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

CANADA

A SAD fatality took place Monday afternoon in Shearer's saw mill, Seigneurs street, Montreal. An old employee named L. Laflamme, who was in charge of a circular saw, was thrown against the latter by a falling beam and mangled so badly that he died in a very short time. Deceased lived at St. Cunegonde, and his widow and six children will be left unprovided for.

THE Massey Manufacturing Co. and A. Harris & Son, Brantford are said to have formed a combine for the manufacture and control of agricultural implements in Canada. Incorporation, it is said, will be asked for in June, and the capital will amount to five millions. All the holdings of each company will be taken by the new company at a valuation, and the manufacturing businesses at Toronto and Brantford will be combined.

THE first sod for the new tunnel to be constructed between Windsor and Detroit was turned on the 30th ult. The tunnel will take a direction which will bring it to the river below the M. C. Railway ship dock. The total length will be 12,033 feet, of which there will be an open cut of 2,000 feet on the Windsor side and 1,500 feet on the Detroit side. The inside will be twenty-seven feet in diameter, wide enough for a double track. The inside shield will be of steel, outside of which will be six courses of brick laid in cement. It is expected to be in working order in about two years and a half.

THE Hamilton Trades and Labor Council, at its meeting last Friday evening, devoted its attention chiefly to municipal matters, the discussion being based on a report presented by the Municipal Committee. Regret was expressed that the Council had not passed the resolutions making nine hours a day's work, and fifteen cents the minimum rate per hour, and Ald. Smith was condemned in severe terms for his opposition to it. The deputation appointed to wait on A. McKay, M.P., and S. S. Hykman, M.P., and lay before them the views of Labor organization in reference to assisted immigration and the importation of alien labor under contract, reported that the interview had taken place, and that the deputation had presented its views in writing, supplementing them with explanations. The members had promised to give the question their earnest consideration, and to return a written reply.

UNITED STATES.

FOUR hundred lathers struck in New York yesterday for a uniform rate of wages of $4 a day.

THE strike of the World's Fair laborers for $1 75 instead of $1.50 a day, lasted only three days and failed.

THE leading firms of New York are signing the eight hour agreement and the men are returning to work.

ONE thousand union cigar makers struck at Chicago on Monday. Four hundred of them have since returned to work, their demand for increased pay being conceded.

THE miners and operators of Ohio have adjusted their differences on the basis of seventy-six cents for mining in the Hocking valley and a nine hour day.

A serious fight between the strikers and deputies has occured at Leisenring coke works No. 3. One striker is reported to have been killed and two seriously injured.

ALL the iron moulders in New York city are out on account of the housesmiths' strike, and a number of carpenters and bricklayers have been forced to stop work for the same reason.

ABOUT 3,000 granite cutters, practically all there are in Philadelphia, struck Monday morning for an advance in wages from $3.25 to $3 50 per day of nine hours. The strikers are confident that the increase will be granted.

THE lumber shovers on the docks at Cleveland are still idle, and the wholesale lumber dealers refuse to treat with them as an organized body. An encounter between union and non-union lumber shovers took place at N. Mills & Co.'s dock. After a free fight, in which several were injured, the non-union men were driven off. The mill carpenters have struck out of sympathy for the lumber shovers.

IN the Pennsylvania coke regions the contest between that striking miners and the operators seems to be growing fierce er every day. On the 4th inst. the Frick Company added 100 men, their lot of Italians and Hungarians brought here to break the strike. The labor leaders claim they are shipping these new men back in about as great numbers as the coke companies brought them in. Over 100 families evicted in the region Tuesday.

D. A. No. 24, K. of L., of Chicago, Ill., and the order will miss Richard Griffith the old veteran knight who passed away Tuesday of last week. Mr Griffith organized the first assembly in Chicago, and was a fast friend of Uriah Stevens, the founder of the order, and of General Master Workman Powderly. For several terms he occupied the position of General Worthy Foreman. He was sixty-five years old.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE bricklayers in most of the centres of England have gone on strike for increased wages.

GLASGOW master and working masons have come to an agreement which secures for the men an advance in wages from seven-and-a half pence to eight pence.

AT a conference in London, on the 1st inst, at which Lord Dunraven presided, a resolution was adopted to form an association to prevent the immigration of destitute aliens.

THE Greenock brassfinishers, who struck work because non-society men were working in Scott's Foundry, lately resumed work, the employers stating that if the men did not join the society they would be dismissed.

GREAT indignation is felt all over Ireland at the sentence of six week's imprisonment which Mr. J. H. Wilson, the general secretary of the Seamen and Firemen's Union, is now undergoing. Resolutions of sympathy have been passed by various societies, and, a largely attended indignation meeting has been held in Dublin to secure a remission of an unjust sentence, and a thinly-veiled attack on trades' unionism.

AT over all the organs of working-class opinion are expressing much dissatisfaction at the constitution of the Labor Commission. Out of twenty-seven members no less that twenty one are representatives of the land owning and capitalist classes. How, it is asked, can an unbiassed inquiry into the relations of Capital and Labor be conducted by a Commission thus unevenly balanced? There ought to have been at least as large a number of working class representatives as of landlords and capitalists.—*Belfast Weekly Star*

EUROPEAN AND GENERAL.

FIFTEEN thousand weavers at Biltz, Austria, and 2,000 employees at Pesth have been dismissed for being absent from work May day.

THE miners and iron workers' strike in the Liege and Charleroi district of Belgium continues, and is spreading to the Borinage district. Fifty thousand men are out of work in Central Belgium.

THE north-eastern French and Belgium coal fields are, in the main, idle. There was a fight near Liege, on the 3rd inst., between strikers and gendarmes. The latter were getting the worst of the encounter and finally used their revolvers. Several rioters were wounded.

DISPATCHES from Bekes, Hungary, state that there was renewed disorder there on the 3rd inst. Immense crowds surrounded the prison and demanded the release of their comrades who had been arrested. The military cleared the streets. Many of the leaders of the people were arrested.

THE German Government has just furnished its female telegraph operators with uniforms that are described as picturesque and becoming. The summer waist is made of some light woolen stuff, striped in white and blue, while the winter jaket is of fine tricot cloth of a pleasant blue. The waists have a collar, breast revers and cuffs, bound in red, and they are very natty and attractive

A RADICAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

FANCY JIM HUGHES MAKING A SPLECH LIKE THIS!

THE ceremonies attending the recent presentation of United States flags to the Hanover, Pa., public schools was made specially significant by the response of C. W. Corbin, superintendent of schools. He took occasion to say, in his speech accepting the stars and stripes in behalf of the schools

"The boys and girls of to-day will be the nation of to morrow. As our boys and girls are taught patriotism, virtue, truth, self-reliance, self-respect, temperance, justice and love for their fellow-men, so will this nation be able to solve the problems of labour and capital, anarchy, communism and socialism. The competitive system that has followed hard on the first steps of slavery has solved the problem of the production of wealth; but it devolves upon the near future to settle the question of the distribution of wealth. Strikes cannot continue forever. The wind spread discontent, inherent in the social conditions of to day, must find a satisfactory adjustment. The fact that 2,000 capitalists, in this republican form of government, hold more property than the remaining 60,000,000 people; the fact that, according to the New York World, there are in one city, New York, alone 100,000 people crying for work; the fact that corporations dictate to the Government the legislation they desire; the fact that the vast majority of mankind is the pack-horse of the small minority—these facts make the social problems of to-day world-wide in importance."

PHYSICIANS declare the car strips to which gallant men hang that ladies may sit, to be responsible for the spread of contagious diseases.

LABOR'S MAY DAY.

THE GENERAL STRIKE FOR AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.—POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS.

Another Massacre—Twenty People Slaughtered by the Military at Fourmies, France.—Affrays in Rome and Elsewhere.

THE demonstrations in favor of an eight-hour working day in Europe have been the occasion of several bloody conflicts between the people and the police and military. The only reports so far received of these affrays have come from the Press Association or the special correspondents of capitalistic newspapers, who are equally untruthful in matters of this kind. In all probability the outbreaks were deliberately provoked by the authorities with the object of slaughtering a few workingmen as an example, though of course the lying press agents endeavor to throw all the blame on the working people. The most bloody event of the day occurred

AT FOURMIES, FRANCE,

concerning which a Paris despatch, dated May 3rd, says:—The fact that six women, several children and eight men were killed on the spot, while twenty were seriously wounded, several fatally, gives the affair the character of a massacre. The soldiers were merely exposed to stone-throwing, but they replied with successive volleys from their new Lebel rifles, inflicting frightful wounds. The houses exposed to the fire were riddled, and there was every sign that reckless and wanton inhumanity was shown by the troops. The local popular commotion is intense. Fourmies is practically in a state of siege. Cavalry patrol the streets, and are everywhere greeted with yells of reprobation. The tension of feeling may be judged from the fact that the military are hailed with cries of "Vive Prussia." The prefect refused to receive a deputation asking for removal of the regiment that fired on the crowd. A section of the Left and the Socialist and Boulangist deputies join in demanding a vote of censure against Constans, Minister of the Interior, as responsible for the slaughter. A majority of the Highland Left Deputies generally approve the measures of repression taken by M. Constans. Labor centres throughout France are profoundly moved, and public meetings here and at Marseilles, Lyons and elsewhere are being organized to protest against the precipitate action of the authorities. It is learned that the sub prefect of Fourmies ordered the first firing on the crowd. It would have been still worse had not the mayor risked his life and rushed between the combatants and implored them to stop firing. This is the first time that the Lebel rifle had been used against human beings.

OTHER DISTURBANCES IN FRANCE.

A mob threatened the police station at Clichy, and gendarmes sabled out to disperse the crowd. The mob took refuge in a wine shop, which they barricaded. The police attempted to dislodge them, and were met by a volley of revolver shots. Four policemen were wounded.

At Lyons a policeman was killed in a riot. Intense excitement reigned there, the military being unable to control the mob, which attacked the soldiers with showers of stones and other missiles, many being seriously wounded. Additional reinforcements of soldiers were summoned, and a cannon drawn to the place of meeting to intimidate the rioters.

A FIGHT IN ROME.

A meeting of workingmen took place on the afternoon of the 1st, near the church of San Giovanni. There were five members of the Chamber of Deputies present. An Anarchist speaker violently urged the assembled men to attack the police. The speaker's words so excited his hearers that soon after the mob stoned the troops stationed in the neighborhood. Some rioters hurled stones at the troops from the windows of the houses. The gendarmes fired upon the rioters, and the cavalry charged upon those who had not been put to flight by the gendarmes' fire. At the same time the infantry soldiers near the scene were ordered to storm the houses from which the stones had been thrown. A terrible uproar followed. When matters had calmed down somewhat, it was found that Sig. Barzilai, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, Sig. Sprinna, a Socialist leader, and twenty-five others had been wounded. One man was killed outright by the gendarmes' fire. A gendarme was stabbed to death by the rioters. During the cavalry charge several troopers were unhorsed and were trampled upon and kicked by their comrades' horses. Another gendarme wounded in the fray has since died.

GREAT DEMONSTRATIONS IN LONDON.

A number of eight hour demonstrations were held on Sunday the 3rd inst. In London, England, a great demonstration took place at Hyde Park, the attendance being estimated at 300,000. The procession in connection with the meeting included workers at all the trades. Its route was by way of Westminster, Victoria Street and Grosvenor Place. Traffic was blocked for several hours. John Burns, Thomas Mann, the President of the Dockers' Union, Benjamin Tillet, the Avelings, and Mr. Graham, the Socialist member of Parliament, were among the speakers, who were assigned to twelve different platforms. A resolution in favor of a compulsory labor day of eight hours was moved on all the platforms.

ON THE CONTINENT.

The principal towns of Germany, Holland and Switzerland were the scenes of demonstrations. In Hamburg 30,000 persons, many of them women, paraded through the suburb of Horn. Delegates from the workmen societies kept excellent order. After a short meeting, at which appropriate resolutions were adopted, the crowd dispersed. No disorder was reported anywhere. In the Belgium mining districts disorder prevails. Meetings were held at Liege, Seraing and other places to denounce the action of the Brussels Labor Union, which sent delegates to various centres to delay or prevent strikes. It was decided to disregard the advice of the union and commence a general strike. A state of siege has been proclaimed in the villages around Liege.

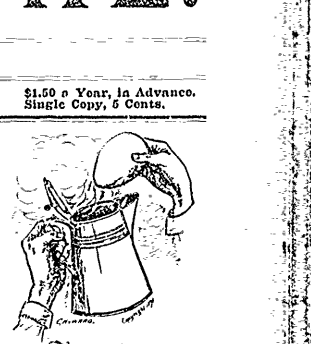
IN THE UNITED STATES.

There were numerous strikes on the 1st inst., especially in connection with the building trades, but no serious disturbances, excepting at Cleveland, where some unionists employed on the lumber docks assulted some of their employers and inflicted serious injuries. The contemplated strikes among the Pennsylvania and West Virginia coal miners did not take place, as it was decided that the men were in no condition to make a successful fight.

THE ENGLISH LABOR COMMISSION.

THE appointment of the Royal Labor Commission in England, by omitting Michael Davitt, who had been proposed by the Irish members of parliament, caused ill-feeling among them; and Mr. McCarthy was urgent in demanding the reasons until Mr. Davitt wrote him to desist. Radical labor reformers are also dissatisfied, because the labor members of the Commission are all from the old style trade union class. The object of this Commission is to enquire into the conditions of labor, and into questions affecting the relation of employers and employed, and their respective combinations; and to report whether any, and if so what, legislation can, with advantage, be directed to remedy any of the evils. It lies with the Commission itself to determine whether its examinations and deliberations shall be made public. There are twenty-seven Commissioners, and Lord Harrington is chairman. Among the other members are Sir Edward Harland, the steamship builder of Belfast; Chairman Bolton, of the Caledonian Railway; Jesse Collings, of the Agricultural Laborers; Secretary Burt, of the Northumberland Miner's Association; Professor Marshall, of Cambridge; Sir Frederick Pollock, Managing Director Tamay, of the White Star Line; Chairman Livery, of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, and Thomas Mann, President of the Dockers' Union. The names are regarded as indicating that there will be no consideration of radical questions. There are six labor representatives, mere trade unionists, and eleven large employers, while the sympathy of the other members is considered as being with the employing class. Of the chairman, Lord Harrington, Harold Frederic, correspondent of the New York Times, says that he has never done a day's work, knows nothing of labor problems, is dull and lazy and possesses vast unearned wealth.—*N. Y. Standard.*

SCIENTISTS say that the orange was originally a berry, and its evolution has been going on for more than a thousand years.



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