

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Syracuse has 22 union and 46 non-union job offices.

New York painters are fined \$25 for working overtime.

Colored waiters in New York were reorganized by the K. of L.

Slate and tin roofers' unions are going to form an international soon.

Cincinnati carpenters secured an increase from 28 to 30 cents an hour.

Chicago Socialists are organizing the working women of that city.

Districts Nos. 2 and 4 of Cigarmakers' Union No. 80 are to be amalgamated.

The Denver Trades Assembly forced the City Council to pass a municipal eight hour law.

Pacific Coast Federation, numbering 30,000 members has concluded to join the American Federation.

About 2,300 men employed by the Westinghouse Air Brake Co., Pittsburg, have been discharged because there is no work.

Contractors of Paterson, N. J., are condemned in strong terms by unions of that city for importing foreigners to perform city work.

Over 1,000 people have been laid off at the carpet factory of Smith & Son's, Yonkers, N. Y., and the wages of those who were kept at work were reduced.

The Association of Checkweighmen, of Pennsylvania, has voted to continue the office of miners' agent, but not to give that officer a vote in the Executive Board.

The officers of the Musicians' National Benefit Association have taken steps to prevent bands composed of children from playing in public. One of these cases is at present in the courts of St. Louis.

Secretary Fleming reports that the membership of the Telegraphers' Mutual Benefit Association has increased about 1,000 this year. The organization will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary next year.

The cloakmakers of Myer Jonasson held a mass meeting at 125 B'wington street, New York, discussing their grievances. It was stated by several speakers that there are traitors in the shop who have caused a number of union men to be discharged. It was resolved to firmly adhere to union rules and resist all further attacks upon its officers.

The New York Central Labor Federation, acting upon the suggestion of a K. of L. assembly of that city, has drawn up and presented to local organizations a proposition to unite all central bodies. A meeting will be held some time this month to discuss this question, and should favorable action be taken by the other bodies, it will be the means of establishing a central organization whose power will be invincible.

EUROPEAN.

The hours of labor, which had been reduced to eight per day in the coal mines of Hungary, where the Government is the owner, have again been increased to twelve.

The Government of the Argentine Republic owes several thousands of its employees and laborers from three to five months' wages, and there are strikes in many Government shops and offices.

About 500 unemployed workmen recently gathered under the windows of the Duke of Genoa, at Venice, in the dead of the night, shouting: "We are starving and we want work." They were dispersed by police.

A mass meeting of workmen who wanted to discuss politics has been dissolved by the police at Gelsenkirchen, Germany, under the pretence that the meeting was unlawful one because several women and three children were present.

The Newcastle miners have struck a 2 1/2 per cent levy for the striking Moonta, South Australian miners; over 200 men and boys are out. The S. A. Government, made careful by the labor vote, have not only kept away military but withdrawn all extra police. And nobody is killed or robbed yet.

The Carron, England, strike still continues. The men are being well supported, the rate of strike pay for married men having been raised from 7s to 10s per week. The Lancashire Miners' Federation has sent another £50 in aid of the men, and the neighboring districts are doing fairly well. The men are rigidly blacklisted, and when one of them is discovered working elsewhere he is at once dismissed.

Over 6,000 shoemakers are out of employment in Vienna. Many of them who were evicted by their landlords have been sent to the towns and villages from where they came to the capital, this being the only thing the Austrian Government thought could be done for them. When the official organ of the Shoemakers, National Union described the miserable condition of the entire trade, it was promptly confiscated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Three outspoken Socialists were elected members of the Newcastle, England, School Board.

Evangeline Wilson, daughter of the late Vice President of the United States, has presented to the Knights of Labor a photograph of her father, almost the only one in existence.

American sewing girls in New York are gradually being driven from their places in the clothing shops by Russian, Polish and Hungarian women, who are willing to work for almost nothing.

The platform of the National Liberal Federation of England demands the nationalization of the land, national control of railroads, lighting and coal supply, and all other means of production throughout the kingdom.

The St. Louis City Council refused to pass a municipal eight hour bill, and this action has stirred up the bitterest feelings in the ranks of labor known in years, and war has been declared on all the statesmen who were instrumental in the defeat of the bill.

IRISH FRIEZE.

The National Cloth of Ireland—Dress of Patriot and Peasant.

"As far back as the history of Ireland can be traced in writing," says DeMahe's Magazine, "mention is made of a coarse woolen cloth woven by the people of the country and known to them as frieze. The name is said to be drawn from the ancient Friesia in the Netherlands, whence, possibly, the art of making the fabric was derived. So remote, however, is the period when frieze was first made in Erin that no one can tell when or where or by whom it was originally spun.

Century after century, so long that the mind of man runneth not to the contrary, it has been the national cloth of Ireland, and, since the seventeenth century, an outward badge of the people's aspirations for nationality. For, when England destroyed Ireland's commerce by the infamous Navigation Act of 1663, and the injured country began to promote its own manufactures, it was to the woolen industry that it turned its chief attention, and on which it founded its highest hopes for a revival of its prosperity, and then the making of frieze became the occupation of the women of every shieling.

"While the men tended the herds of seep and prepared the wool, the callens kept their spinning wheels whirring and their looms clacking with the materials of the great staple. And when the exportation of woolen goods from Ireland was made a crime in 1690, the people of that island became too poor to use the finer qualities of home made clothes, and still had need of frieze in local trade and for private use. In 1799, when the condition of the peasantry was most deplorable, 'they besought the king,' says Mr. Frude, 'to interpose in their favor, and procure them leave to export and sell at least the coarse frieze blankets and flannels which the peasants' wives and children produced in their cabins.'

"But their appeal was in vain. The English Parliament, that had ruined their trade and suppressed the most profitable manufactures, refused to allow them to dispose of the goods they still made. At last, when the volunteer movement triumphed, the British laws were wholly repealed. Frieze covered Sarsfield's soldiers in 1690; it made overcoats for the volunteers in 1782. It was worn with pride by the chiefs of the olden clans, by Henry Grattan, by Daniel O'Connell; it is used to-day by Michael Davitt and by the other leaders of the Irish people. Frieze is still made in Ireland.

"No longer woven to any extent on hand looms, it is produced with improved machinery, from beautiful patterns, by skilled workmen, in prosperous mills. There is no shoddy in it. Every thread is wool. The fleece is fine, the color is fast, the design is neat, the finish is artistic, and the wear is everlasting. Pure as the patriotism of the people who make it, simple as their nature, true as their love, it is typical of Irishmen, and deserves to have the name inseparably linked to theirs in its name of Irish frieze."

A Woman's Life.

A wee mother is carefully putting her favorite doll to bed. With tender solicitude she carefully removes each dainty garment and fastens on the tiny nightgown. Then, with a fond kiss, she hugs her treasure to her and places it in its little cradle. After patting it gently she tiptoes out of the room as the twilight creeps curiously in.

A fair maiden stands before her looking glass adding the last touches to her evening toilet. Her lover will soon be here! Her eyes are full of innocent lovelight! She looks eagerly at her reflection in the glass! How glad she is that she is pretty! She frowns a little at a wrinkle that will not stay just as it should. A ring comes at the door and she hastens away to meet her beloved.

A young wife sits anxiously watching for her husband. At each approaching footstep her heart beats rapturously and then grows heavy with disappointment! She will not go indoors, it is so sweet out there! The creeping shadows cheer her trembling soul, so she waits and wishes, and the shadows lengthen into darkened night.

A mother is rocking her baby to sleep. He looks at her gravely while they move to and fro, as if asking why the bright sunshine must leave and the ugly shadows hide her dear face from him. There is a wealth of wisdom in his great sweet eyes! He holds tightly to her dress, as if to keep her near him!

When at last his eyes are closed, she disengages the loving hand, kisses him lightly—he must not be awakened—and arises to put him into his crib. Then she sinks back into her chair and begins to rock again. It is so pleasant to rock in the twilight, and he is so sweet to nurse!

A woman kneels by a fresh made grave. The headboard stares coldly at her and seems to say over and over again the words inscribed upon it: "He was her only child and she was a widow." With tear-laden eyes she bends down lower and lower, till her lips rest upon the earth. She longs so to kiss the quiet form it is hiding from her. And the twilight seems to hurry past and lose itself in the darkness.

A careworn old woman sits watching the shadows come—they are friends to her, friends that she welcomes—for they always sing the same song to her, "One Day Nearer Home." And so life—woman's life—goes on in the twilight till rest comes to her weary body and joy to her aching heart—till her spirit reaches its home, where never a shadow can fall upon it.

Printers' Buildings.

Some time ago the union printers of Washington purchased a valuable lot on G street, between Fourth and Fifth. They have since had plans prepared for a \$30,000 building, which they propose to erect for their own use. It is to be 44 by 106 feet, three stories and basement high, with stone and brick front, in the style of Italian Renaissance. The first floor is to be taken up by offices, a kitchen, dining room, etc.; the second by offices of the union and an assembly room, 48 by 64 feet, with a ceiling 22 feet high, and the third floor by lodgeroms, anterooms, etc. The Washington union is known as Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, and its membership is nearly 1,500.

Reports from the Childs Drexel Printers' Home, which is being erected at Colorado Springs, are very gratifying to members of the union everywhere. It will not be long until the building is completed and ready for occupancy.

It is reported that Wm. B. Eckert, of Philadelphia Typographical union, No. 2, was the first to make application for admission to the home. Mr. Eckert is over 70 years of age.

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