

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Brewers' Union No. 69, New York, has contributed \$10 to the strike fund of the printers in Germany.

Notices of an indefinite suspension of work were posted on Saturday at the Red Ash Collieries, Nos. 1 and 2, at Wilkesbarre.

The painters working for Boss Muxhall, Sixty fourth street, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, New York, are on strike for union wages.

Typographical Union No. 7, Philadelphia, gave \$100 to the striking printers of Germany last week. Five other labor unions contributed \$175.50.

The Order of Railroad Conductors and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers will hold a joint-conference in Harrisburg, Pa., on the 20th of February.

Even the clerks and policemen at the city of La Plata, in the Argentine Republic, are now on strike, because the place is bankrupt and cannot pay salaries.

The strike of the core girls in the factory of Messrs. Stetts & Dillmier, Brooklyn, against an increased amount of work, was settled satisfactorily last Monday.

The roofers working on the Appraisers' Stores, at Franklin and Greenwich streets, New York, were ordered on strike last week because the tin and sheet iron workers employed were paid only \$3 instead of \$3.50 per day.

Chief Arthur of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and F. P. Sargent, Grand Master of the Order of Locomotive Firemen, held a long consultation at New Haven the other day. The firemen demand an increase of 25 cents a day and pay for extra work, and the engineers are in sympathy with them.

The bituminous coal miners of the Clinton district, Terre Haute, Ind., returned to work on Monday, notwithstanding the operators' refusal to continue the system of checking off organization dues in their offices. The men were promised they would not be discriminated against for their actions in the late strike.

The Brassworkers National Trade Assembly of New York have elected Thomas Finn for master workman and Frederick Godsoe for worthy foreman. The new constitution of the United Brassworkers, Metal Polishers and Platers of America was received, in which for the purpose of united action, soon to be required, the exchange of cards with other unions of the industry is demanded from the local unions of the Trade District.

EUROPEAN.

The organized blacksmiths of Munich, Bavaria, are on strike against an increase of their hours of labor. Contributions to their strike fund are coming from all parts of Germany.

The Austrian government is making an investigation into the condition of the shoe and boot industry of Vienna, where about 6,000 shoemakers are out of employment and starving.

The Labor Exchange of Paris, which was built by the municipal authorities of that city, has been formally opened. There is a conflict of authority between the labor organizations and the municipal council in regard to the management of the Exchange, both parties claiming the right to appoint the manager of the institution.

Since 1834 the number of children under fourteen years working in the factories of Germany has increased from 18,716 to 27,500, or about 47 per cent. In certain industries the increase was 100 per cent, and over. During the same time the number employed under sixteen years advanced from 133,517 to 214,252, or about 60 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Hat Trimmers' Association of Danbury, Ct., 1,500 strong, and composed of women only, gave a very successful fair last week in aid of their out-of-work members, and cleared \$2,300 for that purpose.

The coal miners in the Maitland Colliery, New South Wales, after being locked out eleven weeks over a demand to be paid a percentage for hewing rubble and dirt, have finally triumphed, and returned to work. The principle has been agitated for several years.

Will intelligent workmen waste their time this year considering which of the two—Capitalistic Free Trade or Capitalistic Protection—is the greater evil? Or will they improve their leisure, voluntary or enforced, by simply considering that the greatest evil the root of all evils, is capitalism itself?—The People.

Engene Schorek, the delegate of the striking-compositors of Germany, who is now appealing for financial aid to the workmen in the United States and Canada, received a cablegram from Berlin last week, according to which the London Laborers' Unions, whose intellectual head is John Burns, have

contributed \$7,500 to the strike fund, and that the Typographical Unions of Great Britain gave \$15,000, while 6,000 francs have been sent by the printers of Paris.

Paul E. Everett, President of the Boston Waiters' Alliance, was born as a slave at Lynchburg, Va., in 1848. When freed by Lincoln's proclamation he went to work in a tobacco factory. Later on he worked as a laborer on a railroad until he found employment at a hotel in White Sulphur Springs. To-day he is one of the most accomplished waiters in this country, speaking several languages, and he has won the respect and sympathies of his fellow workmen, over whom, by his eloquence and intelligence, he exerts great influence.

The success so far achieved by the Shipping Federation in its use of the political and economic power of capital to crush the Seamen's Union and weaken the Dockers' Union has led to a big scheme for a general federation of the shipbuilding, iron and engineer firms against the trades unions. A grand co-operative organization of the employers is contemplated. This will take a long time to arrange properly, but it is expected it will be a powerful weapon of aggression for the capitalist against the workmen.

The brass trade is following the iron trade in the reduction of wages, and increasing the hours of labor. The firm of Eaton, Cole & Burnham, of Bridgeport, Conn., one of the largest firms in the brass trade, have increased the hours of labor from 9 to 10, and reduced the wages in the finishing department 12 1/2 per cent, and in the moulding department 20 per cent. for the moulders. The core makers, composed mostly of girls and women, have suffered the most, their reduction being from \$1.20 per day to 65 cents per day. The only reason given by the firm is: "We have to lessen the cost of production."

SOCIETY AND THE BABY.

There was a baby [born; a brand new, fresh baby, who didn't mean any harm, and came quite unintentionally.

Said Society to the Baby: You don't own that land—get off!

Said the Baby to Society: How absurd you are! I must have some land to sit on or I can't stay. You don't expect me to live in the water, do you?

Said Society to the Baby: It is immaterial to me where you live, or whether you live at all; but you can't stay on the face of the earth without paying for it. To sit or stand or walk, or to have your little grave in—you can't have any land without paying for it!

All right! said the Baby, briskly. It seems absurd to me, but I'm young yet. I'll pay with all my heart when I'm bigger. Just feed me well now, and when I'm grown I'll be a credit to you. The more you do for me now the more I'll do for you then—see? And I can pay back compound interest, for the work of a smart person is worth vastly more than his keep.

And the Baby opened his mouth in cheerful confidence.

But Society put dirt into it. Child, said Society, you can't have food without paying for it!

But I must have food or I can't live! said the Baby. And the better the food the better for you when I'm bigger.

It is immaterial to me whether you live or die, or how you live or die, said Society. You have got to pay for everything you get, and because you can't your parents must! Parents! echoed the Baby. What are they?

You young heathen, cried Society. Your parents have brought you into this world in accordance with inevitable laws of nature; this is an immense benefit to you, because the world is so pleasant; and, therefore, you should regard them with veneration, gratitude and love, no matter what kind of people they are, or what they do to you afterward.

To bring you into the world was a duty and a privilege to them, an honor and a benefit to you; therefore, you owe them obedience and devotion, but they owe me for your board and keep!

You don't seem to me to make that quite clear, said the Baby. It doesn't seem to hang together. You say it was by inevitable natural law that I came at all!

Yes, said Society. Then why should I owe them for doing what they ought to do, and couldn't help doing? And if it was what they ought to do and couldn't help doing, why should they pay for it? asked the Baby.

You owe them for their affection, care and support, said Society.

But I have their affection, care and support, or I couldn't live, said Baby. I've a right to it.

I tell you it makes no difference to me whether you live or not, said Society.

O, come now! I know better than that, if I am young, said Baby. Who are you, anyway?

I am Society. And what are you made of?

People, said Society, with some reluctance.

Aha! I thought so. And the better the people are the better you are—is that not so?

Yes, said Society, with even more reluctance.

And the people are all Babies first, aren't they? And the better the Babies are the better the people are, and the better you are! cried the Baby, who was beginning to take notice, and feeling his feet. Talk to me about parents! My business is with you, you old fossil! My parents are temporary guardians, but you and I are permanently connected. Why, you short-sighted ostrich! What hurts me hurts you, and what helps me helps you, and without me there wouldn't be any You! And there you sit and plaster your wounds, and nurse your diseases, and fight your vices, and pretend you own the earth! You are a hollow, crack brained, discrepant old rudiment. Be off with you, dodo! I'm Society, myself!

But Society, though on its last legs, was bigger than the Baby, and put more dirt into its mouth, and the Baby died.

But there are more Babies.—Charlotte Perkins Stetson, in the New Californian.

Equity is Equality.

Merit is moral, and if all men were equally good, and from unselfish love were equally industrious in promoting the welfare of the community, what conclusion could be justly arrived at other than the proceeds of labor should be divided equally among the people.

But as many persons are depraved and regardless of the interests of others, and are not possessed of a conscience or love of others, which would cause them to do their share, if a living was assured them, therefore, an equal division of wealth, without regard to who produced it, is undesirable as well as impracticable.

The labor of man has resulted in a product. Around this product and partaking of it are gathered those who produced it, as well as some who did not.

How should this product be divided?

What should be the aim of the lover of justice and equity?

He will surely not be pleased to see the shrewd and unscrupulous managers and manipulators of railroads and corporations obtaining gigantic fortunes by questionable means.

He will oppose arrangements tending toward the impoverishment of the masses to enrich the few.

As near as can be he will strive to perfect such an adjustment that each shall receive amount of goods equal to what he has produced.

Any step toward such a desirable condition of affairs will cause the vast majority of those who are getting something for nothing, or a great deal for a very little, to set up a dreadful wail.

Any reform which tends to prevent them from getting more than they earn will arouse their opposition; its advocates will receive the seal of their condemnation.

The apostles of equal rights and opportunities, of justice and fair play will be considered dangerous citizens.

Epithets, such as anarchists, heathen and lunatics will be showered upon them by monopolists, both great and small.

But those who oppose equal privileges and equal burdens, and a division of wealth gauged by the merit and industry of those who produce it, are themselves the dangerous citizens.

They are the anarchists, the heathen, the lunatics.

The word which some of them profess to venerate lays down the rule, that "if any man would not work, neither should he eat," and also that every man shall receive "according as his work shall be."

We ask nothing better than this, and will be satisfied with nothing less.

The Protection Scourge.

Protection discourages regular and natural trade and starts expensive ways of doing things. The goods furnished by monopolists are almost always high priced and poor in quality. When articles of manufacture cost more, consumption is usually reduced, and it naturally follows there is less work to do. The rate of wages depends upon the number of people seeking work in relation to the amount of work to do. Under the McKinley tariff, when rich people visiting the continent of Europe can bring back with them \$500 worth of wearing apparel free of duty, it does not require much reasoning to understand that labor in America is cheated of its claims to work to the amount of millions of dollars by this McKinley bill. The working man is not a sharer in the benefits of these free importations, as he is not in the habit of visiting Europe. Neither does the wage earner share in the monopoly profits of his employer. The monopoly system raises prices, makes poor work, reduces consumption, makes less work to do, and adds to the expenses of living; it increases competition among the workmen and reduces wages.—Limas (Iowa) Weekly Sun,

Relics by the Wagon Load.

Under the direction of Professor Putnam, Chief of the Department of Ethnology, of the World's Columbian Exposition, a party of men has been making excavations on the pre-historic mounds in Ohio and Indiana, and according to reports received from time to time, most gratifying success has been met with. Many skulls, skeletons, copper hatchets, pipes, ornaments, altars of burnt clay weighing 400 to 500 pounds, flint spear heads, etc., have been secured.

In one mound, situated near Anderson Station, Indiana, 7,332 flint spear heads and knives were discovered. The bulk was so great that it took four horses and a large oorn wagon to haul the flints to camp. The total weight was a trifle over 4,700 pounds. The implements were found in a layer one foot in thickness, extending over a space of 20x30 feet. Many of them were over eight or ten inches in length. They are made of gray flint found only in Indiana, and show that there were from sixty to seventy flakes detached from each one in order to fashion it.

The largest find of flint implements made in one place heretofore in America did not exceed 1,800 specimens. In one of the caverns occupied by primitive man in the Valley of the Seine, below Paris, 2,300 implements were found in one deposit. As it is reasonable to conclude that nearly one day's work was expended on each implement, and as each one exhibits almost absolute perfection as far as flint chipping is concerned, the find will be of special value to ethnological research.

The net gold in the United States Treasury, coin and bullion, is \$125,812,529, a decrease of \$20,036,330 since January 10, 1891.

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