

**LABOR AND WAGES.**

**Cleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.**

Fifteen local assemblies have been reorganized in New York by D. A. 49 this week. Labor Commissioner Bettan, of Kansas, reports that trades unions in that State have increased 181 per cent. during the last year.

The Knights of Labor in New York intend to petition the Common Council to establish a Municipal Labor Bureau similar to that of Paris.

Carpenters' Union No. 513 has a strike at Boss Prince's shop, and steps have been taken to boycott the material coming from that place.

The national organization of the Bookbinders of Germany has decided to admit the workingwomen of their trade to all of its benefits.

The label of New York Typographical Union No. 6 is out. It shows a printer's "stick" and a pair of workman's hands, encircled by a big six.

Surface Railroad Men's District No. 236 has sent out organizers to several cities where surface railroad men are complaining of long hours and low wages.

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

The Corporation Carters of Belfast, Ireland, who have recently been on strike, formed themselves into a branch of the National Union of Gassworkers and General Laborers.

The Knights of Labor have over 20,000 members in the coal mines of Charieroi, in Belgium. They will join in the general strike on May 16, if universal suffrage be not gained by the people of Belgium.

The Alabama State Assembly of Knights of Labor reports a large increase in membership from the southern portions of the State and steps will be taken to restore the order to its former power in all other parts of the State.

The Journeymen Bakers' International Union up to last year consisted almost exclusively of Germans. Since they published the Bakers Journal in English over 1,200 English speaking members have joined the organization.

Cigarmakers' Union No. 144, New York, had thirteen members out of employment last week, and to twenty-one the sick benefit had to be paid. A local assessment of 25 cents was levied to be paid within the next two weeks.

The organized typesetters of Belgium will hold their annual convention at Liege on May 17. They will demand a minimum salary for men paid by the week, and a traveling loan fund will be added to the benefit of the union.

The Typographical Union of Buenos Ayres has four sections, the members of which are speaking different languages, to wit: Spanish, French, Italian and German. The English speaking typesetters do not belong to the union.

The Buffalo Central Labor Union protests against the plan of attaching letter boxes to street cars, as a strike of street car men might then be considered a violation of the United States law against impeding the transportation of the mails.

The Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of Emporia, Kansas, has decided to join hands in helping on the trade unions. They have decided not to patronize the goods made in non-union concerns or penitentiary convict-made goods.

After eighteen months' existence the national organization of the harness makers of Germany has formed local unions in thirty-seven different cities, with an aggregate membership of two thousand. They are now agitating for an international union.

About 3,000 granite cutters of Philadelphia, practically all there are in the city, struck work on Monday morning for an advance in wages from \$3.28 to \$3.50 per day of nine hours. The strikers are confident the increase will be granted, as all the large stone works have contracts to fulfil for the coming summer.

The Women's Trade Union in Adelaide, Australia, is gaining a firm hold under the guidance of Mrs. Mary Lee. The Women's Union have determined that the South Australian Labor Council shall adopt the suffrage for all adult women on the same terms as those on which men obtain the suffrage, as part of their authorized political programme.

There is a discussion among some local unions of the International Typographical Union regarding the establishment of a general burial fund, as the unions in the Southern States are complaining that they are compelled to bury the northern consumptives, of whom there are more than in the south, by contributions from their local fund.

The bricklayers in most of the centres of England have gone on strike. The men demand an increase in wages. As the present period of the year is the most brisk and

busy time for building trades the strike of the bricklayers is causing much annoyance to contractors and others, and has thrown out of work large numbers of men belonging to the associated trades.

Four hundred lathers in New York struck on Monday for a uniform rate of wages of \$4 per day. Heretofore they got \$2.50 to \$3.

About 140 carpenters in Newark, N. J., went on strike on Monday for eight hours. Ten firms have given in. A large number of builders, however, refuse to grant the men's demands.

The third annual convention of the National Association of Machinists opened at Pittsburg on Monday with 175 delegates in attendance from all parts of the United States, Canada and Mexico. The delegates were welcomed to the city by Mayor Gourley. The name of the association will be changed from national to international, to cover the widening scope of its membership.

A large number of recently arrived immigrants at New York are found to be possessed of little or no money, and on being questioned they gave their destination as Chicago and say they will get work as soon as they arrive there. The Barge office authorities are suspicious that these immigrants are coming here under contract with persons who have the Chicago World's Fair in view. Fifty Hungarians were detained on Monday and 75 more on Tuesday.

The semi-annual special tax of 50 cents of the International Cigarmakers' Union is now due. Unions failing to turn the same over to President Strasser's office before the 17th of May will be suspended. Forty-eight unions failed to pay the label assessment levied in August, 1890. Last month one new local union was chartered. Over one thousand new members were gained last month throughout the country. The receipts last month were \$5,741.17, the expenses \$3,215.90.

The constitution of the United Brotherhood of Maritime Workers, New York, has gone into effect. All sailors, firemen, sea-going cooks, stewards, waiters and bakers, longshoremen, freight handlers, bargemen, fishermen and coal shovelers are eligible to membership. The plan of organization is modeled after the K. of L. The dues are \$5.20 a year. Provision is made for sick, accident, death, out-of-work and strike benefits. Free legal and medical aid is also looked after.

**The Growth of a Great City.**

One of the most singular facts about the growth of London is its regularity. It has been stated that it may be roughly taken that every month about a thousand houses are added to London. In August of last year 762,577 houses had to be supplied by the water companies with water, in September that number had increased to 766,797. In August of 1889, 754,464 had to be supplied, or 11,113 below the number in the same month of 1890. In September, 1890, the companies had to supply 10,976 houses more than in September of 1889. This extension is not confined to any one portion of the capital, but a preference is still being shown for the north and northwest suburbs.

**Population of the World in 1890.**

In the proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society for January, 1891, it is estimated that the population of the world in 1890 was 1,487,600,000, representing an average of 31 to the square mile, and an increase of 8 per cent. during the decade. Of the continents Asia had the largest population, 850,000,000, and the lowest percentage of increase, 6 per cent. Australasia has the smallest population, 4,730,000, and the smallest average per square mile, 1.4, but the highest rate of increase during the decade, 30 per cent. Europe is the most thickly settled continent, with a population of 280,200,000, which is 101 to the square mile. The population of North America is estimated at 89,250,000, which is an average of 14 to the square mile, and represents an increase of 20 per cent during the past decade.

**The Cheap Fuel Problem.**

Among the latest attempted solutions of the cheap fuel problem, says the Commercial Advertiser, is the method of a German inventor, who proposes to manufacture gas by dropping a stream of crude petroleum through a blast of cold air from a force pump. The gas thus obtained will be confined in a regular cylinder open at one end, where it will be lighted. This produces an intensely hot flame of several feet in length. By means of this flame the inventor proposes to heat boilers, and he maintains that the heating of large blocks can thus be reduced very considerably.

M. Granger, a practical and experienced steel worker of Austria, is in New Glasgow in connection with the steel works. He has erected a new smelting furnace, and is to manufacture a new and finer grade of steel for the company. He will manufacture one thousand tons before leaving. Mr. Davis, of Philadelphia, is also there and is making tests of the different kinds of steel.

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