

GENESIS OF LABOR DAY

Matthew McGuire, of New York, First Suggested It.

HIS IDEA FOUND FAVOR

Robert Price, of Maryland, Gave It Its Distinctive Name—Empire State the First to Make It a Legal Holiday—Congress Fell Into Line Last Year and Made It National.

"This is Labor Day in earnest, Uncle Dick," was the exultant remark made by Robert Price, of Loudon, Md., to Richard Griffiths, general worthy foreman of the Knights of Labor, on the occasion of the grand parade of workmen in New York city September 5, 1882.

The two men were at the time, with an immense throng, occupying the grand stand in Union Square and the long column of workmen was filing past. Whether this was the first use made of the term is not known, but the event was afterwards referred to as the "Labor Day" parade, and without the claim can be successfully controverted it may be safely said that Robert Price, in the contentious utterance quoted, laid upon a designation that will live in ages to come as the name by which the now latest in the list of national holidays will be known.

FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER. In the year following the occasion when the day was christened the labor organizations of New York had a parade and general demonstration on the first Monday in September, and when, in 1884, the Central Labor Union of New York had the question of further parade up for discussion George K. Lloyd, a Knight of Labor,



JAMES F. MCHUGH, Chief Marshal of the Labor Day Parade, offered a resolution declaring the first Monday in September to be Labor Day. The resolution was adopted and steps were taken to have the Legislature to enact a law making that day a legal holiday, to be known as Labor Day. Other days were specifically designated, as "Independence Day," and "Decoration Day," and the advocates of the measure, inspired by the happy thought emanated by the Loudon-Griffiths, adopted his nomenclature, and sought to have it perpetuated. They could think of no better term, and it is doubtful if a better could be chosen. The agitation thus begun was maintained in New York without interruption, until, in



W. H. G. SIMMONS, Master Workman District Assembly No. 66, K. of L. 1887, a bill that was introduced in the State Senate by Edward F. Reilly, passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed by Gov. Hill on the 6th day of May of that year.

THE IDEA SPREAD. But the idea was catching, and soon it was being advanced and argued for in other States, where it had previously had no advocates. Begun in New York, as stated, its strength developed so rapidly in some of the neighboring commonwealths, that favor-



J. C. WILSON, Master Workman Carpenters' Assembly No. 1748, K. of L. from the time it left the Federation, Congress enacting it and the President signing it just as it was framed. It was presented in both Houses of Congress simultaneously, in the Senate by Mr. Kyle, and in the House by Mr. Ames Cummings. It was referred to the Labor Committee in each House, and by constantly keeping it in view, the District Assemblies of the Knights of Labor added a resolution to the effect that "for the sake of historical accuracy, it

introduced in the law-making bodies, but resulted in nothing more positive than agitation. MATTHEW MCGUIRE'S IDEA. "There are many claimants," said a writer upon the subject, "for the honor of having first conceived the idea of having a holiday for laboring men separate and distinct from other holidays. Caudor compels me to place the credit where it properly belongs. In 1882, Matthew McGuire, secretary and



J. F. W. WHITMORE, Marshal of Third Division, organizer of the Central Labor Union, of New York, suggested the idea, and as secretary of that body issued a proclamation



MICHAEL P. CANTY, Marshal's Aid in Charge of Fourth Division, to that effect. He also organized the first labor parade in New York, the one of September 5, 1882, to which reference is made in the foregoing. "On that day the general assembly of the Knights of Labor, then in session in that city, was invited by Secretary McGuire to review the parade, which invitation was accepted. Many members of the Knights of Labor were in line, but the order was not then working openly in the city or State." The agitation for a distinctive holiday



CHARLES J. WELLS, Marshal of Fifth Division and Chairman of Labor Day Conference, began in the States was taken up by the labor bodies of the District. Repeated efforts were made to induce Congress to pass a bill in the interest of the movement, and the first Monday in September was named, in each bill introduced, as the Labor Day.

MADE A NATIONAL HOLIDAY. The efforts were finally successful, and the first Monday in September, 1894, received its baptism of patriotic fire as a national holiday. The bill, as adopted, by Congress, was prepared by the legislative committee of the Federation of Labor of the District, and was indorsed by District Assembly 69, of the Knights of Labor. Not a single change was made in the bill



MR. THOMAS LEY, Clerk of the Union, originating in the house of representatives. It received the Governor's approval February 10, 1895.

Montana adopted a law creating the holiday and designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day, during the session of 1890-91. It was introduced by E. D. Matts, a member of the senate. Nebraska fell into line in 1889. Senator Frank Ransom introduced the bill January 9 of that year, and it passed the senate by a unanimous vote on the 17th of the month. Subsequently the house adopted the measure, and it became a law upon the Governor adding his signature.

Andrew Kiloreen, a member of the New Hampshire legislature, introduced a bill in that body in 1891 which passed both houses and received the governor's signature before the close of the session. Ohio put herself on record in 1890. John P. Green, a member of the State House of Representatives, was sponsor for the bill, which passed both branches of the legislature, and was signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate April 28, of the year named.

Gov. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, approved an act for the establishment of Labor Day in the Keystone State on the 25th day of April, 1890. The bill was presented by Senator Lines January 17, preceding, and it was adopted by both branches of the legislature with but little opposition.

IN THE SOUTH. The Tennessee legislature passed a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Allman, and it went to Gov. Buchanan, and was signed by him March 11, 1891. The measure provided that Labor Day should be made a legal holiday. Texas added the first Monday in Sep-

tember to the list of legal holidays in 1893. The bill for the purpose, was introduced by Senator Miles Crowley, and was approved by the governor February 10 of that year after its adoption by both branches of the legislature.

Washington State has a Labor Day law, passed by the legislature of 1891. It was framed and presented by Senator John

Besides the States named as having taken favorable action upon the proposition for the creation of a working-man's holiday, laws have been adopted in the others here listed, all being in advance of the adoption by Congress of the bill for national recognition of the day:

In Connecticut the bill to make Labor Day a legal holiday in the State was introduced in the House of Representatives by A. P. Hamie, January 25, 1889. It was adopted before the close of the session



J. B. FENTON, President Theatrical Alliance of Stage Employes, and was signed by the governor March 20, 1889.

Illinois passed a similar measure, introduced in the Senate by Albert W. Walls in 1891, and it was signed by Gov. Fifer June 17, 1891.

On February 28, 1890, W. W. Dodge introduced in the Iowa Senate a bill to make the day a legal holiday in that State. It was amended and adopted, and received the signature of Gov. Boies April 3, following its introduction.

Kansas adopted the bill in 1891. The measure was proposed by Senator Ediston, and the governor approved it on the fourth



MATTHEW J. FOLEY, President Horsemen's Union No. 17, day of March of that year. In the preceding year, however, the first Monday in September was recognized as Labor Day, the governor having made it legal by proclamation.

Gov. M. J. Foster, of Louisiana, approved a bill legalizing November 23 as Labor Day holiday, the act having been approved in 1892 and signed July 7 of that year.



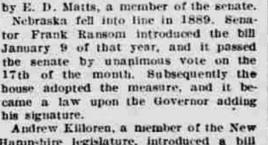
A. E. MANUEL, President of Carpenters' Union No. 1, other holidays in the nature of its observance. While amusements were among the possible features of the programme, the principal order of exercises was to consist of lectures and discourses, and the theme was to be solely of topics relating to the



FEATURING OF THE DAY. It was the intention of those who introduced the first Labor Day resolution at the general assembly of the K. of L. order, held in New York, to make the day distinct from



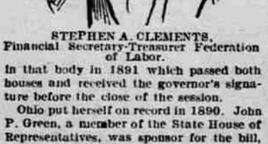
THOMAS J. LAWRENCE, President Protective Street Railway Union, welfare of the industrial masses. Every question and economic importance should be discussed. The idea was that the grounds on which the industrial masses may assemble on Labor Day should resemble an "open court," in which all phases of thought should have equal privilege of expression.



STEPHEN A. CLEMENTS, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Federation of Labor, in that body in 1891 which passed both houses and received the governor's signature before the close of the session.

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J. J. BREEN, Master Workman, Engineers' Assembly, labor to take part in the demonstrations and address the meetings from their standpoint, or upon any other subject that may be preferred by the speaker.

PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD, Labor Day is a day on which all that is ambitious, noble, lofty, patriotic and grand in the nature of the workman should be appealed to. Those who discuss issues before the industrial

classes on that day should be educators—teachers of the gospel of humanity and its needs, not mammon and its greed, and should advocate the doctrine of independence of thought and action.

Labor Day is designed and should be appreciated as a day of rest and recreation in the true sense. It is to be celebrated not in honor of any one man, living or dead, but for the living masses. That which will best serve the living man and woman of to-day and the future should receive the careful consideration of all who take part in the observances.

Labor Day is as yet but an experiment. The first celebration of the occasion as a national event occurred last year, and the



A. HARGRAVE, President Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, R. Kinnear, passed the senate January 28, the house February 9, and was approved by the governor February 25.

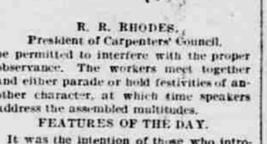
Wisconsin's Labor Day enactment dates from its official publication, as required by law, May 2, 1893. The measure was introduced by Assemblyman Harmon, passed the legislature April 17, and was signed by Gov. Peck two days later.

The real significance of Labor Day, from a labor standpoint, lies in the fact that on that day no question of local importance, no strike, no controversy or dispute shall



R. R. RHODES, President of Carpenters' Council, be permitted to interfere with the proper observance. The workers meet together and either parade or hold festivities of another character, at which time speakers address the assembled multitude.

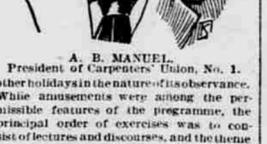
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JOHN ESTER, President Chairmakers' Union, consecutive terms. He came to this city about three years ago, but was comparatively little known, except by reputation as general secretary of the Stonecutters, till March 13, 1894, when he made his advent in the Federation of Labor, as a delegate from the Stonecutters' Local Union. His firm bearing and conservative views, as to the methods of handling labor questions soon gave him a host of friends among his brother delegates, to such an extent that after serving but a little over



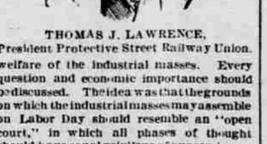
J. W. JOHNSON, President Paperhangers' Assembly, one term as delegate, he was elected to the highest position in the gift of the Federation, that of president. Having filled that position creditably, to himself and to the satisfaction of all, he was, at the expiration of the term, unanimously re-elected for another term, which he now



G. W. BROWN, President Barbers' Assembly, 1890, which position he still holds. He has represented the Bricklayers' Union as a delegate in the national convention, held in Indianapolis in 1892, and Omaha in 1894. At the Omaha convention he was elected vice president of the National Bricklayers' and Stone Masons' Unions of America. Upon retiring from that office last January, the convention in session at New Orleans presented him with a handsome gold badge.



EDWARD ROSE, Master Workman, Carriage Makers, K. of L. holds. In addition to the honors already conferred upon him, Mr. McHugh was elected as chief marshal of the Labor Day celebra-



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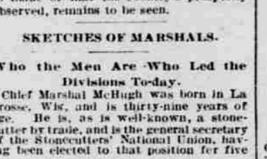
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JOSEPH J. BIRMINGHAM, President International Printing Pressmen's Union, observance of its first anniversary is at hand. Whether it shall continue as a day on which the duties of citizenship shall be taught, the needs of living humanity discussed and the duties we owe to the millions who will come upon the stage of action later, to make or mar the country's prosperity observed, remains to be seen.

SKETCHES OF MARSHALS. Who the Men Are Who Led the Divisions Today.

Chief Marshal McHugh was born in La Crosse, Wis., and is thirty-nine years of age. He is, as is well-known, a stone-cutter by trade, and is the general secretary of the Stonecutters' National Union, having been elected to that position for five



HERMAN KAHLERT, Master Workman, Musical Assembly, Granite Cutters' National Magazine, his articles on artistic and architectural designs for stone carving has been highly commended.

Hardly is any one connected with the labor movement in this city better known than Mr. John F. W. Whitmore. His connection with labor unions dates back to the fifties. He was a charter member of the first Carpenters' and Joiners' Union, which was organized in the District of Columbia and continued his membership until that organization disbanded.



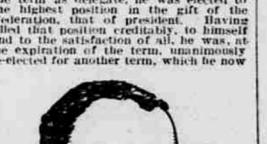
FRED BROOKS, President of the Stonecutters' Association, From that time up to 1881, when the present Carpenters' and Joiners' Union, No. 1, was instituted, he was an active member in other carpenter unions that at times sprung into existence. He is still a member of Union No. 1.



Mr. Canty is a bricklayer, having finished his trade with Mr. Ambrose Douglas. He is now twenty-five years old. He became a member of the Bricklayers' Union in 1885, and was elected its treasurer in



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Mr. Walsh is a stone carver by trade and has been connected with the Stonecutters' Union for over ten years. He filled the



WILLIAM H. WILDER, Master Workman, Pioneer Laundry Workers' Assembly, position of president of the local union in this city for three terms and has also filled the position of secretary. He represents his union in the Federation of Labor. Mr. Walsh is also an able contributor to the



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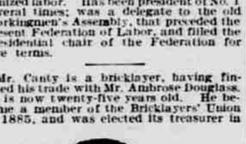
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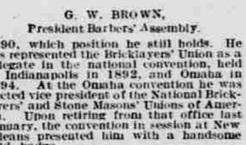
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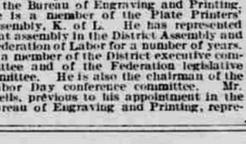
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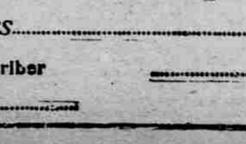
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resented the constituency of the Third Assembly district of Henselbar county, N. Y., in the New York legislature; also served as police justice for three successive terms of three years each.

Achyka, in Siberia, has a remarkable temperance society. Its members meet in church on the first day of September and swear before the altar that they will drink no wine or liquor "from to-morrow morning." They then go out and drink hard all day (ill no man or woman is left sober. For the rest of the year they are total abstainers.

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