

LABOR AND WAGES.

Cleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.

There are 1,000 men out of work in Dallas, Tex.

Tilo-layers in Pittsburg won their strike for \$3.50 and \$4 per day.

The American Federation of Labor has boycotted the Clark thread.

Labor Day has now been established a legal holiday in fourteen States.

The Granite Cutters' National Union has a membership of more than 20,000.

The shoemakers in Philadelphia are organizing under the International Union.

Most of the members of the Syracuse Stonemasons Union are out of work.

The carpenters of Allegheny county will demand the eight hour system on May 1st.

The Painters Union of Binghamton has fitted up a neat theatre capable of seating 200 people.

An eight hour bill will be introduced in the present session of the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

After a five-months strike, the Corniceworkers of Chicago have been successful in gaining the eight hour day.

Nearly 450 of the men that were employed at the Lorillard brick works at Keyport, N. J., are out of work and destitute. Money is owed them by the company, but they cannot get it.

A Philadelphia report states that the Lehigh Valley will spend \$750,000 in terminals in Buffalo. The work the company is now doing at East Buffalo and on the Tift Farm will use up that amount.

Thomas Riordan and James Connor, the New York United Brewers' walking delegate recently convicted of malicious mischief, were last Wednesday sentenced respectively to four and three months' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Last Monday the Pottstown Iron Company posted notices that beginning March 9, the wages of puddlers will be reduced from \$3.75 to \$3.50 per ton of 2,540 pounds. This will reduce the wages of the helpers to 37 cents a heat, and other employees in proportion.

The labor organizations of Portugal have just held in Lisbon their first national congress. Over 300 delegates were present. The congress unanimously resolved to celebrate the 1st of May by a general suspension of work and to organize meetings and manifestations in favor of an eight hour work day.

All the electrotypers of Boston struck last week for a uniform minimum rate of pay. Nearly 300 are out. The strike will seriously interfere with the work of 2,000 others in the printing trade. The strikers have a strong union and are backed up by the compositors, pressmen, paper rulers, bookbinders and stereotypers.

An investigation by the municipality of Brussels, Belgium, has revealed a terrible state of affairs among the tenement house population of that city. Among others, 1,300 were found living in but two rooms, and 1,725 families had only one room, while 405 lived in garrets and 43 in cellars. An investigation into the condition of the tenement house system of all our cities would not show a very favorable comparison.

Pennsylvania is losing her grip as a petroleum-producing State. Her supply of the odoriferous fluid is failing, and West Virginia seems to be stepping forward to take her place as first in the amount of her oil production. An immense amount of petroleum has been pumped out of the interior of the Keystone State during the last thirty years, but the sources of supply are at last becoming exhausted and she must take a rest for a few centuries and let her tanks fill up again.

Two hundred and fifty car finishers employed in the shops at Pullman have struck. The men have two grievances, one that they were recently promised better pay, when business started up, and another that their working hours have been cut down, thus curtailing their earnings. Their employers claim that they had to either curtail the working hours of all the men or discharge a portion of them, and that business instead of picking up has declined.

The Pittsburg Despatch says editorially that there is danger of a serious strike on the Pennsylvania Company's lines can scarcely be denied. While it is true that the Locomotive Brotherhood will be very cautious about entering upon a strike after their late experience in the West, yet the employees seem to be firm in their insistence upon the demands they have made. Such a strike would be a great calamity, and all citizens cannot but hope it will be averted by wise counsels and a spirit of compromise.

That mine explosion in Nova Scotia once more calls attention to the fact that science has been lagging in providing safety appliances in these underground pits. In this particular case the inspector reported that everything was in perfect order only a few hours before the disaster took place. Why

should not a device be invented that would give ample notice of the presence of foul air? Let some of the bright students of natural phenomena take this matter in hand with a determination to evolve something of a practical nature.—New York Recorder.

New York's new daily, the Recorder, is a strict Union paper. The Union Printer says it is the fattest paper in New York and gives employment to a large number of people. It is certainly very handsome in appearance, and has a look of millions at the back of it.

The Fair Chance Furnace Company at Scottdale, Pa., Feb. 21, proposed to the striking cokers to resume work at their plant at the old rates of pay and under any form of agreement the strikers may offer. The proposition was declined, and it was announced that settlement will not be made with any one firm. All the other operators are holding out. The strikers threaten to call out the employees of competing regions if any attempt is made to fill Connellsville contracts there. If this is done the number of strikers will be increased to thirty thousand.

At the Albert docks, London, on Saturday a number of striking firemen and coal porters armed with iron bars and sticks attempted to board the Shipping Federation steamer Scotland, but were resisted by the Scotland's officers and crew and by the non-unionists employed on board of her by the Federation. A serious conflict followed, during which the non-unionists fired revolvers at their opponents, injuring a number of them. Several of the attacking party were thrown from the Scotland's deck to the water of the dock and were with difficulty rescued from drowning. The police arrested eight of the ringleaders of the attacking force.

The Carpenters and Joiners' Association of Scottdale, Pa., at an open meeting held recently, decided to demand of the contractors for the coming year a renewal of the nine hour day; the discharge of non-union workmen, and the semi-monthly payment system. An amicable settlement is expected. The men want 25 cents per hour, and the stone masons here ask for \$3.25 per day.

The Granite Cutters' Union has notified the proprietors of the various quarries in Milford, Mass., that after April 1 they may expect the pay of all cutters and blacksmiths to be increased from \$2.75 to \$3 per day, 53 hours to constitute a week's work, nine hours the first five days and eight on Saturday, and that no cutter or blacksmith shall be discharged until the Shed Committee is consulted.

The colored plasterers gained their demand for eight hours and 40 cents per hour. That is \$3.20 per day, and the boys are pleased. "Say boss," said one to the editor of The Signal, "do you know dat \$3.20 for eight hours in de 'Merican Federation beats hooen' cawn from mawning till night for bacon and cawn bread in slavery times; you bet!" If somebody who doubts the benefits of organization will express his doubt to that tricky old union coon, we bet he'll either go to the hospital or make a good sprinting record.—Indianapolis Labor Signal.

New spirit is animating the carpenters of Boston and vicinity. Great success has attended them in the past in securing reductions in the working time and increase in wages. It is not five years ago that throughout Massachusetts the carpenters were working at least ten hours a day and sometimes longer. Their wages were from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per day, and varied very much upon the same job between men of the same ability. A great change has been made. Carpenters all over the State work but nine hours, and in many cases only eight. Now the feeling is strong for a push ahead on the eight hour day this spring. The leaders propose to make this move an effective one.

The Syracuse Sunday Herald says: The case of the Binghamton cigarmakers is creating considerable interest in this city, and a decision of the courts is being anxiously looked for. Several months ago nearly all the Binghamton cigarmakers struck for an increase in wages. This strike lasted for more than four months and resulted in a victory for the employees. A little history of the case will be interesting, for the reason that it has gone into the courts. Actions were begun against 150 strikers by Reynolds, Rogers & Co., Barlow, Rogers & Simpson, Hull, Grummond & Co., and George A. Kent & Co. These actions were brought in the Supreme Court of the State of New York and trial asked for in Broome county. The complaint charges that the defendants, and the other cigarmakers who were then on a strike in this city, conspired together to ruin the business of the manufacturers and to prevent them from carrying on their business, and that the defendants were attempting to carry out this purpose by force, violence, threats and intimidation, by inducing the employees to leave them and not to work, and by various other means. The court has adjourned until March 26th for the express purpose of trying these cases. The same manufacturers afterward began action against the strikers to recover damages. Orders of ar-

resta were obtained in each of these cases, and judgment asked for in the sum of fifty thousand dollars. Charles Becker, George Hitchcock, Leona Decker, George Fox and William Wardrobe were convicted by Recorder Downs on the 15th day of August, 1890, for riotous conduct, and sentenced to 100 days in the Albany penitentiary. This action was reversed by Judge Arms of the Court of Sessions, a few days ago, and the defendants discharged.

Trade Combination Held Illegal.

A decision involving the legality of a combination of harrow manufacturers was rendered last week by Judge Smith, of the New York Supreme Court, in the case of the Clipper Chilled Plow Company of Elmira vs. the National Harrow Company. The plaintiff, which was one of the parties to the formation of the defendant combination, brought suit for a dissolution. Judge Smith granted the application. After reciting the facts and circumstances under which the combination was formed and the facts of the contract entered into, he said in substance that under the stipulation of the contract the defendant had assumed to fix the prices for the sale of harrows made by these manufacturers. These prices were not based upon the cost of manufacture, but were uniform with all manufacturers upon a certain style of harrows. As practically construed by the defendant it gave the defendant absolute power to regulate the prices at which these harrows should be sold, to raise or lower them at pleasure. It was hard to conceive how a monopoly could be more firmly entrenched, or how competition could be more effectively strangled. The decision then cited the case of the People vs. the North River Sugar Refining Company and a number of similar cases, and declared the combine a conspiracy indictable at common law.

Human Teeth and Hair.

With us there is, to say the least, a strong and decided prejudice in favor of luxuriant tresses and pearly teeth, says a writer in the North American Review. But it is only a prejudice, and by no means universal. We see no lack of beauty in the infant's naked, rosy scalp, or in its sweet, toothless mouth. We even see a kind of majestic beauty in the ivory dome that covers the sage's busy brain. A white shining billiard ball is by no means unpleasing to the eye, and no one can fancy its beauty improved by covering half of it with a coat of hair, however soft and silky, lustrous, brown or golden. Birds had teeth once. How should we welcome a prospect of the return, a retrogression, to their former semi-reptile condition? Would you think your canary or your brilliant hued cockatoo improved in its appearance if the smooth even edges of its bill were garnished with saws of pearly teeth, like a feathered and winged alligator? The possession of a full complement of teeth has always been regarded as an indispensable condition of perfect health. To our prehistoric ancestors, who had no other grain mills than their molars, it must have been so; and the modern soldier in active service would find his hardtack and leathery salt beef rather unsatisfactory fare without the dental integrity which the examining surgeon so properly insists upon. But the constantly improving science of cookery supplies the remedy for the civilian, and, as to the soldier, he is, like his teeth, a relic of undeveloped civilization. The "dog of war" must go, teeth and all. Experience has demonstrated that the luxurious diet of civilization, which gives so little for the teeth to do, is, on the whole, more conducive to vitality and longevity than the hard fare of savagery. Long before toothless gums shall have become the rule all occasion for teeth will have passed, either for beauty or youth.

Tricks of the Memory.

"Celebrated authors sometimes forget their own works," said an eminent physician the other day. "This is usually one of the effects of disease or old age. As Walter Scott grew old he became a victim to this kind of forgetfulness. Frequently when one of his own poems was read to him he would ask who was the author. 'Ivanhoe' was dictated during a painful illness and published before the author had quit his bed. When Scott had become convalescent he had no recollection of the story. Toward the close of his life Linne found great pleasure in reading his own works. Forgetful that he was himself the author, he would frequently exclaim as he read: 'Beautiful! Magnificent!' 'I wish I had written that!'"

"Macaulay, the historian, had a friend whose memory had once been exceedingly strong. Old age made it exceedingly weak. If anything brilliant was said or read to him in the evening he would imagine next morning that the brilliant ideas heard the night before were his own. It was his custom to write them out and show them to his friends as original matter."—New York Telegram.

THE MINING TAX.

The State Legislature of Pennsylvania has passed a law taxing operators of coal mines a certain sum on every ton mined. The proceeds, under this law, are designed to go to the formation of a sort of insurance fund for the benefit of miners injured in accidents; the act was suggested by the recent Mammoth disaster.

This is all very well and it is all very unwell at the same time. The writer is not yet one of those people who jump at once to the conclusion that the State may do a thing with justice that is unjust and criminal in the individual. When the State takes such a step as the one spoken of, it assumes the duty and right to look after the welfare of miners and provide for them. It is like an armed band compelling the operators by force to surrender a portion of the earnings for the benefit of the miner. The action differs in no respect from the work of a lawless mob; the result is the same, although the method may be different. A mob comes by force, makes its demand, which, if not complied with, is forced at the point of a gun. What does the State do? It, a mob, the people, elect certain gentlemen to engineer the schemes, call them honorable legislators and pay them a salary for their work. These honorable gentlemen are struck with a happy thought, in effect, to demand a portion of a mine owner's receipts, and if these are not forthcoming a mob with bayonets and superior officers enforces the demand. Wherein does the State and mob differ? I can't see.

That it takes from the rich and gives to the poor does not mitigate its injustice, and no matter how we reason we cannot prove the State's right to pass laws such as the recent mine tax measures is characteristic of. Of course I imagine the workmen will say that necessity makes such a system and course imperative, and they will go on piling up law after law, then restriction upon restriction, first a law to restrict this, then a law to restrict the restriction, then a law restricting the restriction to the restriction, and so on until a "pretty mess" is made of it all round. Seldom does it occur to the poor that a few repeals would do more good than a thousand additional enactments. If the law-given rights which coal companies and large corporations hold were abolished there would be no need for mine tax laws. The miner has a hard row to hoe in life, but he had better realize that his salvation will never come through law. So far as the protective benefits of the mine tax law goes a reformer thinks it is all buncombe. But even though it were effective I can't sanction it because two wrongs never make a right, there is no use trying to cure one injustice by the establishment of another, there is no use in thus beginning at the top of the ladder, we must begin at the bottom.

This matter of putting a tax on the production of coal is perhaps based on the theory that the majority rules in this country; that whatever is done by a majority is right. The majority does rule and rob at the same time. There is an old superstition that all that is necessary to make a criminal action justifiable is to band together, call the band the nation of so and so, elect representatives and go into the criminal business on the wholesale. Perhaps there never was a greater absurdity than to say that a majority has a moral right to rule; like all other rulers it is a ruler by force, brute force, too. It certainly has a right to rule itself, but it can never have a right to rule a minority, neither can a minority ever expect to rule a majority. But the majority is ever meddling in other people's business; always passing a law to make this or that follow do this or that thing. And then another portion of the population is taxed to pay for these meddling affairs, when the meddlers could be more profitably employed minding their own business. What the writer objects to is not to bettering the condition of miners or other workmen, but he objects to the law taking it in hand. The only favors which the workmen should ask of law makers are that the law makers should repeal present restrictions and then shut up shop and go home. Under present arrangements when miners or others go on strike the employer gets an injunction from the court restraining the strikers from exercising their natural right and the leaders are in imminent danger of being arrested for conspiracy. The blue-coated minions of the law are on hand with their tantalizing presence. Miners have had a sufficient taste of law. The people pay mine inspectors who never inspect, and so the law machinery wages and lags ad infinitum. Give all workmen an unfettered right to organize and they can remedy these matters themselves. Let them appoint their own inspectors and if employers do not give them full privileges to inspect a mine just as are given to State officials, strike till the privilege is accorded. But you can never do this till present laws are abolished wherein combinations of workmen are conspiracies.

Temperance lecturers should avoid bowling alleys. It doesn't sound well to hear them shouting, Set 'em up again.

CENTRAL

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

LOUIS Z. BOUDREAU, - - - PRESIDENT
J. B. DUBOIS, - - - VICE-PRESIDENT
P. J. RYAN, - - - ENGLISH REC. SECRETARY
D. ROCHON, - - - FRENCH REC. SECRETARY
O. CORRIVEAU, - - - FINANCIAL SECRETARY
GEO. S. WARREN, - - - COR. SECRETARY
JOS. CORBEIL, - - - TREASURER
JOS. PAQUETTE, - - - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to GEO. S. WARREN, Corresponding Secretary, P. O. Box 414.

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7628.
Rooms Weber Hall, St. James street. Next meeting Sunday, March 8, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to
J. WARREN, Rec. Sec.,
P. O. Box 1428.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,

No. 3436 K. or L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in Weber Hall, St. James street. Address all communications to
JOHN WILKINS, R.S.,
No. 288 St. Antoine street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 355, E. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

ON THE

JOHN KAVANAGH,

DEALER IN

Glass, Paints, Oils and Hardware,
35 CHABOLLEZ SQUARE,
MONTREAL.

Brault & McGoldrick

MERCHANT TAILORS,

53 BLEURY STREET,
MONTREAL.

THE DOMINION

Custom Made
PANTS!
\$3
TO ORDER.
Imported Goods
Inspection invited.

The Dominion Pants Co.,
362 & 364 St. James St., Montreal.

WHEN YOU WANT

A SLEIGH

of any kind the place to buy is at

LATIMER'S,

MCGILL STREET.

ALL KINDS. ALL PRICES.

J. ROSENTHAL,

MERCHANT TAILOR,
196 ST. ANTOINE ST.

Fashionable Suits in West of England and Scotch Tweeds, at Bottom Prices, made up in the Latest Style and Good Fit Guaranteed.

A. HURTEAU & BRO.

Lumber Merchants,
92 SANGUINET ST.,
MONTREAL.

(Cor. Sanguinet and Dorchester.
Bell Tel. 6243. Fed. Tel. 1647.
Wellington Basin, opposite
G. T. R. Offices. Bell Tel. 1404)

Linen Goods, in all makes, at very reasonable prices, can always be had at S. Carley's.

ADVERTISERS.

It will pay you to advertise in THE ECHO. It circulates extensively in the homes of the most intelligent workmen in the City of Montreal and other Towns and Cities throughout the Dominion.