

LABOR NEWS.

The Assistant Labor Commissioner.

Few workmen appreciate the amount of labor which is required of the Commissioner of Labor. He does not have quite as prominent an office in the State House as some of the other members of the State government, and his contingent fund is not as large. But



WALTER L. HOLCOMB.

his work counts, and a great deal of it is done in a year by two men like Labor Commissioner Johnson and his assistant, Walter L. Holcomb. Labor Commissioner Johnson has been out on the Union Pacific for two weeks collecting data on the assessed valuation of real property. He was recently in the southeastern part of the State, where he secured material to aid Attorney General Boyle's fight for the enforcement of the screen and anti-scrip law.

Mr. Holcomb is a hard worker in the office, where much of the hard work of getting gathered material in shape falls upon him. He had previous experience under Commissioner Todd and is full of valuable information regarding labor matters. He is especially an authority on prison reform.

Mr. Holcomb was born in Ripley county, Indiana, September 23, 1856, and came to Kansas in 1873. He taught school there for several years and afterward acted as Superintendent of Public Instruction of Morton county. Since 1890, when he assumed charge of a Populist paper in Butler county, he has been engaged in newspaper work, excepting the time he has been in the Labor Commissioner's office. He is married and has three boys.

BOYLE HELPS THE MINERS.

Will Vigorously Enforce the Screen and Anti-Scrip Laws.

The miners of southeast Kansas have found a fighting friend. It is L. C. Boyle, Kansas' Attorney General. In 1893 the Legislature passed a screen law, which provided that miners should have all coal brought out of the mine, which was accepted by operators weighed before it was screened. It had been the practice of the operators to accept the result of the miners' work, run the coal over a coarse screen, and then pay only for the lump coal which did not pass through. This law has been persistently violated by the operators, and the miners were robbed of the value of the coal which passed through the screen and was afterward sold. The anti-scrip law was passed by the last Legislature and was intended to prevent one of the worst swindles ever perpetrated on laboring men. The operators have stores and pay their employes in scrip or checks which are redeemable at their face value at the store only. The miner is compelled to trade there or accept a big discount on his check. If he does trade there, he is charged exorbitant prices for the necessities of life. This law provides that wages must be paid in cash or in checks or drafts on some bank. It is being violated also. County Attorney Widley, of Crawford county, who is a Populist and who is acting in concert with Attorney General Boyle, has begun a criminal action against an operator who is violating both laws. Petitions by the score, acquainting him with the facts relative to violations of these laws and asking his assistance in their enforcement, have been pouring

in to Attorney General Boyle, and he has taken the matter up. The case of the arrested operator will be tried at Girard, December 2, and Mr. Boyle will make the effort of his life to secure conviction. The operators urge that the laws are unconstitutional. This is not a new argument, though it is the favorite weapon with which corporations fight laws which are intended to diminish their power to rob the laboring man.

Local Labor Notes.

The barbers meet Monday night. Conrad Mayer's barber shop is still non-union.

E. D. Wilcox is no longer with Miller & Hammon.

Switchmen's ball at Hamilton Hall tomorrow night.

W. H. Callahan, of Barbers' No. 25 is lying at the point of death.

Pioneer Council No. 1 of the American Labor Union has over 200 members.

W. H. Low and John Pleasant, of Barber's No. 25, who have been sick, are at their chairs again.

Barber's union No. 25 has subscribed for copies of the Advocate and News for every union shop in town.

Elmer Wagner and Mrs. Linnie Barger were married Thursday morning at Lawrence by Judge Norton. They are residing at 113 West Eleventh street.

A prominent cigarmaker says that if Topeka smokers patronized home-made cigars as they should there would be sixty more men employed here in that trade. Here's a thinker for the Commercial Club.

From present indications the receipts and expenses of the Trades Assembly ball will about balance. The ball went off successfully, but the crowd was not large enough to entirely overcome the expense. Everything was done that could be done to push the ball on, except that all who had an interest in it did not take as active a part as possible in selling tickets. There was no complaint made as to the ball itself, and outside of finances everything was more than satisfactory.

European Trip Converts Madden.

W. T. Madden, of Winfield, has recently returned from a trip to England, and the Courier (Rep.) says:

He says there is quite a sentiment in England in favor of international bimetalism, but it is opposed by bankers and business men almost to a man. He studied the financial system of England carefully and believes it to be a good, very simple and easily comprehended.

The most important feature of his observations was his indorsement of the government ownership of the telegraph. He studied the plan carefully and is fully convinced that it is a success. The service there under government control is more satisfactory and cheaper by half than in this country under private ownership, and yet the government last year cleared over \$4,000,000 from the business. On account of its cheapness and the manner in which it is conducted telegraph is used much more there than here and is a great convenience to the business world.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

REAL ESTATE AGENCIES.

A. A. MAJORS, 111 E. EIGHTH AVE., CENTRAL RENTAL AGENCY. Good houses for sale or rent. Loans and Insurance Notary Public.

FOR SALE.

48 acres, 3 1/2 miles out; \$1,800; one-half cash; former price \$4,000.
80 acres, only 3 miles out, very nice; \$2,500; one-fifth cash; former price \$5,000.
40 acres, 6 miles out; \$1,800; one-half cash.
35 acres, 6 miles out; \$1,300; one-half cash.
25 acres, 6 miles out; \$600; one-half cash.
Houses and lots on payment plan. Above places all well improved.
JOHN L. HOWARD, 415 Kansas Ave.

A BIG BARGAIN.—ONE 6-HORSE POWER engine, nearly new; one 8-horse power boiler with new flues, and all the fixtures—only \$125. Address or come and see it at Ferris's Plow Works, Topeka, Kas.

WIGGINS' PISO'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

ADVANTAGES OF UNIONISM.

Some of the advantages of trades unionism are:

Protection from the selfish competition of laborers for work as individuals, which would speedily reduce wages to the subsistence point where the supply of labor exceeds the demand. This appears to be the normal state of affairs under present economic conditions.

A liberal education as to the laborer's relation to his employer and the business world, and as to where his wages come from and how and under what conditions the employer is able to pay them.

While, on the one hand, through the mingling of the counsels of the conservative family man with the foot-loose radical unreasonable demands upon labor are prevented, on the other side, servile acquiescence in injustice is unlikely.

Unionism imposes a restraint on the hoggishness of the selfish and aggressive, and cultivates self-respect in the careless and indolent.

By forcing the study of economic conditions into his own immediate affairs it makes the laborer more solicitous as to the welfare of the business in which he may be engaged, and by showing him the intertwining of his own condition with that of others it makes him a student of social ethics and a good citizen. Subjection to discipline by his organization and seeing and acknowledging the necessity for it he is tended to become law-abiding and deaf to anarchistic theories. The sick and death benefits teach him that he is, to some extent at least, his brother's keeper and cultivate in him a fraternal feeling.

The employer, knowing the union scale and that he can contract with a responsible organization for competent labor on that basis, is enabled at all times to make close and correct estimates on the cost of labor when bidding for work, and this cannot be done with unorganized labor.

In conclusion, it may be said that in a social system founded on the Christian philosophy, a trades union—being

purely selfish and of militant nature—would be as unnecessary as a militia company in heaven, but so long as the wolf of free competition is snapping at the heels of laborers struggling for existence the trades union is the only barrier between the wage-worker and slavery; and while trades unionism as it exists to-day cannot withstand criticism as to the crudeness of its methods and the ineffectiveness, in many instances, of its policies, yet it has within it the germ of a more Christian and better civilization. WM. H. MARRS.

LABOR UNIONS.

REQUEST THE



on your printing. It is a guaranty of skilled and fair-paid workmanship. The following newspaper, job and book offices in Topeka employ Union Labor and are worthy of your patronage:

- The Kansas Farmer.
- The Advocate and News.
- The Mail and Breeze.
- The Topeka Capital.
- The Topeka State Journal.
- The Kansas News.
- Crane Printing Co.
- Kansas State Printing Co.
- Hall Lithographing Co.
- The Mail Printing House.
- Adams Brothers.
- The Topeka Printing Co.
- The Gillies Printing Co.

The Union Barber Shops of Topeka are:

- Oscar Shaffer..... 819 Kansas Ave.
- Callahan & Brown..... 813 Kansas Ave.
- Sheard & Knecht..... 653 Kansas Ave.
- Nelson & Harmon..... 601 Kansas Ave.
- Thomas Davis..... 635 Kansas Ave.
- Miller, Hammon & Wilcox..... 625 Kansas Ave.
- F. A. Gutsch & Son..... 331 Kansas Ave.
- Oscar Rader..... 215 Kansas Ave.
- Whitmore Bros..... 732 Kansas Ave.
- Royal Barber Shop..... 710 Kansas Ave.
- Jeff Caldwell..... 108 E. Seventh St.
- Capital Barber Shop..... 508 Kansas Ave.
- Fifth Avenue Hotel Barber Shop..... 119 East Fifth St.
- M. C. Wright..... 1305 E. Sixth Ave.
- Joe Klee..... 408 E. Fourth Ave.
- Star Barber Shop..... 520 N. Kansas Ave.
- E. B. Wood..... 534 Kansas Ave.

What's the Advantage In Being a Union Man?

Write out your idea of the advantages of unionism in an article of not more than 500 words, and send it to the Advocate and News. The Advocate and News will pay \$5 for the best article of that character and \$2.50 for the second best, and will publish any others found worthy. Write your name and address on the first page of your article. Send it in early. Address it to the ADVOCATE AND NEWS, 111 E. Eighth Ave., Topeka.

The Palace

709 KANSAS AVE. AUERBACH & GUETTEL.

NOW'S THE TIME FOR OVERCOATS AND ULSTERS

Great stacks in our store this week. Great stacks have gone out, too—taken by people who knew where to get what they wanted at prices they wanted to pay. We have what you want—come in and get it.

Men's Fine Overcoats,

Made of genuine Royal Kersey—Black, Brown and Blue color—made with raw edges—lined with triple warp leather cloth—some with black Clay Worsted—usual prices on this quality are \$15 and \$18.

On Sale Now at..... **\$12.50**

Men's Fine All Wool Kersey Overcoats

Exquisitely lined and finished with lap seams, Mohair sleeve lining, made and cut in latest style and worth every cent of \$10.

Now on Sale at..... **\$7.50**

Men's Fine Patent Beaver Ulsters,

With largest storm collars—lined with double warp leather cloth—finely finished—indestructible sleeve linings—usual price on this fine ulster is \$14.

On Sale Now at..... **\$9.50**

Men's Irish Frieze Ulsters,

Oxford and Brown colors, lined with neat check cashmere—large storm collars—double stitched, pockets stayed—are actually \$9 ulsters in any store.

On Special Sale at..... **\$6.75**

Overcoats at \$5; Ulsters at \$4.75—Big Bargains.

We are ready for your mail orders. Prompt and perfect service is our motto.