

In The World Of Labor

A Budget of News
For Those Inter-
ested in Labor

By G. A. M.

Cleaned From the
Exchanges and
Other Sources

The Piker

They call him a "piker"—perhaps they were right. He didn't spend much with the gang. On drinks and cigars he was certainly "tight." And to tip gave him really a pang. He never "threw money around like a prince." Or played "the good fellow" at all. At the club he was known as a "lime" and a "quince." And the sums that he squandered were small. But his family had what his purse could afford. And he slaved for his girls and his boys. He'd lend to a comrade in need all his hoard. Without any boasting or noise. He would help any chap in the Down and Out club. Though the fact was not blazoned to fame. But waiters declared him a "cheap skate" and "dub." And spendthrifts considered him "tame." Well, here is the moral, too potent to miss. And one it is wise to recall. "A sport is a sport, but a piker like this Is the bulkiest sport of them all."

"Safety First" To Be Slogan

Two steps have been taken by State Labor Commissioner Olson of Olympia, Wash., with a view to reducing the number of accidents in the industrial plants of the state. A system of "safety committees" in all the plants that come under his jurisdiction has been inaugurated with marked success, and now Commissioner Olson is issuing a booklet entitled "Safety First" which will contain information and regulations designed to enable employers and employees in the various industries to avoid accidents. The booklet will be about 48 pages, and represents a long and thorough study of the hazards of the sawmill, the factory, the laundry, the machine shop and every plan in which men work under the jurisdiction of the labor. "I consider the movement towards safety one of the most important in present day industrial life," said Commissioner Olson, "and it is one of my chief aims to do what I can to eliminate danger. I feel that this book will do a great deal toward reducing the number of accidents, and I am sure that the special safety committee in each plant has already begun a good work."

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Ontario Provincial Conference Of The Typographical Unions

Third Annual Convention to be Held in St. Thomas on May 25th. Bids Fair to Have a Record Attendance. James M. Duncan, International President, Will Be Present, as Well as Many of the Most Prominent Typos from Various Sections of the Province. The third annual convention of the Ontario Provincial Conference, which will convene in St. Thomas on Tuesday, May 26th, will, without doubt, eclipse all previous meetings in regard to attendance and the importance of the business to be brought before it. James M. Duncan, the International President, has signified his intention of being present, and many of the best known typos in Ontario will be in evidence. There should not be a single local union in the province unrepresented upon this occasion. The official convention call has been issued. While the programme for the conference has not been finally decided upon as yet, some of the matters to be dealt with will have to do with the work of more effective organization, allied printing trades council affairs, the issuing of a regular monthly bulletin, to which delegates will be asked to volunteer as candidates, union typesetting firms doing work for non-union offices, the separation of composing rooms from stereotyping rooms by vestibule doors when situated upon the same floor, publication of wage scales, and conditions of employment of all Ontario local typographical unions, in pamphlet form for distribution to affiliated organizations, and the exchange of speakers to meetings between nearby typographical centres say, quarterly. These are some of the topics that will be up for discussion, and a bulletin will be issued by Secretary-Treasurer Phil Obermeyer, containing further information, about May 1st. The Provincial Conference was organized in Hamilton, where the first

convention was held, on September 28th, 1912. Phil Obermeyer was the moving spirit in its organization and at the first meeting he was elected as secretary-treasurer, while Thomas Stevenson of Toronto, Local No. 91, was honored by election to the presidency. C. P. Dougherty of Guelph being selected as first vice-president. It was decided to hold the second annual convention in Ottawa, on May 23rd, 1913, the day preceding the convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, thus giving the delegates the opportunity of representing their locals in both conventions. The Ottawa convention was a very successful one, the attendance being larger than at the inaugural meeting. James A. Lynch, the then president, attracted and gave a splendid address and much good advice to the delegates. At this convention it was decided to meet in the same city as the Labor Educational association for 1914, but the day following instead of the one preceding the convention of the latter. It may be said that one of the results accruing from the Ottawa meeting was the installation recently in the Government Printing Bureau in that city of an up-to-date ventilating system. Mr. Obermeyer after the adjournment of the convention, took up this matter with the government authorities and impressed upon them the necessity of such an innovation in the interests of the employees of the Bureau. The organization of the conference has tended to bring the various local unions throughout the entire province into close touch, and there is no doubt but what the third annual convention in St. Thomas will still further conserve the good work and tend to the advancement of the welfare of the craft throughout the province. It may be said that at the Ottawa convention the old officers were re-elected for the second term.

A New Wage Law Invoked

The first ruling in Detroit city under the new amendment to the wages act as passed by the last legislature was made in Justice DeGaw's court, and as a result Abe Coan received judgment for over \$100 for one week's work, which he had contracted to do for \$10. The law declares that any employer who shall refuse to pay a workman for his services shall, upon being found guilty in a court of law, be compelled to pay, in addition to the wages due, 10 per cent of that amount per day for every day between the time the wage was due and the date the action is heard. Coan had \$10 due him from W. B. Lannin for a week's work. He declared Lannin had refused to pay him March 18. Justice DeGaw ruled in favor of the plaintiff. The defendant did not appear.

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Governor Lauds Unions

Declaring that labor unions are misunderstood, and giving the organizations of working men and women credit for calling attention to wrong, and securing the passage of remedial legislation, Governor Walsh of Boston, paid a glowing tribute to the trade union movement in a address before the local Central Labor union there. The chief executive said in part: "No man is fit to serve his fellow men unless he is able to go outside himself and listen to the heart throbs of the millions who see nothing ahead but ceaseless toil. You believed that the health and welfare and prosperity of humanity was the chief thing in life. It was because you believed this and that the business of the government was to be concerned with the health and comfort of the working men and women of the future that you have been misunderstood. You can well look upon your fellow citizens in the face and say, 'our movement aims to protect, defend, and safeguard the life, health, and prosperity of all the people of the Commonwealth.' You can go a step further and say that you seek to do it for those who cannot do it for themselves. No body of men in Massachusetts to-day has higher public service to perform than the one before me. The future of millions is in your keeping. In what way does your organization affect the government? It is to the credit of organized labor that you have attracted the attention of governments to the very fundamentals in government. You have called the attention of governments to the only essentials of government. It is because you have done so that you have been criticised, have been called enemies of prosperity, because men have misunderstood you. You believe that the health and welfare and prosperity of humanity was the chief thing. It was because you believed this and that the business of government was to be concerned with health and comfort of the working men and women, and of the men and women of the future, that you have been misunderstood."

Things Accomplished

No agency for the protection and uplift of the human family has accomplished as much, in a comparatively short period of history, as the trade union movement. Battling with ignorance, gross selfishness, and indifference on one side, and with arrogance, hostile opposition, and greed for money on the other side, it has aroused public conscience, allayed the fears of alarmists, and gained concessions for the social betterment of the workers. It is the most potent force in the industrial development of the commonwealth.

World of Labor

Many girls in New York City are working for two and three dollars per week. Brevary workers of Reading, Pa., are out on strike because a new wage scale was turned down by the employers and are to receive an increase of three cents per hour commencing May 1 next. The new city charter of St. Louis, Mo., stipulates that all mechanics and laborers in the civic employ shall be guaranteed the eight hour work day.

Thirty thousand workers are out on strike in St. Petersburg, Russia, because of the government's oppressive attitude toward the Labor newspapers. According to a report issued by the United States Bureau of Mines, there was an increase last year of 325 deaths in the coal mines of the Republic, compared with 1912.

Teachers in the Public schools of East-Liverpool, Ohio, have taken steps to organize a labor union. It will be affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The vice commission of Chicago has made the statement that annually five thousand girls are offered to the white slave traffic. They also state that poverty forces almost all of these girls into lives of shame.

The International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen announces that every hotel in Boston Mass., is running under union votes and paying the union rate of wages. Painters of Springfield, Ohio, expect to put in operation the eight-hour day and a wage rate of 40 cents per hour this spring without opposition from the contractors. Tank builders of the Standard Oil Company of Bakersfield, Cal., are out on strike against the speeding-up system recently introduced by the management.

Another union office has been added to the list of the Baltimore Typographical Union Young and Selden employing ten journeymen, signed a contract last month. This makes 22 non-union offices to sign contracts and use the Label inside of three years.

Union teamsters of Hazelton, Pa., have made a demand upon the contractors for an eight-hour day and an increased wage rate. They are solidly organized, nearly every man being in the union, and it is expected their demands will be acceded to without a strike.

The number of suicides in New York City by hopeless men and women who were unemployed and destitute has assumed alarming proportions, scarcely a day passing in which a number of these cases are not enumerated in the newspapers.

The state authorities are attempting to adjust the strike of the telephone girls in Canton, Ohio, who are out against discrimination and unjust treatment. They have carried on such an effective battle and are being so solidly backed by the local trade unions that the politicians have thought it necessary to make a move.

The new child labor law passed by the Kentucky State Legislature provides that in cities of the first, second or third class no person under 21 years of age shall be employed in delivering goods or messages between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Boys under one or girls under 18 are debarred from selling papers or engaging in other occupation in streets and public parks.

Carpenters of Peoria, Ill., are demanding sixty cents per hour and the eight hour day. The bosses will refuse to sign up unless the union will embody a clause not to take part in a sympathetic strike, which the latter cannot see their way to accept. Unless the employers recede from the position they have assumed a strike will probably ensue.

A mass meeting of the striking fur dressers and floor workers, held in the Brooklyn Lyceum, Thursday afternoon, it was unanimously agreed to stay out until the strike is won. The bosses have failed in their attempt to play one union against the other, and there is now greater unity between the two unions of fur dressers and floor workers than ever before.

The Pennsylvania Railroad officials have within the last three months laid off fifteen thousand of its employees on the lines east of Pittsburgh, in accordance with its policy of retrenchment, and many more have to be placed on shorter time. Two hundred clerks in the general offices in Philadelphia have also been discharged during the past few days.

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A Meter on the Air We Breathe

(By Jack Mareton.)

Weel Tam, isn't this a grain country, said Jack. Nae class distinctions here, Jack's as guid as his maister. We are a' free born Brits here in Canada, and awa aheid o' the auld country. A canna agree wi you at all said Tam. Its a fact that this is a big braw and bonnie country, but a' hae my doots that Jack's as guid as his maister. If a can see right, and ma een is no in Hamilton, a think there's plenty wad be glad tae hae Jack for their maister, sae as tae get something tae fill their empty stomachs wae. Noo, Tam, you're always lookin' at the serious side o' life, said Jack. Aye, commented Tam, that's whist's wrang. If we could get the workers of this country tae look at the serious side of life tae menits every day, we wud hae a guid twa or three members in Parliament to-day tae see this compensation bill through. But in this country, if a rich man can get up and address an audience for a quarter of an hour without actually breaking doon he's an orator; but if a puir man like the croft can get up and hold an audience interested for an hour, he's a gas bag. Weel, weel, Tam, ye've got awful funny ideas since ye've started tae gang aheid o' the Lash Temple, said Jack. Weel, A'm no far wrong interposed Tam. Just let me try an draw on yer imagination and hev a couple o' labor men in the Dominion Parliament and asking fur auld age pensions for the puir. Why, they wud tell them that if any man is in poverty in his auld age he has his ainself tae blame because he did not save enough oot o' his ten dollars a week. If he had been lookin' after himsel, he ought, after payin' the grocer, the landlord and the clubman, tae pit the remainder of his ten dollars in boxes and pit it in the cellar so as he wud be able tae provide fur his auld age. Tam, Tam, hae ye lost yer senses talkin' that way, said Jack. Na, na, a' hevna lost my senses, but I'm gaun tae try and show that we've got the same spirit in Canada as weel as in any ither place, said Tam. A hev noticed that some o' the elections that his been ma privilege tae see in Canada, they honor a man fur whitt he has in his pocket, no fur whitt he has in his head. They talk o' the brotherhood man, and a wily lawyer can con along and wheedle a vote frae us and use them tae climb intae a job worth \$8,000 a year, and he is engaged in the legitimate pursuit of his ambition. But watch the difference when the puir man comes along and asks fur oor votes so that he may help us to tae get oot o' the mire, and we say: Ah! watch him, he's a voracious beast, he's after the \$1,200 a year. That is not the brotherhood spirit but a wee bit afraid it is the spirit of moun in Canada to-day. Weel, Tam, said Jack, there's a lot o' truth in whitt you say; but hoo are ye gaun tae remedy this? By educating the people tae their class position in society, replied Tam. Look o' ye this con- sider the folks are awfu proud o' their cash register. And whitt his that tae dae wae it, said Jack. I'll tell you, said Tam. The necessity for such an invention is, tae tell the truth, a confession of rascality and that the nation is a den o' thieves. Noo, noo, you're gettin' strong, commented Jack. Na, I've jist anither thing tae say. In order tae levee I'll hev tae work, and tae work I'll hiv tae possess the means tae work, and if anither fellow has got haud o' me tools he controls ma life. Aye, the time is nae far distant when they'll invent a meter tae register a' the air we breathe, and if we hivna oor air kind in Parliament, they'll pass a law that if we workers want tae breath fresh air we've got tae work extra time fur it, an' we'll test it in the law courts, and the lawyer will tell us that it is legal, and the judge will say that it is just, and oor trade union leaders will hiv tae say, because we hivna nobody in Parliament, we'll arbitrate with the capitalist. Lord preserve us frae such a fate murmured Jack.

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Carpenters Are Active

CANTON, Ohio, April 25.—The Carpenters' union has voted down a proposal to call a strike that would include those who are working for independent contractors now paying the union scale. The General Contractors' association refuses to grant the minimum wage demand of 45 cents an hour.

MACON, Ga., April 25.—The James town Mantel company, now operating the Massey-Fulton Lumber company, has entered into an eight-hour agreement with the Carpenters' union. It is said that that this company is the only one of the kind in the state that has made such a contract. About 150 men are affected.

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 25.—Carpenters in this city have a 100 per cent organization, and believe this will make it possible, for them to enforce their new scale of 4.50 a day, starting May 17. The present rate is \$4.00.

CANTON, Ohio, April 25.—Union carpenters in this city are on strike because contractors have refused their demand for a 10-cent-an-hour increase.

WAPAHACHIE, Tex., April 25.—Carpenters are putting into effect their new wage scale, which calls for 50 cents an hour. The old rate was 45 cents.

TROY, N. C., April 25.—Six hundred carpenters in this vicinity are asking for a wage increase of 5 cents an hour. Their present rate is 45 cents.

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The Grand Trunk Railway System issue round trip Homeseekers' tickets at very low fares from stations in Canada to points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and are in effect each Tuesday until October 27th inclusive, via Chicago, St. Paul, Duluth and will also be on sale on certain dates via Sarnia and Northern Navigation company. Through Pullman Tourist Sleepers are operated to Winnipeg each Tuesday, leaving Toronto 11.00 p.m. No change of cars. Reservations in Tourist Sleepers may be obtained at a nominal charge on request to any Grand Trunk ticket agent. Homeseekers' tickets are valid returning two months from date of issue. Settlers' one-way second-class tickets are on sale each Tuesday during April from stations in Ontario, Kingston, Renfrew and west to points in Alberta and Saskatchewan at low fares.

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Organizations

The badge of sanity is the ability to organize.

Organization is a modern policy. The organized man is a power, he moves shoulder to shoulder with his brother; the unorganized man is merely a part of a mob with no chart or compass to guide him.

Organization is the spirit of progress, and the spirit of progress is the greatest asset a business or individuals can have.

We are living in an age of organization. Commercial and industrial enterprises, cities, men, are thriving upon it.

We are living in an age of organized interest. Men get together, to discuss things, to better conditions. They are doing it in a spirit of progress.

Reciprocity, mutuality, co-operation are combined in this spirit, and the greatest of these is co-operation.

The strength of unity is indispensable.

Co-operation is greater than competition, and we should constantly bear in mind the great fundamental laws of the universe—the laws of interdependence. There is not a thing in the world which is not dependent upon some other favorable thing or condition. We all need each other and therefore should co-operate with each other. He who loses sight of this important law is bound to become worthless timber in the life of the world.—C. R. Trowbridge, in Business Philosopher.

Pleads For Higher Wages

At Niagara Falls, N.Y., this week, in an address in that city, Rev David Weeks referred to a local industrial concern that pays its women employees at the rate of 10 cents an hour or \$4.05 a week. He said the minimum rate for women workers should not be under \$8, and expressed regret that any one professing ideals should endanger the morals of girls and women by paying starvation wages. These sentiments resulted in the appointment of a committee of his parishioners who will investigate conditions for women in that city.

Movements of Painters

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., April 25.—Painters in this city are on strike because their employers insist on them working with non-unionists.

BOSTON, April 25.—Nearly 2,000 painters were granted an increase of 5 cents an hour after several short strikes, which in some cases lasted only a few minutes. Many employers granted the increase without a strike.

MONTREAL, April 25.—The 250 organized painters and decorators in this city are asking for an increase of 5 cents an hour. The present rate is 35 cents.

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