asserted



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his belief that extreme poverty was just as prevalent in Toronto as in any city of its size. He urged the need of a unionism, and the payment of American wages to those who were trying to reform existing evils. The brotherhood of man implied the fatherhood of God, and unless that were acknowledged no good could be accomplished. The best charity was not the bestowment of alms, but helping others to help themselves. The amount of philanthropy had been carried to an undue extent in extending charity to those not worthy of it - men who would not work when the opportunity was offered. A warm discussion followed the lecture, in which Dr. H. Augustus Kimball, of Chicago, and Messrs. Charles Armstrong, Philip Thompson, D. S. Macgregor and others took part. A cordial vote of thanks to the speaker was passed.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LABOR.

It is remarkable with what unanimity the English visitors to the United States meet and praise the American way of working. Sir James Kitson has now taken up the parallel, and is telling his colleagues that the American way is a far given time than the English workman; and that the working hours are longer, and that the workmen have very little power, and are, to a large extent, "the docile instruments of energetic employers." Sir James' criticisms elicited in connection with Mr. Jenk's remarks some time ago also in regard to the longer hours, and the harder driving of workers, the version given above is absolutely correct. Had it been shown that the men having very little power, and are, to a large extent, "the docile instruments of energetic employers" is surely a distortion of the facts. It is true the American employers told Sir James. The unions elicited in connection with Mr. Jenk's remarks some time ago also in regard to the longer hours, and the harder driving of workers, the version given above is absolutely correct. Had it been shown that the men having very little power, and are, to a large extent, "the docile instruments of energetic employers" is surely a distortion of the facts. It is true the American employers told Sir James. The unions elicited in connection with Mr. Jenk's remarks some time ago also in regard to the longer hours, and the harder driving of workers, the version given above is absolutely correct. Had it been shown that the men having very little power, and are, to a large extent, "the docile instruments of energetic employers" is surely a distortion of the facts. It is true the American employers told Sir James.

It is a mistake to suppose that polar research has cost enormously in human life; despite all the great disasters, 97 out of every 100 explorers have returned alive. A process has recently been discovered for making flour of bananas; chemical experiments show that this flour contains more nutrient than rice, and that when eaten with beans, corn or yam, it forms a very palatable and nourishing diet.