

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Stovemoulders are scarce in the West. The New York car drivers have left the K. of L. and formed an open union.

The Atlanta, Ga., Federation of Trades has taken steps to organize the surface railroad employees.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen has donated \$500 towards erecting a Labor Temple in Indianapolis.

Official statistics in Ohio show that the number of paupers in that State has grown from 5,000 to 45,000 within the last twenty years.

The membership of the Locomotive Engineers' Mutual Life Insurance Association is 11,602, of which 7,194 are insured for \$1,500 each.

The Masons' Builders' and Bricklayers' Unions of Boston have established evening schools for teaching regular apprentices in their trades.

The labor organizations of Rhode Island have commenced an agitation for a legal eight hour day to be instituted by the State government.

For the strike fund of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America an assessment of ten cents a member has been levied on all local unions.

The Journeymen Brewers' Union of New York has been expelled from the Central Labor Union for having recognized the New York Federation of Labor as a bona fide labor organization.

The New York World says: "If a trades union does not actively participate in labor politics it is because its members are not a unit upon the question of one of the principal means of warfare against the reign of capitalism."

About 100 workmen went on strike this week on the new building of the Larabee Biscuit Co., Fifteenth street and Tenth avenue, New York, against the employment of non-union gasfitters. Their demand to employ union men at union wages was speedily complied with.

Upon motion of Delegate David McManus, of Jersey City, National Trades Assembly 222, K. of L., Silk Workers, had adopted resolutions declaring that strikes, at the best, even if victorious, afforded only temporary relief, and that, if labor must strike at all, it should be at the ballot box.

Grand Master Workman Powderly issued a circular to the members of the Order in New York State, asking them to vote for such candidates for the Legislature as have pledged themselves to support a bill by which it is proposed to investigate the affairs of the New York Central road and the causes of the strike in January, 1890.

The Hat Finishers' Association complains that the International Cigarmakers' Union did not indorse the Hatters' Union label at the Indianapolis Convention, because it was asserted that the hatters did not smoke union cigars. This they deny, although they concede that the cigarmakers' blue label has not been patronized by the hatters in Danbury, Conn.

The Rev. J. Berry, at the recent Methodist Ecumenical Congress said: "The position of Methodism in the twentieth century will depend very largely upon her attitude toward the labor movement in the last decade of the nineteenth. The church exists for the people, not the people for the church. Among our constituency of 30,000,000 there are multitudes of workmen and their children. They are defined as the army of the discontented. This discontent rests upon the belief that they are the victims of social and economic injustices. Are they mistaken? Then it is our duty to tell them so, and, if we can, to bring them to a better mind. Have they good reason for discontent? Then we ought to espouse their cause and to smite their oppressors, even though these oppressors be our richest pewholders and our largest contributors."

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen held a reunion at Albany on Sunday and most of the Lodges of the Middle and Eastern States were represented. Syracuse delegates were present. The order during the last strike on the New York Central road took a conservative position. The total number of lodges in the Brotherhood is 468, and the membership is 23,000. Grand Master Sargeant was present, and in his elaborate address he said: "No man is taken into the firemen's organization until he has had nine months' actual experience on a locomotive. Another qualification for membership is that he must be a sober man. No other man has any right on an engine. A fireman must also be physically qualified, for he has to do hard work. Is there anything wrong in building up an educating institution with such qualifications as these required for members? The railroad men are brave, but the truest bravery is found in the home of the railroad man. Give to the mother and wife your truest devotion; they are the bravest. They must ever await the summons coming to so many from the dangers of the rail."

EUROPEAN.

Paris has 160,000 union men.

Holland has 40,000 union railroad men. Strikes and riots are reported on the Siberian railway because of bad and inadequate food.

In order to prevent unskilled workmen from learning their trade, the miners' union of Bedwas, England, requires every unskilled workman to pay \$100 before he is allowed to work in the mines.

The Bricklayers' National Union of Germany has at present 250 local unions, with about 20,000 members and \$97,000 in its treasury. The dues are 40 cents per month and the weekly benefit amounts to \$3.50.

The annual congress of the labor party of France will be opened on Nov. 26 at Lyons. The principal business will be to make arrangements for the eight hour demonstration on May 1, 1892 and for participation in the coming municipal elections throughout France.

The statistics of mortality among the children of the poor under one year of age in Belgium shows the following frightful figures: Out of every 100 there die, in Brussels, 28; in Bruges, 33; in Antwerpen, 40; in Malines, 31; in Verviers, 42; in Luetich, 45; in Serking, 50; in Ghent, 52.

Delegates representing forty thousand miners met at Lens on Sunday and declared an immediate general strike of mines in the north of France. Deputy Bassy, who presided, read a telegram from M. Constans, Minister of the Interior, announcing the intention of the Government to push legislation dealing with miners' grievances.

IMMORALITY OF CAPITALISM.

Women Clerks Required to "Mash."

We reproduce literally from the Commercial Gazette the following account of the ignominy to which the capital system would submit the sons and daughters of America:

A rather startling story about the American Toilet Supply Company and Harry Pattison, one of the managers of the Cincinnati office, is to the effect that the girl employees must "mash" to retain employment, and the experience of Miss Debra is cited.

For several months past the young lady in charge of the receiving office at 161 Elm street, named Miss Annie C. Debra has had a daily struggle to retain her position. Were it not for the good offices of Mr. Burnett, who appreciated the young lady's many sterling qualities, among which a spotless reputation figures prominently, she would have been discharged long ago.

Pattison frequently upbraided her, the sum and substance, the beginning, middle, and end of his tirades being that she ought to have more gentleman acquaintances: that the custom of the receiving office was dependent in a great measure upon the attractive qualities of the young woman in charge; that the patronage of her office was sadly inadequate, and not comparable to that extended other receiving offices where the young women "knew how to handle the gentleman patrons."

"You must make more gentleman acquaintances," said he, "and you must learn how to hold them or else we can't hold you."

"But," protested Miss Debra, "I only receive \$4 a week, and I can't afford to dress like—"

"Oh, pshaw," interrupted the laundry proprietor, "some other girls make from \$30 to \$40."

The upshot was the following letter sent to the girl by Pattison:

AMERICAN TOILET SUPPLY COMPANY, 62 and 64 Longworth Street, CINCINNATI, Oct. 30, 1891. MISS ANNA DEBRA, City—I regret very much to say that we have considered the matter and, deem it advisable to make a change the first of the week. We appreciate your willingness, etc., but you can understand as well as we that the office is not a paying investment as it is now, and we must have some one who has a large acquaintance of gentlemen. Should you want a recommendation we would be very glad to give you one and help you along as best we can.

Yours, very respectfully,
H. S. PATTISON.

Miss Debra at the outset was adverse to saying aught with reference to her recent discharge, giving expression to the fact that she disliked publicity, but the reporter finally induced her to talk.

"What reason did Mr. Pattison give for discharging you?"

"He said I didn't have enough gentleman acquaintances."

"Anything else?"

"He said I didn't show any disposition to increase my circle of acquaintances among gentlemen. He repeatedly told me that the young ladies in the other receiving offices made it a point to be friendly and familiar with the gentleman patrons. He gave this as a reason for their receipts being in excess of mine. He never found fault with my work. I reached the office always at 7.30 in the morning, and remained until 8 in the evening always bringing my lunch with me."

"In hiring girls for this work, does Mr.

Pattison select those who have a large gentleman acquaintance?"

"Oh, yes; he wants those who have a large acquaintance, or are prepared and willing to make this acquaintance."

"What method does he allow his girls to pursue in acquiring this acquaintance, which seems to be so necessary to the financial success of the laundry company?"

"Oh, I suppose he don't want them to be nice. I know that's it."

Wage Workers Pay the Taxes.

Every month two or three of the current magazines have essays on the misgovernment of American cities. This month Murat Halstead, in The Cosmopolitan, has his whack at the question. His remedy is the "self education of the workingmen," and the opening of their eyes to the fact they are the ones who pay the taxes. When once they realize this fact, for fact it is, then they will rise in their strength and sweep as with a new broom political jobbery and rottenness from American municipal administration. Mr. Halstead says of the workingmen:

If they would only come to this conclusion that they pay all the taxes—and they do so in the same sense and to the same extent that they produce the property—they could at once redeem the cities. The workingmen and their wives and children are the vital forces of our greatest communities, and would rule them if they were not themselves misguided. We do not ask the workingmen to be members of one of the great political parties. If one party, no matter what its profession and persuasion in local affairs, is very long in complete possession of a city, there is misgovernment. There is a taint in the public business.

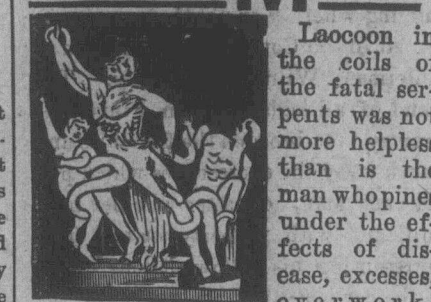
If laborers will drop impracticabilities and go straight at the work of economizing they can annihilate every gang of jobbers infesting and plundering the towns in America at the next election. This consummation is prevented by a single prevailing and deadly delusion, which is that in the liberal expenses of the bosses the money is taken from the rich through taxes and assessments and bestowed upon the poor in wages. The education that overcomes this baleful falsification will be revolutionary and solve, as with fighting, the deepest, darkest problem of the Republican form of government. The essential lesson is that all men who work honestly are taxpayers and that public cheats are their personal enemies.

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