

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

The Order of Railway Telegraphers has now 185 divisions.

During the last four weeks the General Council of the American Federation of Labor granted charters to twenty-four organizations.

Several ex-convicts are employed on the surface railroad lines of Grand Rapids, Mich., to act as spotters. They receive \$2 per day.

Secretary Fleming, of the Telegraphers' Mutual Benefit Association, reports an increase of 1,000 in membership during the past year.

Bricklayers at Williamsport, Pa., were offered \$4 a day and steady work if they would renounce their unions, which they refused to do.

The cloth hat and cap workers of New York have issued a circular to all unions in their trade asking their opinions on their proposition to form a national union.

The journeymen bakers of Helena, Mont., have formed a local union which has affiliated with the Journeymen Bakers' International Union and received Charter No. 134. The Chicago union, whose members seceded from the International five years ago, has returned to the ranks and will receive a charter next week.

Trade is dull in a large number of towns, particularly on the Pacific coast. But the carpenters unions in the subjoined places report work almost at a standstill, and it is not advisable for travelling "chips" to go near them, viz.: New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, San Francisco, Denver, St. Paul, Minn., Lewiston, Me.

The General Executive Board of the Knights of Labor and the Swiss Embroiderers' Union have engaged counsel to prosecute Laeb & Schoenfeldt, manufacturers of lace in Camden, N.J., for importing a number of girls from Switzerland, contracts having been made with them in that country. These girls are working at half the wages paid in this country for skilled embroiderers. A hearing in the case was had before Commissioner Morgan, who adjourned the proceedings until Dec. 23.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America was established on August 12th, 1881, at Chicago. The present membership is 78,200, distributed in 720 locals in 632 cities. During the last year \$32,267 was expended from the general benefit fund. By means of organization the members' wages in 413 cities have been increased, the eight hour system has been established in 30 cities, and nine hours a day established in 234 cities, and 7,300 men have been given employment. Very few strikes have occurred.

The Atlantic and Pacific Railroad company has conceded the striking telegraph operators' demands. The following order, addressed to superintendent Gable, of the Atlantic and Pacific, was issued by President Manvell, of the Santa Fe, on Wednesday at noon :-

Sign and accept the schedule presented by the operators and despatchers, namely, operators, \$80 per month, 12 hours and extra; despatchers, \$150 for eight hours' work, and chief despatchers, \$175 per month and no trick work.

The compositors working for four of the morning papers of Philadelphia, the Times, Record, Inquirer and North American, made a demand at six o'clock on Monday evening that their wages be increased from 40 to 45 cents per 1,000 ems. All the compositors are members of the International Typographical Union. The Times granted the increase, as did also the North American, the latter under protest. Mr. Singerly, of the Record, had an agreement with the men's committee that no strike would occur until next day at 3 o'clock, if at all, and has made no preparations for a lock out, but threats were made that the men would go out whether the committee had made promises or not. At 6 o'clock, when it was announced that the men were waiting for orders, Mr. Singerly ordered the men out and took possession of the composing room. By 8 o'clock the Record had engaged thirty-four men, about half the number usually at work in the office. Mr. Singerly expresses his ability to get along without union men. At the Inquirer office, after several conferences, the men agreed to continue work at the old rate pending a settlement of the differences.

The coal miners strike at Crested Butte Cal., still continues, but 40 imported Austrians have been put to work loading coke on the cars. The men were protected by an armed posse. The next step to be made by the operators will be an attempt to work men in the mine.

EUROPEAN.

More than 6,000 shoemakers are out of employment in Vienna.

The Shoemakers' National Union of France has petitioned the Chambers to establish Government shoe stores.

The workmen and women engaged in the button factories in Lisbon, Portugal, are out on strike to obtain the dismissal of a foreman who maltreated one of the female employees.

The glass and ceramic workers of Austria held early this month a national congress and discussed the condition of the trade, the question of organization, the trade press, and the normal workday.

The manufacture of matches is about to be nationalized by the Government of Switzerland. The factories will be purchased at a cost of about \$2,000,000. The annual profit is estimated at about \$150,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The International Cigarmakers' headquarters will be in Chicago next year.

The next convention of the International Bricklayers' Union will be held on the first Monday in January at Indianapolis.

Official statistics show that Colorado has more than 20,000 square miles of coal, and the product of 1890 was 3,000,000 tons.

In some of the rugs from the Orient the knots of thread are so fine that they cannot be seen by the naked eye. No machinery has been introduced there for making rugs or carpets.

It is charged that railroad corporations are influencing some of the officers of the Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors from amalgamating.

The labor organizations of Philadelphia are opposing the appointment of Captain Linden, one of the Pinkerton detectives who hunted down the Molly Maguires in the Pennsylvania coal mines, as Superintendent of Police.

An effort is being made to abolish the Paris company that has a monopoly of the funerals. Funerals are divided into ten classes. The first six pay from 8,000 to 100,000 francs; the eighth class costs 22 francs; the ninth 8 francs, and the tenth is free. There are about 35,000 annual free burials.

There is a printing office in Kentucky, says the New York World, that is daily opened and closed with prayer. An irreverent editor in Indiana when informed of the fact remarked that in his region printing offices were daily opened by the devil, and in some not infrequent cases closed by the sheriff.

"The limit to the employment of the laborer," according to John Wade, "is the possibility of the employer realizing a profit on the product of the laborer's work. If the rate of wages be such as to reduce the master's gain below the average profit of capital he will cease to employ workmen, or he will only employ them on condition of submission to a reduction of wages."

John T. Cummings, a member of L. A. 6130, K. of L., at Kingston, will be recommended by the Knights to Governor Flower for appointment as a successor to F. F. Donovan, of Typographical Union No. 6, for Commissioner of Mediation and Arbitration. The Knights are not favorable to Donovan since he gave his opinion against the strikers in the New York Central trouble and the Rochester clothiers.

TYPESETTING MACHINE CONTEST.

While the test of the typesetting machines in Chicago has by no means determined their relative superiority, it has been of considerable practical value. It has proved beyond peradventure that machine composition is a thing of the near future, and that, while not one of the four machines in the competition performed within fifty per cent of what its inventors claimed for it, they all developed possibilities which publishers were quick to appreciate. In other words, the machine compositors are coming, but they are not here yet. That they are well on the way and are already practicable, though not perfect, is encouraging to inventors and publishers alike.

The report of the committee will be a confidential document, and its circulation strictly confined to members of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association. At least such is the present intention of the association, though it is hardly probable that a secret entrusted to about sixty men, will long remain a secret. It is not difficult, however, to make a pretty accurate guess as to the main points of the committee's report. There were four machines entered. The Mergenthaler Linotype, the Rogers Typograph, the Macmillan Typesetter and the St. John Typobar. While the last-named machine presents many features of interest and promise it does not, as yet, seem to be a commercial machine, and we have been unable to obtain much data concerning its record in the test. The Rogers Typograph which was exhibited was a vast improvement upon the old machines shown in the World Building, and it did excellent work. The tests were severe ones upon the machines, and, as the inventors claimed, with considerable reason, were not altogether fair to the machines. The committee, in its anxiety to apply a "news-paper" test, had subjected the machines to

rules and customs of an ordinary composing room, while, in practical use, many of these rules would be changed in a composing room where machines are in operation.

The Mergenthaler Linotype did not do as well as was expected of it, nor does the record of the machine placed on exhibition compare favorably with that of machines in daily use in composing rooms all over the country. It seemed to balk, and the operator lost considerable time by refusing to work under conditions which he regarded as unfavorable. The Macmillan Typesetter made a decidedly good impression, though it again was at a disadvantage because its distributor, which, it is claimed, will supply three setting machines, was unable to exhibit its full capacity. As we explained last week, the latest improved Thorne newspaper machine, such as is in use in the office of the Philadelphia Press, and is ordered for the Chicago Evening Journal, was not in the test at all. This was, in our opinion, a mistake on the part of the owners of the Thorne, but they claim that they would rather have no record at all than to make one which would not do their machine justice.

The fact of the matter is just here. None of the machines is yet completed. The Thorne people have built three very different machines during the last two years. The Rogers evolved a vastly improved typograph; and the Macmillan is ready to add a lately invented arrangement which will do away with hand justification. With these improvements in the near future it is natural that publishers should hesitate before putting in machines. A man pauses before buying to-day what we are certain we will be able to get in a much better shape to-morrow. The publishers are waiting for the improvements. But the contest had the effect of gathering together in Chicago as large a number of representative publishers and editors as are often seen in a single city at one time. They were from the South, North, East, and West, and they were right royally entertained by the Chicago newspaper men. It is safe to say that, in addition to the knowledge of typesetting machines gathered during their visit, they all left carrying with them the kindest feelings towards the city of the World's Fair and the men who make her newspapers.—Exchange.

The Central Pacific Railroad Co. has sold to C. H. & J. G. Pierce, Chicago lumbermen, 12,500 acres of timber land in Southern Oregon for \$100,000. The purchasers will erect large mills at Klamath City, and will build a railroad 83 miles long to tap their land.

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