

THE BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA was founded in convention at Chicago, August 12, 1881. At first it had only 12 local unions and 2,042 members. Now it has 481 local unions in over 445 cities, and 53,000 enrolled members. It pays a wife's funeral benefit from \$25 to \$50; member's funeral benefit, \$100 to \$200; disability benefit, \$100 to \$400. In these general benefits the sum of \$53,675 has been expended, while \$200,000 more were spent for sick benefits by the local unions. It has raised wages in 268 cities, and placed four millions and a half dollars more wages annually in the pockets of the carpenters in those cities. It reduced the hours of labor to eight hours a day in 25 cities, and nine hours a day in 107 cities, not to speak of 152 cities which have established the eight or nine-hour system on Saturdays. By this means 4,000 men have gained employment. This society favors day's work, and opposes piece-work in the trade, and has broken down the system in many instances. Wages range from \$2.25 to \$3.50 per day.

THE METAL-WORKERS' UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, founded in 1892, now consists of 12 local unions, with 1,200 members. It has sick and funeral benefits.

THE OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION was founded with 5 locals, in 1882; at present has 20 local unions and 2,300 members, of whom 1,700 are in good standing. Initiation fee varies from \$5 to \$25, and the dues are 25 to 50 cents per month. The hours worked are generally ten hours per day, with eight hours Saturdays. A few places are working eight and nine hours a day. Previous to organization, wages were \$2 to \$3 per day for ten hours; now they are \$2 to \$5 for eight or nine hours per day.

THE NATIONAL WOOD-CARVERS' ASSOCIATION was founded in January, 1883, and now embraces 9 local unions in thrifty condition.

TEXTILE WORKERS' PROGRESSIVE UNION OF AMERICA was organized May 17, 1883, at first under the name of "United Silk Workers." July 16, 1884, the society took its present name, and now has 8 local unions. The Carpet Workers have decided to join this body, which will double the numbers. The great difficulty in organizing this branch of labor is the countless number of women and children working in the mills. The Progressive Union, however, made a gallant fight for the eight-hour system in several cities.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS' NATIONAL UNION started August, 1883, in Philadelphia, with 5 locals; now has 70. Initiation fee averages \$2, and dues 50 cents

per month, with \$4 per week paid in time of strike. The system of work is all piece-work, with no limit to the hours of labor. Wages average \$14 per week. Over \$16,000 have been paid out in strikes from local and general funds. Nearly all of the unions have sick and death benefits. A previous attempt at a National Union of Tailors was made in 1865.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD BRAKEMEN was instituted September 23, 1883, with 8 members; now has 260 lodges and 12,000 members. The initiation fee is \$8, and the monthly dues average \$1.50. The sum of \$1,000 is paid in case of death or accident; in this way \$500,000 has been paid out in the past five years.

THE JOURNEYMEN BAKERS' NATIONAL UNION was formed in Pittsburgh January 13, 1885, with a few locals; now numbers 72 local unions and 19,000 members. Through its efforts, the hours of labor have been reduced from sixteen down to ten hours per day, and wages raised from \$8 to \$10 per week; and many evils, such as swindling employment agencies, have been abated. The local unions have sick and funeral benefits in many cases.

THE WAITERS' UNION, organized in New York City January 25, 1885, with 22 members, now has over 1,200 members. When they started there was no limit to the hours of labor and no scale of wages; men then worked fourteen to eighteen hours per day, now work only ten hours. Then labor bureaus were kept by saloon-keepers, who compelled the waiters who were looking for work to spend their money freely. This has been broken up, and the labor bureau is now run by the union. The percentage system is also stopped, and wages are \$2.50 per day, instead of \$1.25 as formerly.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MINERS AND MINE LABORERS had its birth September 12, 1885, with about 6,000 members; at this date it now embraces fully 25,000 members. The wages were \$1.75 to \$2.25 per day; now they range from \$2 to \$3.50. This body is composed of State and Territorial unions, which, in turn, are composed of local unions. Previous to the formation of this Federation, the coal miners had a loose, disconnected string of local unions in perpetual and disorganized strikes. This has given way to an annual wage conference with the mine operators, which results in an amicable settlement of the scale, and strikes are thus avoided. At an early date the nine-hour system is to be put into effect by this society.

THE INTERNATIONAL BOATMEN'S UNION had its origin in February, 1886, and now numbers over 1,000 members.