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

MESSRS PERLEY AND PATTEE'S saw mills, Ottawa, commenced operations on the 28th ult

THE contract for supplying 160,000 pressed brick and about $2,000 worth of terra cotta for the new High School, Montreal, has been given to the Ontario Terra Cotta and Pressed Brick Company, of Toronto

MR. ROBERT Y. OGG, a native of Dundas, Ont., who has been employed as a reporter by the Detroit *Tribune News* for some months, was discharged the other day for making a speech at a meeting of the street car drivers' strike committee.

THE president and a number of ladies, officers of the W. C. T. U., waited upon Mr. Dryden Friday afternoon. Their mission was to ask that the provisions of the Factory Act respecting separate factories and closets for women be extended to mercantile houses as well.

S. HORNBROOKE employed on the Grand Trunk railway for one week, came into Kingston on the 23rd April on a freight train, on the top of a car. Forgetting an overhead bridge, he was knocked off and horribly mangled, and died at two o'clock. He was twenty-two years of age.

MR. ERNEST GRISS, son of Mr. Wm. Griss, who left Hamilton for the United States some time ago, has secured a splendid situation in a sewing machine manufactory at Dayton, Ohio. Since going away he has procured good "cuts" for several Hamilton artisans who were out of work at home.

AN interesting event took place last Friday evening at Messrs. Pratt & Watkin's establishment, Hamilton. All the employees of the firm were requested to meet, and Mr. Frederick W. Watkins addressed them, stating that the last year's business had been a successful one, and that he had much pleasure in distributing among those present, men who had been employed for the whole year the sum of $1,000. This money, he stated, he did not intend to give them in cash, but placed it to the credit of each recipient in the savings department of the business, so as to draw interest at five per cent. per annum. About thirty persons were then handed a small pass-book, in each of which was entered the amount of money that had been allotted to the beneficiary.

AT the Kent assizes held at Chatham, by Judge Falconbridge, beginning April 28th, an action was tried involving the question of employer's liability for accidents. The suit was brought by Mr. Amos Blue against Jacob Shaver and Herbert Shaver, who are running a mill in Tilbury East, for damages sustained on the 28th July last. Plaintiff was employed to help put some scantlings through the butting saw, when, as he alleges, the foreman shoved too many scantlings, and plaintiff was struck on the arm The saw swung forward and cut his hand, severing two fingers. Plaintiff claimed that the saw was not properly guarded and that the weight of the beam was not sufficient to hold the saw back in place. The Judge dismissed the action with costs, holding that there was not proof of negligence on the part of defendants, and expressing the opinion that plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence.

UNITED STATES.

THE threatened strike among the miners of the Knoxville, Tenn, coal district has been averted.

AT Zanesville, Ohio, a general strike of all the building trades took place Tuesday. All building work is stopped.

THE Missouri Legislature has passed a bill providing that idle men shall be given the work of improving the streets.

IN Grand Rapids, Mich., the Knights of Labor recently elected an alderman, a Justice of the Peace and the City Marshall

THE Mt. Pleasant, Pa., strikers are drilling every night and have arms secreted, and trouble is feared at evictions next week.

THE Detroit street car troubles have been submitted to arbitration, and cars are again running, the strikers having been reinstated

THE Shoes Manufacturers Association of San Francisco has declared a lockout. One thousand men, women and boys are thus thrown out of employment.

THE Iowa Presbytery has decided that ministers should form a combination in order to discourage young men from entering the ministry and thus lowering the salaries of the other brethren

THE strike at the Michigan car works, in Detroit, has assumed serious proportions, and there have been some disorderly scenes. The company has closed the works "until further notice."

MAYOR MATTHEWS, of Boston has the credit of suggesting to Secretary Blaine that the United States consuls shall collect information concerning the municipal tramway system of Europe Dispatches from Washington say that directions to that effect have already been sent out

THE police reserves were called out in New York on Thursday of last week One hundred Italian stonemasons, who had struck for higher wages, attempted to drive the men from work on buildings at 155th street and St. Ann's avenue and on 149th street, between Morris and Fourth avenue. Fifteen rioters were arrested.

A COMBINATION of San Francisco employers is being formed in which over $100,000,000 capital is represented This association is for the stated purpose of protecting employers against unjust demands of labor unions. Presumably any demand of the labor unions that cannot hold their own against the great combination of capital is thereby proved to be unjust.

CHAIRMAN JOHN W. BRIDENT HALL, of the Union Labor State Central Committee of Kansas, has issued a call for a convention to be held in Topeka on May 6th for the purpose of organizing a party thoroughly test the co-operative system as practised by the Pacific Colony on Topolobampo Bay, Mexico. More than 300 persons have already been sent from that State to Topolobampo Bay, where 200,000 acres of land have been purchased.

THE National Board of the United Mine Workers of America concluded its session at Columbus Tuesday. The meeting was called to hear statements from the presidents of states miners' organizations relative to the proposed strike May on 1st for the enforcement of the eight-hour labor day. The reports were almost unanimous against the movement. The board has issued an address to the miners. It says that the financial aid given to strikers in the coke region has materially reduced the funds available for inaugurating the eight-hour movement on May 1st and advises that it be deferred

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE weavers' strike in Bradford, Eng., has been settled, and the men have returned to work.

THE bricklayers of Sunderland have sent in a notice for an increase of a penny per hour, or four at 1½ropence per week. The men have decided to strike if their demands are not granted.

THE remaining Maryport furnace, the "Maryport" Hematite Iron and Steel Company has been damped down, owing to the furnaceman going on strike for the same rate of wages as is paid at other works. It has been decided not to again employ the men who have come out.

A CONFERENCE of London Knights of Labor, including representatives from Rotherham, has been held, with a view to the formation of a National Assembly for England, and also to secure the registration of the order in this country. The resolution was passed that a National Assembly be formed, and that steps be taken to secure the registration of the order, and a committee was appointed to carry out the resolution.

THE Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners announce in their report two more steps towards the long dreamed of universal federation of labor. One is the fact that for the first time a recognition of cards between the Brotherhood of Carpenters in the United States of America and their own members has been agreed upon. The other step is an achievement "nearer home." It is the amalgamation which has been affected with the regular carpenters of the city of Dublin, where, says the report, "for the first time in our history the most cordial feeling prevails amongst the joiners, and all the unpleasant incidents which have, unfortunately, too often embittered the relationship between what were regarded as rival bodies need now only be remembered in order to guard against their recurrence."

EUROPEAN AND GENERAL.

THE French government has issued a decree providing that engineers and stokers on the railroads must not be actively employed for more than twelve hours per day.

THE federation of Belgian miners has decided to go out on strike with the German miners in the effort to obtain the passage of the laws making eight hours a legal day's work and grant universal suffrage.

THE first women's trade union ever formed in Belgium has just been constituted at Antwerp The members are tobacco workers Ninety women have placed their names on the roll of the union, which has passed a resolution declaring itself affiliated to the labor party.

ONE of the results of the German coal miners' strike is that a coal famine is impending. The iron foundries in the Seig valley have been compelled to withdraw their fires in consequence of the scarcity of coal and most of the steel works along the Rhine have been forced to stop operations for the same reason.

SINCE the railways in Hungary were made the property of the State, and the rates reduced to an average of $2 for the entire country, travel increased in one year from 5,681,000 to 13,457,000 passengers, while the receipts rose from 8,173 000 to 10,862,000 florins, at a rising in considerable increase of expense.

ENGLAND has now a law raising the age of children who are admitted to labor as "half timers" to eleven years, and next year to twelve years. When it is stated that 95,000 children in Lancashire alone will be affected by this, the extent of child labor in that country may be inferred It is a marked reform to have raised the limit to eleven years and the immediately prospective twelve years

THE miners strike at Dortmund, Germany, is assuming alarming proportions. Ten thousand men are out and it is expected they will be joined by large numbers The strikers are greatly excited The men are encouraged by the result of the Paris congress and the action of the Belgian miners regarding a general strike. The employers are making tremendous efforts to stack coal in anticipation of the prolonged struggle

THE police of Naples have arrested many prominent Socialists of that city on the charge of inciting the laboring classes to take part in seditious demonstrations on May day. The movement for shorter hours of labor is increasing throughout Italy In Messina, Catania and Palermo the workmen have resolved upon a general strike unless their demands for a working day of eight hours is granted, while in Turin 30,000 laboring people have decided to follow the example of their brethren.

THE example of the co-operative bakery established in Ghent some sixteen years ago has since been followed in the principal Belgian cities. An attempt is now to be made by the bakers' section of the Workers Co-operative Productive Association, under the auspices of the International Federation of all Trades and Associations, to promote a similar movement in England. It is claimed that the bread manufactured is absolutely pure, that the hours of labor in the Belgian establishments are eight hours a day only, and the wages 25 per cent. higher than those paid in the bakery trade in Ghent, while the men work under conditions that are in nowise injurious to health.

M. MASPERO, an Egyptologist, relates: "More than three thousand years ago strikes occurred and are described. We condemn the account of one: On the tenth of the month builders at work on the temple rushed out, sat down behind the chapel, exclaiming: 'We are hungry, and there are eighteen days yet before the next payday.' They would not work until the king agreed to hear their complaints. The 'days' after month 'went to the temple and ordered relief given to the masons; but on the sixteenth they struck again; on the seventeenth and eighteenth refused to work. On the nineteenth they broke loose and raised a mob at the governor's palace, and finally got part of their demands."

THOUGHTS FOR LABOR REFORMERS.

It is peace we advocate and aim at, but we shall not get it save by war.—*Garibaldi.*

PRIVATE ownership of the land is the whip that scourges the back of honest labor. The laws that governed men 200 years ago are not fit to govern men to-day. We want laws to liberate, not to restrain labor.—*James A. Hearne.*

COMMERCE has the head of a serpent, the arms of a tyrant and the feet of a slave. It beggars a part of society and flourishes in their ruin, while this same whole portion is reduced to the necessity of administering to their own depression. —*William Austin.*

IF one person spends money that he does not earn, some other person or persons must earn money that they do not spend. If one man may use his dollar four times, through interest taking, must not some other man receive only one dollar for four dollars worth of work?

THE man who would try to convince the workers that landlords and capitalists are their friends is our enemy to the cause of labor. We advocate violent methods only to resist violence. When our enemies, the landlords and capitalists, cease to use force against the workers we shall cease to advocate it.—*H. Quelch.*

FOR SWEET CHARITY'S SAKE.

SOME more charity humbug has been exposed. This time it is in Birmingham. Ten philanthropists there, moved by the love they bore for their fellow men, formed themselves into a syndicate and got up an electrical exhibition for the benefit of three local charities. The exhibition lasted for three months and was a success. Out of the profits the syndicate voted £500 to its secretary and £220 each to its nine other members to remunerate them for risk they had incurred and trouble and time they had been put to. It then found itself with £54 1s. 6d. to divide among the charities. Upon this, with magnificent generosity, the ten philanthropists subscribed £25 apiece out of their reward of slickness, or rent of ability, or whatever else they may have labelled this doubtful transaction, and so were able to hand over to each charity a little more than £100 Charities are greedy institutions, and the committees of the three Birmingham ones were not satisfied. So inquiries were made. The whole matter was—not without difficulty—laid bare, and the chairman of the syndicate was even induced to refund the whole sum he had obtained. The other nine hold fast.—*London Justice.*

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THE BLUE LABEL.

ITS VALIDITY AS A TRADE-MARK ASSURED BY LEGAL DECISION.

IMPORTANT decisions of widespread interest to cigar-makers and members of labor organizations generally have recently been rendered by courts in Ontario as well as in the States of Michigan and Oregon, upholding the legality of the Blue Label, which is the distinguishing mark of the goods manufactured by the members of the Cigarmakers' International Union. In the case of Todd *vs.* Breuer, tried in the Ontario High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Judge Robertson rendered a very elaborate decision granting the injunction asked for to restrain the defendant Breuer from infringing upon the plaintiff's right to use the label, by issuing a fraudulent imitation. The Judge held that the label clearly came within the scope of the law relating to trade-marks, and that the contention of the defence that the union were outside of the period of the Act because they were cigar "makers," and not manufacturers or sellers of cigars, could not be sustained. The concluding portion of the decision is as follows:—

"In conclusion I have come to is, that these plaintiffs, and the other members of this association on behalf of whom the plaintiffs sue, have a property right in this label, or trade-mark, and are entitled to apply to the Court to interfere by injunction.

"The facts disclosed in the affidavits and papers filed show a state of things most discreditable to these defendants; they have not only been guilty of palming off on the public a class of goods different from that which by this false label they proclaimed them to be, but they have done so to the injury of the members of the association, and I cannot find words which express my view more appropriately than those of Lord Cranworth, late Lord Chancellor of England, in a case in which a similar application was made. The learned Lord Chancellor said:

"'I apprehend that the law is perfectly clear that any one who has adopted a particular mode of distinguishing his particular manufacture, has a right to say, not that other persons shall not sell exactly the same article, better or worse, or an article looking exactly like, but that they shall not sell it in such a way as to steal (so to call it) his trade-mark and make purchasers believe that it is the manufacture to which that trade-mark was originally applied.'

"I therefore grant the order asked for by the motion with full costs to be paid by defendants to plaintiffs."

The other decisions are to the same effect, and assure to the cigar-makers the use of the label without fear of further attempt to render it valueless by palming off worthless imitations. The trade are to be congratulated on the result, which ought to give a considerable stimulus to the demand for goods bearing the Blue Label.

IN Sweden peat is now transformed into a more convenient form of fuel, known as "peat coal," which is said to produce highly satisfactory results.

A MICHIGAN judge is the latest jurist to decide that an umbrella is public property, and that failure to return one borrowed does not constitute larceny.

A SPECIAL committee of Bordeaux business men has been formed for the purpose of devising ways and means for the proposed ship railway across France to convey vessels from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean without their having to go around Gibraltar.