

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Boston printers are studying the land question.

Bricklayers of Chattanooga "got there" after a strike lasting two years.

Union labor will run its own candidate for mayor of Cleveland next spring.

The International Typographical Union gained over 3,000 members last year.

Brotherhood of Trainmen admitted 1,133 members and granted nine charters last month.

Unorganized gripmen in Kansas City want 15 cents an hour and get instead the bounce.

Machine woodworkers are booming all over the country, increasing in membership at a gratifying rate.

Amalgamated Ironworkers are stayers. They have just won a strike at Stuebenville that lasted five years.

Pittsburg labor organizations want Carnegie to take back his gift of a library. The stretch of the man has infected it.

The "rat" New York Staats Zietung is in the soup. Lost half its subscribers and advertising. It won't pay to "rat" in New York.

The iron league of New York blacklists union workers, keeps informers and substantially blackmails architects and real estate men.

The pavers' strike in New York is at an end. The paving cutters decided to pay no more benefits to them, but to concentrate on the quarries.

New York Central Labor Union has instituted a movement to organize saleswomen and men. The special object is to shorten the hours of labor.

After weeks of shilly-shallying she commissioners of the park have given the Socialistic League of New York city permission to hold open air meetings from city hall steps.

The Chicago retail clerks' union expect to have a thousand members to show up in Labor Day parade. It is expected for that day that union labor will have ninety thousand men in line.

Labor organizations in Chicago and Boston are forming military companies to defend themselves. No fun in sojering unless you have something to shoot at that will return the compliment.

The lately organized People's Union of New Jersey includes farmers' organizations, trades unions and K. of L. They demand, among other things, the referendum, and endorse the Omaha platform.

It costs \$105 a ton to carry dry goods from New York to San Francisco by rail, \$84 by rail and boat by way of Panama and \$20 by clipper ship round the Horn. There is no water in the clipper boat stock.

Three more of Carnegie's mills have gone out and are being fenced in a la Homestead. There is talk of the railway brotherhoods refusing to handle his product unless he comes to terms with the Homesteaders.

Kentucky legislature has succeeded in getting rid of Pinkertons. It's to be regretted that such a measure would go through in that State—the Kentucky fellow is no slouch himself when it comes to shooting.

The Midland Mechanic, Kansas City, now backed by the International Typographical Union, is piling coals of fire on the "rat" Journal of that city. The subject must be suffering from about four columns weekly.

Twenty-five "scabs" were scoured in Chicago to take strikers' places in St. Louis. General Secretary Kidd accompanied the party and got in his missionary work so effectively that he marched the whole gang to the strikers' headquarters.

EUROPEAN.

As a result of the recent elections in France, the labor party has become master of the municipalities of Marseilles, Toulon, Narbonne and many large cities in the north, the district of Loire and the southwest.

The Compass Plant.

On the western prairie is found what is called the compass plant, which is of great value to travelers. The long leaves at the base of its stem are placed, not flat, as in plants generally, but in a vertical position, and present their edges north and south. The peculiar propensity of the plant is attributed to the fact that both surfaces of its leaves display an equal receptivity for light, whereas the upper surfaces of the leaves of most plants are more sensitive to light than the lower; the leaves thus assume a vertical position and point north and south.

What a flat that De Serunchem looks. Oh, but think of his two hundred and fifty pound wife, and they say that she sits on him.

Great Britain's Progress.

Those Canadians who have been lamenting the alleged decadence of Great Britain, because the motherland refuses to return to the system of high taxation on imports which brought misery and starvation to her workers half a century ago, should read the speech which Sir John Lubbock delivered in reply to Sir Charles Tupper's "protectionist" proposal at the Associated Chambers of Commerce. Sir John was president of the conference, and he twitted Sir Charles with ignorance of the progress which the empire had made in commerce. British shipping had increased not only absolutely but relatively. As regarded trade, British commerce had increased \$500,000,000 in five years. There seemed to be an impression that protection was making progress. That was not so. If they took the free trading part of the empire the commerce amounted to \$5,000,000,000, and the increase in 20 years had been \$1,500,000,000. In the protectionist part of the empire the commerce was \$885,000,000, and the increase in the same time had been only \$375,000,000. Another indication of the prosperity of Great Britain has been advanced by Mr. Gladstone in his Midlothian campaign. He pointed out that in the last twelve years no less a sum than \$1,595,000,000 had been expended by the taxpayers for the redemption of the national debt, which shows a steady reduction year by year. No nation outside of the United States, with its enormous natural resources and free trade over a territory the size of Europe, with between 60,000,000 and 70,000,000 of people, has made such phenomenal progress. The States have made wonderful strides, but not more marked, all things considered, than the enterprising industrial population found within the narrow confines of Great Britain.—Canada Farmers' Sun.

Aluminium as an Alloy with Iron.

One of the new applications of aluminium is to the refining of other metals by the addition of small quantities of the first named element. It has thus been rendered possible to obtain cast iron pieces of very superior quality. By the addition of aluminium the finely divided masses of oxide of iron present in the fluid iron, which unfavorably influence the solidity of the casting, are reduced; the very light alumina slag is driven upward in the molten metal and floats on the surface.

In view of the removal of the oxide of iron, the casting will result of a more compact nature, from the fact that the carbon contained in the iron has no opportunity, by uniting with the oxygen of the oxide of iron, of forming carbonic acid, vesicles of the gas of which are left behind in the iron, leaving cavities. Copper castings are also refined in this manner.—Currier's Magazine.

Australian Reptiles.

"Australia is a great reptile country," remarked John Barclay, of Edinburgh, at the Southern yesterday. "I have traveled in almost every country, and I have never found a land that went ahead of Australia for snakes, lizards and frogs. There are some 65 species of snakes in that country, of which 42 are venomous and twelve positively dangerous. There are 40 or 50 different kinds of frogs, embracing every variety, from the common tree frog to a large green variety with blue eyes and a gold back, making a wonderful showing of color as he hops about. There are probably 40 kinds of lizards, of which twenty belong to a class known as night-lizards, many of which hibernate. The species can utter a cry when hurt or alarmed, and another kind, the frilled lizard, can lift its fore legs and hop about like a kangaroo. The monitor or fork-tongued lizard, burrows in the earth, climbs and swims, and grows to a length of nine or ten feet. The crocodiles of Queensland, however, grow to a length sometimes of 40 feet. Some of the Australian species of lizards can change their color not only from light to dark, but from gray to red. All kinds of turtles are caught. I saw one caught there that was ten feet in length."

Why They Get Big Wages.

The Carnegie Company locked out its workmen at Homestead, Pa., because they would not accept a reduction of wages, and in vindication of its course various statements of high wages paid to expert mechanics have been published. "See," say the apologists for the iron and steel combine, "how great are the wages of these men; why should they not consent to a reduction?" The answer to this is very appropriately made by a workman, who says the only reason why high wages have been paid to what are known as screwmen is that men who can do the work are scarce. It takes a lifetime to learn the business of adjusting the plates used for the armor of Government vessels, and even then a man may not be an expert. In some of the plates an adjustment of one-fifth of one-hundredth of an inch is required, and the adjustment has to be made in a moment. The most minute mistake

may mean the loss of a whole plate, and the loss of many plates would bankrupt the company. A spoiled plate is almost a dead loss. The same is true of the rolling department, where high wages are paid. He must gauge his work perfectly, or it is lost. In heating, the heater has to calculate the work entirely by the eye, and if he does not treat the metal at the exact moment it is ready the job is spoiled. Thus it has been necessary for the company to pay the highest wages to get and keep the best talent in the market. Indeed the mechanic who gives this interesting account of the reason why he and others have been paid good wages, contends that it "takes more education and more ability and more carefulness to be a screwman or a roller in any iron or steel mill than it takes to be a lawyer, and there are fewer first-class men in this business than in the law business." He wants to know why they should not be as well paid as the lawyers are. Yes, why?

The one point emphasized in this whole matter is that it is not restrictive tariffs, but the necessities of employers, the law of supply and demand, that influence wages. Those who teach to the contrary are merely trying to befool the workers and to get their support to establish or continue monopolies.

The Homestead Troubles.

We make no apology for using so many selections in this issue regarding the troubles at Homestead. In our telegraphic columns the doings in that locality are recorded, and elsewhere are found comments on the situation from leading American papers. Our aim is to give the gist of the matter in as few words as possible, remembering always, however, that the subject is one directly affecting the interests of farmers, who ought, therefore, to be fully posted thereon.

The attempted assassination of Mr. Frick is lamentable, yet it is pleasing to know that the Homestead workmen are not implicated in the cowardly affair. The event is not without its lesson, inasmuch as not only those who are known as Anarchists are actively viewing the situation, but sympathy for the workmen is manifested even in the ranks of the army. "Three cheers for Berkman" was the cry of a soldier at Homestead and not of a workman, and the officers failed to obtain an apology even after cruel torture such as was practiced during the inquisition was resorted to.

The question of whether non-union workmen should be permitted to peacefully engage as employees of the Carnegie Company is hardly debatable, but soldiers of the United States who undertake the duty of escorting them to the shops should surely be manly enough to do so in daylight. Men are neither overawed nor influenced by cowards. It is to be regretted that a more wholesome lesson has not resulted from the visit of the militia to Homestead. Brave men inspire confidence, but cowards suggest contempt.

There is a golden medium to be taken in this question as in all others. The press generally takes an unreasonable stand against the Carnegie workmen. The truth is that both sides have done wrong and that mutual concessions should be made to restore harmony. Arbitration should be resorted to; but it was Frick's refusal to arbitrate that precipitated the trouble.—The Canada Farmers' Sun.

The Rattlesnake's Tail.

The structure from which the rattlesnake takes its name—the rattle—consists of three or more solid, horny rings, placed around the end of the tail. These rings themselves are merely dense portions of the general outer skin of the body, but the rattle has also a solid foundation of bone. For the three last bones of the tail become united together in one solid hole or core, grooved where the bones join, while they increase in size toward the hinder end of the complex bone thus formed. This bony core is invested by skin also marked by grooves, which correspond with those at the junctions of the three bones, and this skin becomes much thickened and so forms an incipient, imperfect rattle of such young snakes as have not yet cast their skin. When it is cast the skin investing the tail close to its termination is not cast off, but is held fast by the enlarged end of the bony core before mentioned.

The piece of skin thus retained becomes a loose ring in front of the incipient rattle, and thus forms a first joint of the future perfect rattle. The same process is repeated at each molt, a fresh loose ring or additional joint to the perfect rattle being thus formed every time the skin is shed. Thus the perfect rattle comes ultimately to consist of a number of dry, hard, more or less loose, horny rings, and in this way a rattle may consist of as many as 21 coexisting rattling rings. It is the shaking of these rings by a rapid and violent wagging of the end of the snake's tail which produces the celebrated rattling sound—a sound which may be compared to the rattling of a number of peas in a rapidly shaken paper bag.

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