

LABOR NEWS.

WILL FIGHT FOR MINERS.

The "Little Attorney General" in an Important Legal Battle.

Attorney General Boyle left this morning for Fort Scott, where he will represent the State in the cases before Judge Simons to compel the enforcement of the screen and anti-scrip laws in south-eastern Kansas.

These cases are more pregnant in importance as regards the right of the State to exercise its police power against encroachments on the part of trusts and large corporations than any which have yet come up, he said yesterday. "There are about 9,000 persons engaged in laboring as miners in Kansas and about 7,000 of them work underground. Their work is done for half a dozen large corporations, leaving out the question of one central trust. The State has heretofore protected the property of these large operators with its militia in times of strikes, etc., when called upon to do so. Large sums of money have been expended in this way, to say nothing of the lives which have been lost.

Now, the question comes up on the other side. There is no denial of the fact that scrip is in common use down in that country," and Mr. Boyle drew out an envelope containing non-transferrable



L. C. BOYLE, Attorney General.

scrip of the Kansas & Texas Coal Co., the Wear Coal Co., the Mt. Carmel Coal Co., and other companies operating in the southeastern part of the State. "These companies will not pay weekly wages in cash," continued Mr. Boyle. "They allege that it puts them to too much inconvenience and raise other objections. They could, however, pay by check as easily as they can issue this scrip. They will give a man an order for scrip whenever he wants it, and as run down there a man is often in debt to the company.

"They say there is no compulsion about it, but we had the greatest difficulty in getting the necessary evidence from the men, as they are in the clutch of the company. The 'pluck-me' system controls the whole district in which the mines are situated, affecting the farmers and merchants as well as the miners. The wives of miners who wish to buy goods at the stores not owned by the company are obliged to tell the storekeeper to tear off the merchant's name from the wrapping paper and often go to the store by the back way so that the company's agents may not know where they have been trading. The miners are virtually owned by the corporation.

"Now the point on which I shall make the main fight is that the police power of the State legitimately extends to the protection of these laboring men as well as to the great corporations. Their fight will be made on technical grounds, attacking the constitutionality of the laws. I am confident of success. The case will be carried to the Supreme court in any event, and it will be pushed there so that a decision may be expected from that tribunal early next summer."

Mr. Boyle says that the weight of authority is against him in this matter, but those who know his ability and energy are confident that he will secure another victory.

The owners of the building in which the Trades Assembly hall is located are contemplating substantial improvements which will benefit the hall. Ante-rooms

may be put in which will be quite an advantage.

List of Labor Conventions.

So far as they have been arranged, the conventions of national and international trade and labor unions of America will be held as follows:

American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn., December 13, 1897.

Brick Layers' and Masons' International Union, Peoria, second Monday in January, 1898.

United Mine Workers of America, Columbus, Ohio, January 11, 1898.

Carriage and Wagon Makers' International, Detroit, Mich., February 14, 1898.

International Union of Horse Shoers of United States and Canada, Detroit, May 3, 1898.

Bicycle Workers' International, Buffalo, N. Y., first Tuesday in May, 1898.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, St. Louis, Mo., second Wednesday in May, 1898.

Pattern Makers' National League of North America, St. Louis, first Monday of June, 1898.

Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders, New Orleans, La., June 14, 1898.

Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, Rochester, N. Y., June, 1898.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, New York City, September 3, 1898.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, Toronto, Canada, second Monday in September, 1898.

Local Labor Notes.

W. C. Hercules has left the Capital and is now in Kansas City.

The musicians report a substantial growth in membership last month.

The cigarmakers meet Friday night.

The Gilles Printing Co. is now in charge of the Douglass plant and is running it as a first-class print shop. N. W. Laubach, Joe Booth and W. E. Galvin are with them.

President Miller says that application for charters for barbers' unions were received from Erie, Pa., Galveston, Tex., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Cripple Creek, Col., during the last month.

The barbers will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the International Union December 6, with a literary program and dance. They are arranging for something exceptionally good.

The following typos have deposited traveling cards in Topeka Typographical Union No. 121 during November: James H. Heslet, Washington, D. C.; A. T. Grove, Colorado Springs, Col.; E. M. Heacock, Wichita.

From Pat F. O'Doherty.

Editor Advocate and News:—I am very much gratified that Topeka has a publication which will advocate the rights of the masses, for she has long needed such; and I hope you will give them the genuine article. Call a spade a spade. The capitalistic press, of course, will set up their usual howl of anarchy, socialism and treason; but never mind the yelpings of the mercenary curs—they are simply earning their filthy lucre at the expense of their honest convictions.

This is a quiet little burg, settled mostly by venturesome Johnny Bulls, and relying on tourists and invalids for sustenance. The prevailing sentiment is "English you know," and so muchly thus that in a city claiming 18,000 inhabitants only three Americans flags kissed the zephyr of independence on the glorious Fourth.

Here, at the Home, things are different; there are some seventy-six of us, and every man a patriot. If variety is the spice of life, we certainly have our full complement. Every phase of human nature is depleted here, from the would-be millionaire to the grasping, avaricious miser.

The death rate has been abnormally large during the past month, consumption carrying off the majority, who were comparatively young men. The machines are said to be a great auxiliary of consumption. Few who come here with that disease ever return to home and friends except by express. We old fellows, who only suffer from age and its consequent ills, have a comparatively good time here, the only drawback being the certainty that we are simply waiting the call of "Time" to pass in our checks and join the great majority. The hospital annex to the Home is

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.

now under cover, and will probably be ready for occupancy by Christmas. This hospital has been constructed with special reference to the needs of consumptives. It is 96x52 feet and two stories high, the capacity being apportioned as follows: First floor: dining room, sitting room, nine bed rooms, lavatory and serving room. Second floor, dining room, serving room, fourteen bedrooms and two lavatories. The bed room furniture will be of white, enameled iron, and the nurses' room will be electrically connected with all bedrooms, so that a patient unable to leave his bed has only to touch the button to command the immediate attention of the nurse. There are piazzas all around the building, the one on the southern exposure being glazed, thus protecting the invalid from undue exposure while affording ample scope for necessary exercise. The cooking will all be done in the Home kitchen and transferred to the annex via the tramway operated by water-power.

I have found many "old-timers" here. They come from all over the United States and Canada, and anchor here preparatory to the eternal "tramp," which does not appear very terrible to them, as they enjoy themselves in the usual way—"back-capping" and other amusements; and let me say, right here, that "Kicker" Cookerly nor any other professor of the art in your capital city would stand the ghost of a chance in competition with our masters par excellence. PAT F. O'DOHERTY.

What They Are Doing in Kansas City.

Kansas City unions are after the Jones Dry Goods Company for selling Armour meats. Kansas City unions generally get what they go after.

By a vote of forty-one to five, the delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Union placed themselves on record Sunday as being opposed to farther restrictions of immigration. The question was discussed for over three hours. A resolution was passed which sets forth that restriction of immigration is in direct contradiction to the progressive spirit of the age, and is a reactionary attempt to check the progressive movement of the wage earners of all countries. The resolution further held that immigration is not responsible for the present condition of wage workers, or any other country and that the industrial and commercial crisis from which this country has been suffering for several years is the result of certain economic conditions which may in the near future cause a new and more serious industrial and commercial crisis regardless of immigration.

The Plumbers' Trust in Trouble.

A suit has been filed in the Shawnee county District court in which it is alleged by Durkin & Leahy, of Topeka, that a plumbers' trust is in existence in Kansas and that non-members are unable to procure goods with which to conduct their business. Letters from wholesale supply houses are submitted in which it is shown that the trust is so powerful that dealers cannot afford to sell goods to any one but members, and that the trust forces them to do as it directs. The suit is for \$25,000 damages and attorney's fees.

The plaintiffs attempted to engage in the plumbing business in Topeka but were prevented from doing so by the refusal of supply houses, at the dictation of the combine, to sell goods to them. The case will be tried in January.

Assessment and Taxation.

Labor Commissioner Johnson has been securing some interesting figures for his report on assessment and taxation. He has returned from his trip over the Union Pacific. His figures, when ready for publication, will show that the poor man gets hit hardest. They will set forth the facts that property the cash

cash value of which is under \$500 is assessed at about 80 per cent. of its true value; that on property ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 in value, the assessment is about 50 per cent.; from \$1,000 to \$2,000, about 40 per cent.; from \$2,000 to \$5,000, about 30 per cent.; from \$5,000 to \$10,000, about 20 per cent. As the value of property increases the per cent. of assessment decreases, until big manufacturing plants, worth from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000, are assessed at less than 3 per cent. of their true value.

Mr. Johnson will call the attention of the Legislature to the inequality of the present law on assessment and taxation, with a view to having it pass an equitable one at the next session.

Passengers arriving at Chicago by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway can, by the new Union Elevated Loop, reach any part of the city, or for a 5-cent fare can be taken immediately to any of the large stores in the down-town district. A train will stop at the Rock Island station every minute. These facilities can only be offered by the "Great Rock Island Route." Address JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A., Chicago.

Until further notification Breidenthal scrip will continue to be equal to the emergency at this office.

LABOR UNIONS.

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