

LABOR AND WAGES.

Cleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.

An extensive strike of glass workers in Lyons, France, and neighborhood, is impending, the men demanding an increase of wages.

Over fifty female employees of Bell Bros. pottery at Findlay, Ohio, have gone on strike because the firm refused to treat with the men, who have been out since Jan 1.

In Austria women are employed to carry the mortar and brick to the builders. They work from seven in the morning till six at night, with one hour at noon, and receive twenty cents a day. Most of these female hod carriers are unmarried and homeless.

Workingmen are greatly displeased at the apathy of the United States Senate in side-tracking labor measures. Any legislation enacted by the millionaires in the Senate will be of very little benefit to the laboring classes.

There is a serious strike at the Albert docks, London. Open acts of violence are only prevented by the presence of a large force of police. Work on the cargoes of the steamships Sorrento and Lydian Monarch has been stopped by the Union dock laborers and stevedores, who are charged with having broken the agreement with the companies.

Boston Typographical Union is waging a hot warfare on the Post, which, without a moment's notice, "fired" all the union men in its employ and filled their places with P. P.'s. There are thousands of organized workmen in Boston who will back the printers in their fight and the Labor Leader has taken up the fight in earnest.

One of the few instances on record where a union has been moved bodily from one town to another is that of Horsecollarmakers No. 18, of which the charter and every member has been transferred from Washington, Mo., to Lincoln, Ill. The members of the union were all employed in the shop, and the proprietors moving, it was necessary for the union to do likewise.

The Bon Marche in Paris possesses probably the largest kitchen in the world. It provides food for all the employees of the house, 4,000 in number. The smallest kettle holds 75 quarts, the largest 375 quarts. There are 50 frying pans, each of which is capable of cooking 300 outlets at a time, or of frying 220 pounds of potatoes. When there are omelettes for breakfast 7,800 eggs are used. There are sixty cooks and 100 kitchen boys.

It looks very much as though the miners of the South and West would make a bold stand for eight hours on May 1st. The demand will hardly be acceded to and a big strike will follow. There is little or no talk of trying to enforce the demand in this region—in fact it would be folly to think of any such thing in the present disorganized condition of the men.—Minersville, Pa., Free Press.

Nearly all the shop and yard employes of the Pittsburg & Western railroad at Pittsburg quit work recently, and the road is practically tied up. The men say they have not received their pay for two or three months. The officials admit this, but say the trouble will soon be over. The B. & O. road, which secured control of the company last week, is not yet in formal possession. This strike will probably hasten the transfer.

In the United States Senate, Saturday week, Mr. Sherman presented a petition of Star Council No. 6, Junior Order United American Mechanics, of Gallon, Ohio; a petition of Kemble Council No. 59, Junior Order United American Mechanics, of Rogers, Ohio; and a petition of General Crook Council, Junior Order United American Mechanics, of Annapolis, Ohio, praying for the passage of a bill to restrict immigration; which were referred to the Committee on Immigration.

The men who struck four weeks ago at the Edison building on Broad street, New York, will return to work. Volkening & Co. had the contract for the marble work on the building, and their non-union men will have to go. Union men will not work on buildings where Volkening & Co. are employed. The firm is barred by all the unions. For three years the Central Labor Union has been striking against the firm. But Mr. Volkening has resisted all attempts to unionize his place. He has also refused to join the Employing Marble Workers' Association, and has gained its enmity as well as that of the Marble Cutters' Union. He once said that if he thought death was near he would put a clause in his will providing that his business should be conducted on a non-union basis.

At Springfield, Ill., T. G. Boody, general organizer of the Railway Employees' Club, with headquarters at Minneapolis, addressed a large audience of railroad men there last Monday night, and will organize a club. The object is the protection of the interests of employees by fighting what is

known as "granger legislation," which, by making war on the railroads, it is said, has so reduced their earnings as to necessitate the cutting down of wages and the laying off of employees. The assertion is made that the dividends paid by railroads in the Northwestern States were reduced in 1889 to less than one-half one per cent. on their stock, and the average return from all railroad investments was less than three per cent. The organization of the railroad employees as a solid phalanx of voters is intended to check the granger elements who ignore the welfare of the railroad employee and pass laws which rob him of his means of livelihood.

In the United States Senate on the 10th inst. the House bill to revise the wages of certain employees of the Government Printing Office was passed, with a substitute providing that all night employees be paid 20 per cent. in addition to the amount paid for day labor.

Housewives' Union of Brooklyn has resolved upon demanding from employers a reduction in the working hours of the craft, to commence on the 1st of May. The present working hours of the trade are nine daily. The demand is for eight hours a day. In addition to asking for the reduction in time, the Union's demand goes on to the effect that the wages for the reduced time shall continue as they are at present; that is, \$3 a day for fitters and for helpers, according to classification, from \$10.50 to \$12 per week.

The situation in the lockout at Cornin g, N. Y., still remains unchanged. The men have now entered upon the seventh week of the contest with the lines as tightly drawn and the body as compact as upon the first day.

Numerous window-glass houses still remain out of glass with no definite time for a start up. Factories that are now operating in some instances are stocking up. They do not like to shut down and will not sell at present prices. The present slackness in production has been attributed to the formation of the American Window Glass Company, or rather its failure to do business.

The puddlers at Belmont mill, Wheeling, West Virginia, have gone out on account of the company's refusing to sign the Amalgamated Association seal. The officials of the company say they have not signed the seal for several years and see no good reason why they should now, especially as it is more profitable to allow the puddling furnaces to remain idle than to run them in the present condition of trade. It looks as if there would be an indefinite shut down.

The situation at the Pennsylvania Steel Works at Steelton, Pennsylvania, remains unchanged. The men discharged for joining the Amalgamated Steel Workers' Association are still out, and likely to remain so. There is a rumor that the men would all be reinstated, providing they are willing to withdraw from the Association. The discharged men say they cannot and will not ignore the Amalgamated Steel Workers' Association, and that if a reconciliation is come to by pursuing such a course it will not come at all.

In a Very Bad Way.

People who go to apothecaries to have their disease prescribed for occasionally get a very strange diagnosis. In one case a man wearing a long countenance is said to have entered an apothecary's shop and remarked:

"I seem to have something queer in my stomach and I want you to give me something for it."

"What are your symptoms?" the apothecary asked.

"Every little while something seems to rise up and then settle back again, and by-and-by it rises up again."

The apothecary put his chin in the palm of his hand and meditated awhile.

"Look here," he said gravely, "you haven't gone and swallowed an elevator, have you?"

A Good Toboggan Slide.

There is a good deal of fuss going on in Canada over the subject of reciprocity with the United States.

But for a few despatches in the press and one or two Wiman's who disturb our peace with three column speeches, we would scarcely know whether Canada was discussing the advisability of such a policy or not.

It must strike our frozen friends as strange that this part of the world is pushing along with its own affairs with scarcely a thought of the troublesome times over the lakes.

The fact is that we are getting along very well without Canada, but the time is not far off when Canada can get along without us. When our Northern neighbors are ready to place themselves directly on our tariff basis it will be then time to treat with them. Meanwhile Canada makes a very good toboggan slide for winter tourists.—New Era.

A NEW AND DANGEROUS RIVAL.

It has been the custom of late years to sing hosannas over every announcement that a new field of labor had been opened to woman which was formerly monopolized by man. Every hosanna that is sung becomes a funeral dirge to those who view the field aright.

Men's wages have been low enough at all times, but with only the competition of men hitherto there was a limit. To mention that limit would be to recite numberless wrongs and acts of injustice which have, from time to time, been perpetrated upon the laboring class. When the starvation point was reached men banded together and by their united efforts forced wages up a little.

But hitherto men have had only men as their competitors. This recent rivalry of women puts an entirely new face, and as some one states a darker face, on the problems of labor. Unlike man's competition, woman's does not cease when her wages fall below the life-sustaining point. In most cases she is not wholly dependent on her wages for a living, and often works for what she calls pin-money. She is aided by a father or brother, and in nine cases out of ten she labors at the cost of lowering man's earnings, and often of a family's privation and misery. The battle has only begun. Only a few fields have as yet been invaded by the masculine woman. There are still many employments left in which woman will supplant man by working for a few dollars a week less. For every old maid, who earns her livelihood, and in all probability deems that she is doing God's service by doing so, there are several wives and children going hungry. In order to equalize this dangerous element, which is gradually being understood by those who labor most and hardest, it will be necessary for every wife to join her husband in the support of his family, and even worse may be predicted—a time when every child which is born into the world must commence from the cradle to learn a trade and seek its own living. Matters are still in the transition state; and if men could be forced to stop and see the abyss they are opening before themselves and families by not forcing a support upon their sisters or other relatives, the future could be saved and a further misery in life prevented.

GO TO GAOL.

It is abundantly evident that the labor struggle is not going to be a calm and decorous Sunday-school procession kind of an affair.

That there are going to be rows and riots, and variegated blood and fire effects, is a fact written in big letters across the troubled sky of recent events.

The wholesale importation of police, soldiers, spies and blacklegs into labor disputes is not calculated to promote brotherly love, peace and good will towards all men.

Landlords and capitalists who take a devilish delight in overworking and starving their wage-slaves and crushing every little attempt they make to slightly improve their condition, are not the most favorable factors toward the gradual evolution of a higher plane of progress.

Newspaper editors, shrieking and howling like wolves and hyenas for the blood of Trades Union agitators and Socialists, are not the most desirable incarnations of that "eternal not ourselves," which Matthew Arnold said "makes for righteousness."

No, indeed, so we may as well make up our minds and prepare our plans for lively times.

And chiefly let us familiarize ourselves with the prospects of being sent to gaol.

Sent to gaol!

Most British workmen are dreadfully afraid of being sent to gaol.

Many of them would rather lose their right hand or throw themselves into a quarry pit than suffer the disgrace of being sent to gaol, no matter for how short a time or for how trivial an offence.

They will tell bundles of lies, fly hundreds of miles all over the country, and endure all sorts of privations and pains rather than be "nabbed by the police."

Now that is very wrong and foolish.

The fear of a gaol is a cowardly fear, and the disgrace of being sent there is a vulgar and grave superstition.

Has not almost every true and brave pioneer of progress been put in gaol? Has not the gaol been the very sanctuary of freedom and progress?

Irish Nationalists go as merily to gaol as they would go to a wedding or a wake, and that is the reason that they are as sure to get Home Rule as that the flowers will bloom in the spring.

And so must British workmen, if they intend emancipating themselves from the thralldom of capitalism.

After all, the gaol is not the dreadful place that most men foolishly imagine.

There are hundreds of thousands of people in our land who endure vastly more misery outside the gaol than they would have to endure inside it.

Yes, in comparison with many of the homes-of-the-industrious-poor, our prisons

are palaces indeed, and in comparison with the daily toil they have to perform, the hard labor of our convicted felons is light and pleasant to a degree.

If it were not for the stupid prejudice attached to the thing, a good million or two industrious and honest folk would find it considerably to their physical and moral advantage to cease working in factories, railways, docks and mines for the profit of capitalists and landlords, and take an occasional spell of the relatively comfortable lodging, wholesome fare, and reasonable toil which is provided for law breakers inside the walls of Her Majesty's prisons.

Let, then, every advocate of labor and Socialist ask himself whether he is prepared to go to gaol; and if he cannot answer resolutely "yes," then let him skulk out of the labor movement as quickly as he can, for he is a mar plot and a hypocrite.

For the criminal law of this country has been so cunningly devised in the interest of property thieves, that no man or woman can freely and fearlessly speak or act against those thieves without being almost instantaneously caught in its inflexible meshes.

The first qualification for a Trades Union secretary or a labor member of Parliament should be that the candidate had been not less than three times in gaol for intimidation, conspiracy, or sedition.

Let the new labor cry therefore be, "Go to gaol."

Let workmen all over the land emulate each other in their anxiety to get there.

Let them cram the gaols full.

Let it be known that a man can do better service to his fellows by going to gaol for them than by going to parliament.

Let us have nursery rhymes for our children, inculcating their idea of going to gaol as the highest reward for good and noble deeds.

Instead of spending Trades Union funds in keeping men walking the streets begging for jobs, let the funds be spent in supporting the wives and families of men who have been sent to gaol for agitating, educating and organizing their fellows.

Finally:—When there are more British workmen marching to gaol than to churches on Sundays, we will be within measurable distance of the emancipation of labor, and realization of freedom, justice and brotherhood.—People's Press.

An Appeal From the Stove Mounters.

The Stove Mounters and Drillers' Protective Union, 4006, A. F. of L., have issued the following appeal, which speaks for itself, to sister unions:—

Recognizing the fact that standing alone as we do we are too weak to fight our battles against concentrated capital and unfair employers, and that in union there is strength, we issue this call in the hope that by this means we will be able to put the stove-mounters of North America to thinking as to the advisability of doing what other trades have done with great success, namely, to organize an International Union of our craft.

The advantages to be gained by taking this step are of great interest to all in our daily life, and are too numerous to mention. Those of our craft who are organized know what an important factor their Union has been and is in maintaining their rights and privileges, and to say that an International will strengthen us a hundred-fold more is only putting it mildly.

There are various other good reasons why we should organize an International Union, which lack of space forbids us to give. We hope you will give this matter your best thought and careful attention, and not only that, but enquire of others as to what benefits they derive from their National Union. We appeal to all Stove-mounters' Unions in America to bestir themselves in this matter and correspond with the secretary of the above union, with the view of holding a convention in the near future for the purpose of forming an International Union of our craft. You are called upon to express your preference for time and place for holding the convention, so that the preparatory work may be pushed with as much haste as possible consistent with all interests involved.

Unionists of all trades will kindly assist in forwarding the purpose of this appeal by calling the attention of stove-mounters to it and urging them to action.

Hard to Please.

They tell a good story of a certain South Side gentleman who owns a number of houses. He recently rented one to a young clerk, assuring him that it was in perfect order. A week later the young man rushed into the office and exclaimed:

"See here, I want to talk to you about that house I just rented from you."

"What's the matter?" demanded the owner.

"Matter? Why, great Scott, the cellar is full of water!"

"Water! Well, what do you expect? Champagne?"

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. 7625.
Rooms Weber Hall, St. James street. Next meeting Sunday, Feb. 28, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to
J. WARREN, Rec. Sec.,
P. O. Box 1498.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,
No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in Weber Hall, St. James street. Address all communications to
JOHN WILKINS, R.S.,
No. 282 St. Antoine street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,
No. 858, K. 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
LATIMERS',
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. 6248, 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 workingmen in the City of Montreal and other Towns and Cities throughout the Dominion.