

LABOR AND WAGES.

Gleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.

The boss plasterers of Chicago, Ill., have declined to accede to the demand of the Union for an advance in wages from \$3.50 to \$4 per day after April 1, and the men declare that they will strike on that date unless the demand is granted.

The Cabinetmakers' Union of Chicago, Ill., which numbers about two thousand members, is preparing to demand eight hours at 25 cents per hour and weekly payments. If this is refused they say they will strike on April 1.

According to the Granite Cutters' Journal the following places should be avoided by granite cutters for serious reasons: Cascade Locks, Denver, Colorado; East Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Quincy, Massachusetts; Stony Creek, Connecticut; and Keeseville, N. Y.

The silk weavers in the employ of John and James Dobson, Philadelphia, have been granted an advance in their wages of three cents on each yard of silk manufactured. The increase in wages affects 150 male silk weavers.

The new shoe factory now building at Ward's Hill, Haverhill, Massachusetts, is nearly completed, and is expected to be finished by the middle of March. The factory will be equipped with all modern appliances and the most improved machinery. In its full capacity it will give employment to 360 hands.

The Bay State Corset Company has decided to move its manufacturing business from West Brookfield, Massachusetts, to Springfield, an action that will add about fifty hands to the local force of the concern, which will then have 300 or over.

The iron business is not booming in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys of Ohio, and until the strike at the coke region is settled there is no chance for the furnaces to be put in blast. The owners, however, are taking advantage of the shut down to make repairs and improvements.

The Glendon Iron Company at Easton, Pennsylvania, has notified all its employees of a reduction of ten per cent beginning on March 1. This company has been reducing its force and cutting down wages for some time. Its South Easton furnace is being torn down and the output greatly curtailed.

Representatives of all the organizations of the employees of all the railroads centering in Kansas City, Missouri, met there recently and declared for federation. According to President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, "it is the beginning of the greatest labor movement ever inaugurated."

The only change in the coke-workers' strike in the Connelville region of Pennsylvania is the increase of idle men since last week. The strikers at a number of places are beginning to feel the effects of four weeks' idleness keenly. At Lemont and Pennville a large number of families are almost destitute.

The New York Tin and Sheet Iron Workers' Union has notified all employers that eight hours will be a day's work on and after August 1, with no reduction in wages. The Union will co-operate with the Steamfitters' Union, which will make the eight hour demand on the same day.

The agitation among the London firemen is increasing to fever heat. They have drawn up a second petition for increase of wages and other benefits which almost amounts to an ultimatum. This petition Chief Shaw will present to the City Council on behalf of the men. Should it receive a repulse, the firemen's strike is not impossible.

The eighth annual meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Mutual Accident Association of America was held in Utica, N. Y., on Monday last. The reports of the officers show that there has been an unprecedented increase in membership during the past year, and the number of members is now nearly 3,000. The association has been carefully managed and the drummers are loud in its praise.

The Grievance Committee, representing 10,000 employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, decided to accept the concessions offered by General Manager Wood, and the great railroad strike that has been threatened for a month past will not be inaugurated. Mr. Wood claims that he made no additional concessions, but the committeemen say he promised verbally to extend the yards and double track them, and also to relieve the firemen of the duty of wiping engines.

The Master Masons of Philadelphia, Pa., at a meeting held last week took a decided stand against making any concessions to their employees in the demand for an increase of wages. After the meeting was called to order President Carron read the answer made to the demand of the workmen for forty cents per hour and nine hours work and eight on Saturday, with nine hours pay, was to the effect that wages this year would be \$3.25 per day for nine hours,

and that all pointing should be done by practical pointers.

An inexhaustible deposit of pure silica equal to the Berkshire sand in purity, and which fuses as easily as the Maurice River sand, has been discovered near Akron, Ohio. A company has been recently organized in Pittsburg and is pushing to completion an extensive plant for crushing and putting upon the market this fine grade of glass sand. Located midway between Pittsburg, Findlay, Fostoria and Tiffin, and within easy access to the extensive factories located at Kokomo and other Indiana towns, it bids fair to become the largest sand furnishing company in the United States. Samples of glass have been made from this sand which proves it to be of excellent quality.

The suggestion of the Master Painters' Exchange to form a compact with the journeymen, mutually agreeing to recognize only union concerns on both sides, is surely worthy of consideration. In New York and Brooklyn this system has worked admirably for some time past. Any scheme which looks toward eliminating the features of strife between the relation of employer and employee is a step in the right direction. The time is not far away when both workers and employer will sink all differences and get what they can from the consumers. Then, perhaps, we will see a combination of consumers ad infinitum. But the student of economy sees in these steps a well defined aim.

The Clark thread mills strike is still unsettled and promises to produce more trouble than ever. It is reported that the company are about to demand heavy damages from Hudson County for the injury done the mills and the losses incurred by the riot of February 12, when the windows of the mill were smashed in and, it is claimed, some injury done to the machinery. The company's claim includes not only compensation for the damage done to the mills and machinery, but also the wages of the unemployed to guard the property and the cost of feeding the non-union spinners who have been kept in one of the mill buildings. Those men are said to be complaining that their rations which were liberal at first are being reduced. There is much dissatisfaction existing all around, and it seems as if the angry feelings which have been engendered by the trouble are the greatest difficulty in the way of effecting a compromise.

Union miners have been parading three times per week at Wellington, B. C., where non-union miners are working. Several processionists have been before the Supreme Court, but were allowed out on their good behavior, however. The processions have been winked at and held in defiance of the law. One outrage the other day, where men, women and children attacked with snowballs, rotten eggs, etc., a funeral procession escorting a dead non-union miner to the cemetery, has shown the authorities the necessity of action to prevent further and perhaps bloody disturbances. On Monday the union miners' procession was held as usual. The provincial police arrested the ringleaders. No resistance was made, and the prisoners were placed aboard a train en route to the jail at Victoria. Notwithstanding the arrests of the ringleaders, the remainder of the processionists continued the parade. Further arrests will be made if they are continued.

A gratifying instance of voluntarily courtesies extended by a State Legislature to an official representative of the labor movement occurred on Thursday of last week in the State Capitol of Colorado on the occasion of a visit to Denver by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Gompers on arriving in the city was conveyed by the local officials of the Trade Unions to the House of Representatives, where, as soon as his presence became known, he was invited to a seat by the side of the Speaker. The rules were suspended and Mr. Gompers was formally invited to address the house on the industrial question, which he did, making an urgent plea for the passage of the pending Labor bills. A similar courtesy was extended him by the Senate. The news of the incident spread quickly about the Capitol, and before Mr. Gompers was through speaking every available space in the Legislative Chamber was occupied by eager and interested listeners. It was the first time such a recognition was ever extended to any citizen and the incident is notable as illustrating the high status attained by the industrial movement at the present day as compared with ten years ago, when it was often difficult to secure from the daily press the slightest notice of the movement of the labor unions or the arguments advanced by their leaders in support of their principles and right of organization.

No Use For a Nurseryman.
When the woman of the house answered his ring he began:
Madam, I am sorry to disturb you, but I came here from Buffalo to find work at my occupation, and being unable to strike—
What is your occupation? she demanded.
I am a nurseryman.
Then drop in next door.
But, madam, I—
Next door, I say. They have seven children there, while we haven't any.

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