

THE LABOR WORLD

There are 2,600 mineral water bottlers in New York city.

Albany, N. Y., union tailors will submit a new scale of wages.

A union of candy workers is about to be organized in Montreal.

British India now employs over 1,000,000 people in its cotton industries.

Plans will be made for the thorough organization of the stationary firemen at Montreal.

The union label has been discarded by 20 wholesale clothing manufacturers of Rochester, N. Y.

Among the New York bricklayers the lowest wage is \$23.20 a week, and the highest is over \$50.

The Western Flint Glass Workers' Union has again joined the American Federation of Labor.

English workmen in the engineering and allied trades are but moderately employed at the present time.

Copper miners in Michigan have increased in number from less than 7,000 in 1902 to more than 14,000 in 1903.

In January and February the membership of the Order of Railway Clerks of America increased 1,220 in membership.

It is altogether likely that the labor party will put a municipal ticket in the field at the fall elections in Detroit, Mich.

A bill has been introduced in the Maryland Legislature to limit the hours of employment on street railways to ten a day.

A threatened strike of Buffalo, N. Y., tailors has been averted, the employers conceding the demands of their workmen.

The Musicians' Union, of Toronto, is said to be the largest organization of the kind in the Dominion. The membership is about 500.

February returns of the English boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders show a total of 9,559 members on the funds, as against 10,432 in January.

In all about 80,000 workpeople in England were affected by changes in wages during 1903, as compared with 800,000 in 1902 and 932,000 in 1901.

There are now affiliated with the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor 208 labor organizations, composed of 31 central bodies and 177 local unions.

Bristol, Conn., plumbers have issued a manifesto to the master plumbers demanding \$3 for an eight-hour day. The present scale calls for \$2.50 for nine hours.

An eight-hour day is demanded by the engineers and firemen employed in the stockyards at Chicago, Ill. The union demands the increase in wages and shorter hours.

Continued depression at the east end and partially in other industrial districts of London, Eng., has caused the Lord Mayor to open a relief fund. Thus far \$7,000 has been raised.

Muskegon, Mich., union carpenters have agreed with local contractors to arbitrate all differences in the future. The wage is to be 32-1-2 cents an hour with an eight-hour day.

At Lyons, France, 10,000 employees in the silk trades have struck work, their demand being for an increase in wages and shorter hours. Efforts have been made to effect a settlement.

Returns from local trade unions and from branches of the amalgamated bodies show a general increase in the number of unemployed among the machine-tool makers throughout England.

In St. Louis, Mo., a few years ago the water girls got \$4 per week salary; now they get \$9, no breakage charges, and their hours of labor are much shorter, and conditions generally are better.

The Employers' Association of Steel Ingot Makers, representing the west of Scotland, and the northeast coast of England, have intimated a 5 per cent. reduction in wages, to take effect this month.

A new wage schedule has been arranged by the Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union, at San Francisco, Cal., and the same will be presented to the proprietors. The present scale will expire on May 1.

Reports of a general strike of employees of the New York & New Haven road, which emanated from New York, are not borne out by statements made by officers of different railroad organizations.

At Boston, Mass., the strike of book and job printers, which has been in effect for several weeks, has been settled by means of a compromise, and a contract between employers and employees signed.

The Contractors' Association of Sacramento, Cal., has decided to close all mills in that city. This will put a stop to all building operations in that city for the time being, throwing 800 men out of work.

In the Australian Post Office Department the minimum salary for women was formerly \$300, but since women received the ballot, this has been raised to \$550. Women teachers who do equal work with men receive the same pay, a right not granted to them in this country.

The new wage schedule of the St. Blomens' Union, at San Francisco, Cal., asks for a \$2.50 increase weekly over the present \$15 rate. The day is to be of twelve hours, and union men only are to be employed.

About 800 non-union employees of the American Tobacco Company, at Richmond, Va., have struck for an increase in pay. The strikers are all negro steamers, and they ask for an increase of one-half a cent a pound.

It is stated that the wages paid to team drivers in Montreal are lower than in any other city on the American continent, and a population of 200,000. The men are planning to organize a union.

Bridgeport, Conn., boss bakers have organized in order to cope with the demands of the union bakers, who, it is understood, intend to demand the abolition of night work and an eight hour day schedule after May 1.

San Francisco, Cal., union bookbinders have received an increase in wages by

which men who are now receiving \$16 per week will be gradually raised to \$19.50. The union agrees to recognize none but first-class craftsmen.

The British Government continues to be denounced by the workers' union for the low wages paid at Government workshops, shipyards, arsenals and gun factories, but all denunciations and resolutions of the latter are being rapidly voted in favor of the proposed Structural Building Trades Alliance of America, which aims to combine 500,000 workers in one compact body. The object is to put a stop to "sliding scale" strikes.

At a conference of miners held at Cardiff, Wales, recently, it was declared that the Wales would never go back to the sliding-scale system. Whatever the terms of Conciliation Boards, they were better than the old sliding scale.

Nearly 100 Lincoln, Neb., women have applied to the International Women's Labor League for a charter, and propose to organize a union at least 500 strong. These women intend to make a fight for the union label in stores and shops.

In Russia all wages have to be paid in cash. There are no factory stores or store orders. Employers cannot discharge workmen contrary to the terms of their contract, nor impose fines except in accordance with the rules of the Department of Labor.

At Sharon, Pa., the Builders' Exchange has asked all members of the building trades to accept a reduction of wages on May 1, at the expiration of the present scale. There are more than 2,000 members in the building trades in Sharon.

In 1903 Minnesota showed an increase in the total number of wage-earners of 11.31 per cent. over 1902; that of the male adults was 12.67 per cent.; that of the female adults, 9.35 per cent.; and of children, a decrease from last year's number of 9.58 per cent.

Because of the unitary action on the part of the master plumbers in ordering a nine-hour day and open shops, Erie, Pa., journeymen plumbers have quit work and refuse to do another tap until the masters back down from their position and re-establish union shops.

A resolution was adopted at the last meeting of the Masters' and Girls' Association, Cleveland, O., Lodge, demanding that the members of the Advisory Board get together as soon as possible to reconsider the action taken in regard to the wage schedule and classification.

Two new international unions to join the American Federation of Labor have been formed. The first is the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes, the unskilled workers in foundries; the other is the International Brotherhood of Shinglers, formed at San Francisco.

In the past 20 years, according to the figures of the Labor Bureau at Washington, there have been more than 22,000 strikes, involving a loss of employment to the workers of over \$400,000,000. The loss to the workmen themselves has been more than twice that of their employers.

Portable hoisting engineers, who are members of Steam Engineers' Union, at Rochester, N. Y., have asked for an increase in their wages in an agreement with the Mason Contractors' Association. These engineers are now getting \$2.50 and \$3 a day. They are asking for \$3.50 a day.

A novel plan has been evolved in Chicago by E. P. Devay, a prominent labor leader, that city, to place an army of union men on farms in Mississippi. It is said that 30,000 acres have been secured, and the idea is to parcel it out in five-acre tracts, making homes for 6,000 union families.

At a conference held between representatives of the Electrical Workers' Union and their employers, at Buffalo, N. Y., a settlement has been reached. The employers agree to maintain the present schedule of pay, \$3 a day, and an eight-hour day. Non-union workmen now employed are to be retained.

The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers, at Toronto, will, it is expected, ask for an increase of 10 per cent. in wages and a nine-hour work day. Blacksmiths receive from 20 to 27-1-2 cents an hour at present, and helpers from 15 to 18 cents an hour.

United Garment Workers at Baltimore, Md., are putting up a vigorous fight this year to have the uniforms of the police manufactured by persons or firms who have the right to use the union label. For the last four years one firm has furnished the uniforms, and work has been done by non-union workmen.

Although the time for the opening of navigation on the great lakes is near at hand, few of the maritime workers' unions have made settlements with employers. The marine unions will submit to no reduction in wages this year unless the shippers and vessel owners produce better argument than they have been doing so far.

Representatives of the Licensed Truckmen's Protective Association, in conference with the Dredge and Tug Owners' Protective Association, in Toledo, O., are fighting for the same scale at Chicago and South Chicago. Representatives of the owners wished to change the scale at the expense of South Chicago dredge crews. It is said.

The Master Plumbers' Association, of Reading, Pa., has refused to sign or consider the recent proposition made by the members of the Plumbers' Union in their new wage scale. The plumbers, under the scale adopted and signed last year, were given \$2.75 a day in wages for nine hours. In their new scale they want \$3 for eight hours' work.

Intercolonial Railway employees are making a concerted effort to get their pension scheme before Parliament at the present session. The scheme originated with the Employers' Protective Association, and is designed to cover cases that are not included in the insurance scheme, as well as to promote greater efficiency in the various branches of the railway service.

Between 7,000 and 8,000 fishermen on the shores of Lake Erie have affiliated

with the I. L. M. and T. A., the last ports to come in being Huron and Sandusky. The membership embraces workers afloat and ashore. It is estimated that there are 20,000 men engaged in the industry on the great lakes, and an effort is making to organize them into a powerful international body.

An agreement has been reached as to the scale of prices between the Alaska Packers' Association and the Fishermen's Union. The unions in all the northern cities have agreed to abide by the decision of the San Francisco Union. This matter is of importance, as a strike now would have been most serious, because the Oriental war is making a marked improvement in the salmon industry.

The Central Labor Union, at Brookline, Mass., has called upon trade union members in the city government to favor a resolution calling for the passage of a bill to come before this session of the Legislature, which will legalize peaceful communication with strike-breakers by union men, and the picketing plan.

Employees of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad are planning to organize a union of unions on the scheme of the Trades Council in New Haven, in which shall be separate car workers, trainmen, boiler makers and switchmen. To secure such amalgamation will require several weeks of consideration by the locals.

With the object of promoting workers' trades unions in the United States, the Executive Board of the Women's National Trades Union League, at its annual meeting in Boston this week, voted to send a general agent, or secretary, through the country, who will act as a business agent, organize unions among women and investigate lockouts and strikes.

In New South Wales, the country of universal unionism and federal ownership of public utilities, the working hours are usually eight, and the minimum wages for laborers \$1.70 per day, with half-holidays at the expense of employers. Both employers and employees are unionized, the number being fully 90 per cent. larger than of the former.

The 16-months' strike at Wheldale and Frystone collieries, Cattleford, Eng., ended in victory for the masters. Recently most of the 800 men out present set themselves at the pits, but more than two-thirds of the places had been filled.

Sacramento, Cal., Plumbers' Union work strike recently because the employers would not grant an increase in pay. The members desire \$4.50 per day, an advance of 50 cents. It is thought the fight will be a stubborn one.

The National Miners' Federation of Great Britain has formulated a demand for the renunciation of the Conciliation Board. There does not appear to be any serious disagreement between the representatives of both parties.

Nearly all the salt consumed in Italy is produced in Sardinia. For this work about three thousand men are employed, most of whom are convicts. The wages range from tenpence to four shillings a day, of which the convicts receive only half.

Union gas workers at San Francisco, Cal., have gained an eight-hour day for their employees, a 10 per cent. increase in wages will be discussed, and it is probable that if it is not allowed a compromise will be effected whereby a portion of it will be granted.

Chicago, Ill., millwrights, who are members of the International Flour and Cereal Employees' Union, have begun a strike at Minneapolis, Minn., for an increase in their wages in an agreement with the Mason Contractors' Association. The dispute arose with carpenters over mill work in Chicago.

Fifteen hundred locked out carriage and wagon workers at Chicago, Ill., have accepted a proposal made them by employers whose shops have been employed. The new agreement provides for the "open shop" arbitration of all differences and a wage increase.

Machinists in the employ of the Erie Railroad Company have decided not to call a strike, and will not force an demand at present wages and increase in wages. The machinists want to be paid 30 cents an hour. At present they are getting 27 cents an hour.

Diamond cutters at Amsterdam, Holland, have been locked out to the number of 1,000 men. Some of these are on strike, and the employers refuse to employ them. The machinists are able to support the men who were out. The strike funds were at a low ebb.

The 1900 census gives the number of wage workers in the United States as 29,285,022, divided as follows: Production, 12,647,337; domestic and personal service, 5,691,746; manufacturing, 7,122,987; agricultural pursuits, 10,438,916.

Railroad employees on the Buenos Ayres and Rosario and Central Argentine lines are still on strike. They demand an increase of 25 per cent. per month, and of men who are working on monthly salaries and a proportionate increase for others and a reduction of working hours to eight a day.

The percentage of the population of the United States which is supported by agriculture is 26; that by mining and various industries, 24; that by trade and commerce, 18. In Germany the figures are respectively 28, 37 and 11; in England, 10, 59 and 11; in France, 44, 34 and 9; and in Italy, 57, 28 and 4.

In the annual report of the New York State Board of Mediation and Arbitration, which has just been issued, is given an interesting statistical history of the building trades strike and lockouts of the New York last summer. In the building New York last summer, leaving out all other strikes and lockouts in New York city, it is shown that during the summer the mechanics lost in wages \$8,754,731. Besides these there were 7,000 workers made idle by the strikes, and these lost 200,000 days' wages. All told, 117,000 working people in New York State lost last year as a result of strikes and lockouts 3,900,000 days' wages, according to the best official information possible to obtain.

Our Scotch Corner

THE PSALMS IN BRAID SCOTCH.

John S. McClelland, as a Translator of the 33rd Psalm.

(St. Catharines, Star.)

To the Editor of the Star:

My attention was arrested by the following verses, published in the Breakfast Table columns of the Toronto Globe, on the 25th inst., under the heading, "Twenty-third Psalm" (Scotch version), by John Moir, Bridge of Fugh, Banchory, Aberdeenshire. Surely a long way to go from home to get a "wee bit Scots," and I am of opinion "oot" when it came in. Please print the verses:

"Wha is my shepherd, weel I ken
The Lord Himself is he;
He leads me whaur the girs is green
An' burnies quate amang."

Aft time I fain stray wad gang,
An' wunn't far awa';
He fns me oot, He pits me richt,
An' brings me hame an' a'.

Tho' I pass through the gruesome
clough,
Fin' I ken He is nea,
His muckle crook will me defen',
Sae I hae naucht to fear.

Ilk comfort whilk a sheep could need
His thoughtfu' care provides;
Tho' wolves an' dogs may pdow
about,
In safety me he hides.

His goodness and His mercy bairn
Na doot will bide wi' me,
While fauld on the fields o' time
Or o' eternity.

I have made good some typographical blunders, for which, of course, the author is not responsible, but may I be privileged to say a word or two as to the subject matter of the effusion itself. The twenty-third Psalm is a Scotchman's Psalm, or it is nothing. It says just what it means, or it means nothing. The line closing the second stanza—(I guess that's Scotch)—"An' brings me hame an' a'," literally and brings me home and all! Where there here sense or poetry in that jargon, except, possibly after a St. Andrew's night celebration? In the next verse we can pass over the "Fin' I ken He is nea," but his "muckle crook" is a staggerer that will knock all Canadian Scotchmen out of business. And then when "wolves and dogs" are brought in to intensify the situation, the Scotch versionist must have been fairly driven to his wits' ends to horrify this other, here sense or poetry in that jargon, except, possibly after a St. Andrew's night celebration? In the next verse we can pass over the "Fin' I ken He is nea," but his "muckle crook" is a staggerer that will knock all Canadian Scotchmen out of business. And then when "wolves and dogs" are brought in to intensify the situation, the Scotch versionist must have been fairly driven to his wits' ends to horrify this other, here sense or poetry in that jargon, except, possibly after a St. Andrew's night celebration?

WHY LUNACY GROWS

After the great fire at Cooney Hatch Asylum an eminent authority on mental diseases strongly criticized the County Council for their inaction in regard to the increase in lunacy, and on the present building temporary asylums to cope with it.

"It is no temporary phenomenon," said the specialist, "it is a steady, consistent and alarming growth."

This fact is now abundantly recognized by the Council. Their latest report on lunacy makes no attempt to explain away the sad truth; on the other hand, the committee, tacitly confessing that things are becoming worse rather than better, ask for power to send the old lunatics to the workhouse, so that there may be room in the asylums for the treatment of patients for whom there is some chance of recovery.

Why is it that we are becoming madder as the years go by? Four reasons are suggested—drink, vice, imprudent marriages, the stress and strain of modern city life.

The case was put in a nutshell by one specialist yesterday.

"By better methods of sanitation," he said, "a great saving of life has been effected in the syphilitic diseases, and the death rate ought to have been decreased enormously thereby. It has not done so owing to the increase in the number of nervous diseases, the result of wear and tear."

"General paralysis of the insane is steadily on the increase, and that is very often the result of disease produced by vice. Unfortunately public opinion will not permit us to attack that evil at its source. All we can do is to endeavor by careful scientific research, to trace the causes of their first cause, and to devise methods for prevention and cure."

"What is the period of restraining thousands of poor wretches in huge asylums? The latest report shows that there are seven people in the London asylums over the age of ninety, and that a centennial dies in one of the asylums last year!"

"How much better it would be if, instead of boxing up the insane, we could discover how to cure them! Nervous diseases call for investigation and study as loudly as cancer."

Practically the same point was made by another specialist whose views were sought by the Express. He said, "to see how large is the number of people incarcerated there who might well be looked after at home—weak-minded persons, who have sunk to the level of automatons, and who would never by any chance become harmful either to themselves or to anybody else. They crowd the asylums and there is no room for their case."

"And if the surroundings of an asylum are unnecessary for cases such as this, they are positively harmful to cases of another kind. See that a person steps over the borderline of sanity—one foot on each side of the line. Shut him up in an asylum where he sees none but the hopelessly insane, and he becomes permanently insane himself. Like beggars like."

"What is needed in such a case is a half-way house, where every endeavor will be exerted towards curing the inmates. If they show no signs of recovery within six months, then send them to a real asylum. But very many of them would recover and become useful members of society instead of a dead-weight and an expense."

"The germs of insanity are, of course, carried down from generation to generation. I have heard it seriously suggested that no person should be allowed to marry until he or she had been examined as to mental soundness. This suggestion is more ideal than practical, but men and women who have the taint of hereditary insan-

ity ought really to see that it is criminal on their part to marry. And I do soberly say that chronic insanity ought, after a period of five years, to be a good and sufficient ground for divorce, when any man writes to the Express, Dr. Forbes Winslow says:

"It is not a difficult problem to solve why there should be more lunacy in London than in other towns. Drink stands out prominently as the chief cause for this terrible state of affairs."

"In a recent published report issued by the County Council's committee, the medical superintendent stated that out of 958 patients admitted 217 of these were due to 'intemperance in drink'—thus one-fourth of the lunacy is due to a fourth of the cause which can be avoided. The painful but only conclusion we can arrive at is that London is the most intemperate city in the world."

"There are many lunatics at the present day who might be managed outside the precincts of an asylum, and it is to be hoped that the new Act is passed provisions will be made for an intermediate class of persons, alleged to be insane, who are deemed curable and ought to be given a chance of recovery by being thrust into a lunatic asylum, and so branded for life."

"At the present time, notwithstanding the advancement of civilization, there is no receipt for any cases, if certifiable, though harmless, they have to be legally placed in licensed institutions among dangerous and noisy lunatics, whose very conduct aggravates the mental malady from which they may be suffering, and frequently converts a curable attack into a chronic one. So long as this state of affairs exists so must the amount of lunacy gradually increase."

"For many years I have had upwards of 8,000 attendances of poor people mentally afflicted at my hospital. Some of the histories of the cases would well account for the increase in insanity. Persons who have been incarcerated in asylums are allowed to marry, those who suffer from recurrent insanity go back home between the attacks and bear children. Sprung generally, the children of drunken parents are either come insane or are afflicted with the same vice as their parents."

"Let us frame a law to regard habitual drunkenness as a form of lunacy, as it really is, and let us deal with the victims to it in a proper way, by legally restraining them, and lunacy will soon rapidly decrease."—London Express.

EVOLUTION OF THE BAYONET

Originally it Was a Long Rapier Blade Carried in a Sheath.

The swaynes-feather (hog's bristles), which seems to have been the original prototype of the bayonet, was a long rapier blade, fixed in a handle, and carried in a scabbard, which was given to a musketeer for defence after he had discharged his piece. Stuck by his handle in the muzzle of his gun, says Pearson's Weekly, it constituted a very efficient weapon for acting against pikemen. To diminish his incumbrance, the swaynes-feather and musket rest were combined, the latter forming a sheath for the former, in the reign of James I.

Toward the latter end of the Civil War the use of the musket rest was abandoned, and it became the practice to stick the dagger by its handle into the muzzle of the piece after discharging it.

In 1689 two rings were added by which the bayonet was placed on the muzzle without interfering with the firing. This improvement, the invention of Gen. Mackay, and English officers, was introduced by the French army in 1703, by the English themselves it was not adopted until after the battle of Fontenoy, 1745, where the advantages its use conferred on the French were only too plainly manifest, the Duke of Cumberland's army being defeated with the loss of 15,000 men.

The Modern School of Altiterrists.

We walk in the wide, white wood and watch
In wifful will, with the whiskers, wan,
Of the wee, wee, wisps of dew;
And the wounded, whimsical waves we weave
Are woven in W.

We wander and wate, and we waise
To work
The wall of the well-to-do,
Who wonder well at the winning way
We wite into whiskers new;
And the woful, weird and woolly web
We find our of W.

Oh, to weep and wile is a woman's wisp,
And to wail in the water, too,
Yet she wains to write and she wiles to wear
The wings of a wizard too.
Why will she wair in wanton waise
The wonderful W?
—Gelett Burgess, in Harper's Magazine, for January.

Hottest Place on Earth.

Between India and Africa lie the hottest places on earth. The Ayal Islands cover a fairly extensive area of the Persian Gulf, lying off the southwest coast of Persia, and it is the largest of them which enjoys the doubtful distinction of being all perspiring competitors in the matter of heat. The mean temperature of Bahrain for the entire year is 90 degrees. July, August and September, are unendurable to all but the natives. Night after night, as midnight comes, the thermometer shows 100 degrees. By 7 in the morning it is 107° or 108, and by 3 in the afternoon, 140.

It is stated by voracious travellers that 75,000 Arabs inhabit the Ayal group, fully 25,000 living on Bahrein, in which connection Sir Henry Layard adds: "It would seem that a man can accustom himself to anything." The following are the temperatures at some of the hottest places in different countries: Hyderabad, 105; Lahore, 107; El Paso, 113; Mosul, 117; Agra, 117; Death Valley, 122; Algeria, 127; Fort Yuma.

Glass coffins are extensively used in the highest north of European Russia.

RUSSIA'S

The Russian Empire biggest fighting ma world in the shape of navy, and there is a tary force of which know so little.

Even the numerical army is largely a u jecture. As nearly as el, the force available on the earlier stages amounts to nearly 500,000 could be swollen 500,000 fighting men out of the Territory the Opoletska, or in This vast army is n as large as the pop York city, more than as the German Army mobilized, in 1914, total of 3,000,000 the order of Oct. 2 strength of the Unit was fixed at 407,555 one-twentieth of the man.

But Russia does t this immense army one of the biggest world, or, rather, navies, such as the American Navy, is in the Pacific, Baltic and a third.

In many respects and Navy differ ma forest of the year of the key-note of tion of both serv of both the army carefully concealed things, not usually ration.

For example, the muniton for targ Russian Army has the past year or so not generally kno sider can tell who extraordinary effort marksmanship to the highest p have been success The scores are the fact that, through a course in concentration of American Navy, and no Russian enjoy the wide l however, absolute secrecy concerning all nava conquests.

Even cases of to the similarly t time of war, s service is that, in all respects, the same as efficients, and i It is conside visio to allow upon particula only they are considered in which ministrators a knowledge of.

A sailor mu receive his sea-sickness may dare op the life of a room accident will be reme through out l will remember but it will.

Records, fr from time or in merit, and in reference of comparison of even or ord commensurate with the ad, even the mediators are at the least in a size a bro man, except duty. Broadly, the world is largely good fellow vice.

Any pull or call on an administrator and beautiful vaults of ro is often m possible in the most ful son-Schley controversy, possibly in The Russ views are, that ever shall edit at the at the least in a size a bro man, except duty. Broadly, the world is largely good fellow vice.

It might lead to 6 more and are man other. B works w seen con with the upon on has been in this differs.

This merit o crans in and an elir The s is usual physics great stand. Vladimir lecting on the battle the el being a peed a peed v The closed gushin ing ab above to the The men rang