LABOR NOTES

A HOLY NATION.

Let Liberty run onward with the years,
And circle with the seasons; let her break
The tyrant's harshness, the oppressor's spears;
Bring ripened recompenses that shall make
Supreme amends for sorrow's long arrears;
Drop holy benison on hearts that ache;
Put clearer radiance into human eyes,
And set the glad earth singing to the skies.

Clean natures coin pure statutes. Let us cleanse
The hearts that beat within us; let us mow
Clear to the roots our falseness and pretense,
Tread down our rank ambitions, overthrow
Our braggart moods of puffed self-consequence,
Plow up our hideous thistles which do grow
Faster than maize in May time, and strike dead
The base infections our low greeds have bred.

GAINS MADE BY LABOR

In the current issue of the American Federationist, the official organ of the country, a brief resume is given of the work of each of the past twenty-one conventions of the American Federation of Labor. It shows a continuous growth since the first convention was held in Pittsburg, Nov. 15, 1881. At that convention the name "Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada" was chosen. This was changed at the Columbus convention, in 1886, to the present title, the American Federation of Labor. The resume is good reading for the student of the labor movement. It shows the obstacles that have been surmounted in the onward march of labor for the amelioration of the conditions of the worker. Many measures advocated by the federation in its early days have long since become laws, and to those who fret at the apparent slow progress being made, it should be a source of encouragement. All great movements must necessarily move slowly, but when the delegates to the twenty-second annual convention assembled at New Orleans Nov. 13, and looked back over the progress made in twenty years, they could say truly that their efforts have not been in vain. The eight-hour bill, the anti-injunction bill, and the prison-labor bill have not yet passed Congress, but they will by persistent and intelligent agitation.

RAILROAD TRAINMEN OFFICIAL

William G. Lee, first grand master of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, has been a member of the order since 1889. Previous to his election to the present office in 1895 he had been a delegate to several conventions of the trainmen. At the time of his election Mr. Lee was a conductor on the Union Pacific railroad, has been re-elected at all subsequent meetings, and since taking on the duties of first assistant to Grand Chief Morrissey has been instrumental in making the wage scales on nearly all western lines.

William G. Lee.

6,300,000 French Women at a Work.

More than 6,300,000 French women work for their living. Most of these outside workers (more than 2,700,000) are employed in forestry or agriculture, including women land owners. Industrial occupations claim nearly 2,000,000 more, the cloister 120,000, the theater about 12,000 and the liberal professions 138,469.

ORGANIZATION OF EMPLOYERS

Employers of labor in Toronto, Canada, have formed an association for the protection of their interests. The objects of the association as set forth by the by-laws are briefly as follows: "To protect the members in their rights to manage their own business in such lawful manner as they may deem proper; the investigation and adjustment of any difficulties arising between any of the members and their employes; the adoption of a uniform, legitimate system whereby members may ascertain who is, and who is not, worthy of employment; to endeavor to make it possible for any person to obtain employment without being compelled to join a labor organization, and to encourage such persons to resist this compulsory method of organized labor; to protect its members in such manner as deemed expedient against legislative, municipal, and political encroachment on their rights." Any one employing five workers is eligible to membership.

I admire the fellow who succeeds in borrowing all that he wants. He has the nerve that converts itself into hard cash.

AN IMPORTANT VICTORY

Another important victory for organized labor has been won through arbitration. It is the advance in wages and improved conditions secured by the street car employes in their controversy with the Union Traction company. The men have won a substantial advance in wages solely through their organization, and their future course will be watched by union men with interest. It has frequently happened in the past that a union was organized for a specific purpose, and when that purpose was accomplished it was allowed to drop. If the street car men are awake to their own interests they will stand by their union more firmly than ever before, as, although their wages have been fixed for the next eighteen months, unless they have a good organization at the end of that time they may be unable to maintain the conditions just secured.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Women worship money, but the man who stands for it gathers the foggy incense to himself and smiles a self-satisfied, hard cash smile.

HOPE FOR NINE-HOUR DAY

Through conciliation and a mutual agreement with employers, the iron molders hope to establish a national nine-hour day by Jan. 1 next. The movement was started in St. Louis on July 1, when an agreement was made for the iron molders of that city.

The national convention of the iron molders held at Toronto last July approved the plan adopted at St. Louis, and instructed local officers when making agreements to make every effort to have inserted a nine-hour clause. A number of local agreements have been entered into for a period extending several months beyond the time limit set for the inauguration of the nine-hour work day, but all of them have a provision that the agreement will be no obstacle in the way, if the movement is taken up nationally.

FEW UNEMPLOYED.

In the American Federationist the statement is made that of the 1,402 unions making returns of the state of employment for the month of August with an aggregate membership of 96,597, there was 1.5 per cent without employment. In July 793 unions with a total membership of 51,799 reported 2.2 unemployed.

If the average man could only sell the advice he gives away it would keep him busy looking after his income.

A. F. of L. REPORT.

The secretary of the American Federation of Labor reports that the increase in membership during the past four months has exceeded 200,000. It has 900 volunteer organizers throughout the country and thirty salaried organizers. Affiliated national unions have a total of 240 paid organizers in the field.

If a man knew what his acquaintances really thought of him he would go away somewhere and do the hermit act.

NOT TO SUE LABOR CHIEFS

It is learned that a compromise has been reached between John Haddow and William Webber, two union labor organizers, and the receivers of the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke company of Roanoke, Va., and that the contempt against Haddow and Webber in the federal courts, which has been continued until next May, may never come to trial.

Old Chester Cathedral

Early Church Architecture of Surprising Beauty Seen in the "Quaintest Walled City in England"—Built Centuries Ago.

(Special Correspondence.)

THERE are very few travelers arriving at Liverpool but leave that commercial city at the very first opportunity and hasten to quiet, unassuming Chester, the "quaintest old walled city in England." In this old Cestrian capital, although over 1800 years have passed since Julius Agricola and his legions held sway, scarce a year passes but something of great value pertaining to this people is unearthed. The chief of these discoveries are the hypocausts, "the father of all scientific heating apparati." They were expensive to build and keep up, and indicate homes of luxury.

The walls of Chester, the only perfect specimen of ancient fortification in the kingdom, were built by Marius, king of Britain, who reigned 73 A. D., but Ethelfleda, about the year 908 A. D., greatly repaired and enlarged this city and repaired the walls, so that now but few portions of the original Roman walls exist, although there is no doubt the present walls stand on the original foundations.

They are built of freestone, and afford a continuous promenade of nearly two miles about the city—the old city, for the city is now so enlarged that it extends far outside the walls. In height they vary, but the average of the width is five feet, protected on the outside by a strong stone parapet, while on the inside there is a wood and iron railing.

The view from the walls is extensive and impressive. Unfortunately the ancient gateways have been abolished and modern ones erected in their stead.

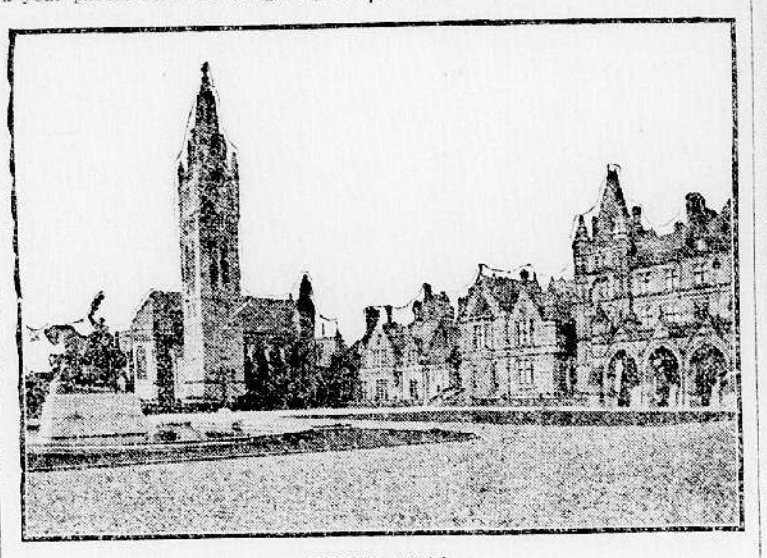
Commencing a walk of the walls at the east gate, formerly the eastern boundary of old Chester, but nearly the central point of Chester of the present day, and proceeding northward, the venerable cathedral attracts attention. It is from this point that it is seen at its best. Its site is stated to have been occupied by a temple dedicated to Apollo during the time that the city was inhabited by the Roman legionaries.

The Chester cathedral is a large, irregular pile of buildings, erected at different periods from the 11th to the 16th centuries, showing surprisingly pleasing transitions in styles of architecture. Its general style may be called Norman-Gothic. The Norman remains are extremely fine. The most ancient parts of the cathedral appear to be the north transept, the north wall of the ante-choir, part of the east cloister and the chapel house. The choir is exceptionally beautiful. The altar-piece is of highly wrought tapestry. The subject, "Elymas, the Sorcerer, Stricken Blind," is from the celebrated cartoon of Raphael. The cloisters are in the north side of the church, and form a quadrangle 110 feet square. Originally there were four walks, but the south walk is now destroyed.

The western entrance stands preeminent in architectural dignity, and is said to have been the work of Abbot Ripley, who was appointed in 1485.

Continuing the walk on the walls, the next attraction which greets the eye is the Phoenix tower, formerly used as a chamber for business by some of the city guilds, whose arms were placed upon it. Of these only the phoenix, the crest of the Painters and Stationers' Company, put up in 1613, remains. From this tower Charles I. was a spectator of the defeat of his army on Rowton moor Sept. 24, 1645.

We now proceed to the water tower, an ancient fortress. Formerly the Dee flowed under this part of the walls, and the tower was used to repel the maritime foes.



EATON HALL.

Leaving the water tower we come to Water gate, between which and the Dee (which at high tide flowed up to its fort) is now an extensive flat called the Roodee, which in olden times was the Champs de Mars, where athletic contests were held. It is now the Chester race course, races being held there twice a year.

Farther along on the left is the Grosvenor bridge, with its far-famed arch, one of the widest arches of masonry in the world.

At our left within the walls are the castle, of which Caesar's tower is all that remains of the original, and the armory, which has a fine display of arms.

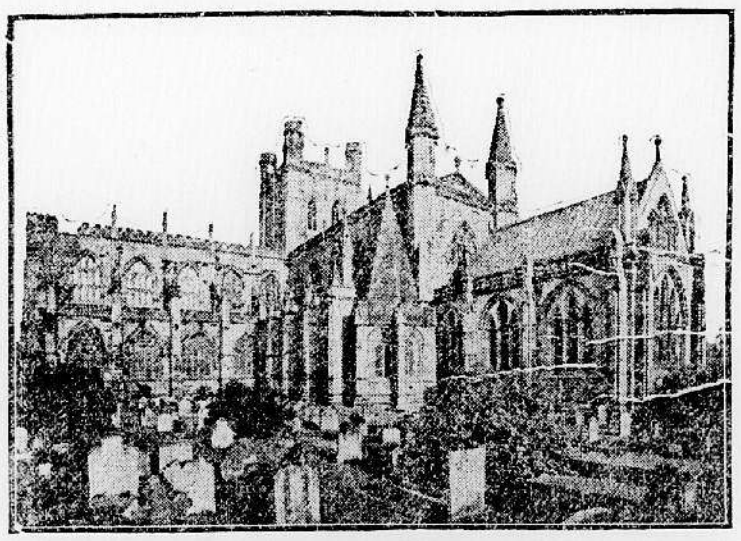
We next arrive at Bridge gate. At the southward is seen the old bridge, which is of considerable antiquity. The suspension bridge, seen a little farther up the river, is only for the use of foot passengers, and was erected about 40 years ago.

New gate, on the site of which once stood a postern called Pepper gate, is now reached. The postern was removed and the new gate erected in 1608.

Now we are back again at East gate, and but a short distance from the hotel. After lunch we start for the Rows. Chester is laid out upon lines of the greatest simplicity, with four principal streets, which retain many old timber buildings, which give them an unusual and quaint appearance, intersecting each other nearly at right angles.

A building on Watergate street (which is not at all to be slighted) bears the date 1652, and on the lower beam the following: "God's Providence in Mine Inheritance," as a grateful memorial for a deliverance from the plague, which visited nearly every other house on the street.

Before leaving Chester we must not fail to visit St. John's church and priory, the foundations of which are said to have been laid in 689. The story goes that Ethelred, King of Mercia, "minding to build a church, was told that when he should see a white hind there he should build a church, which white hind he saw in the place where St. John's church standeth." In remembrance of this his picture, with a white hind in his hand, was placed in the church, and can be seen now, although in a state of decay.



CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

The church is on an elevation overhanging the north banks of the Dee, and but a short distance without the city walls. Although now much ruined, it retains much of its grandeur.

Population of Japan.

From the latest returns the total population of Japan is 46,444,524.

Where Wives Are in Demand

"I CLEARED $4,000 on the season," said the old manager, "but the game is too strenuous for me. At Golden Gulch, Cal., I narrowly escaped lynching; at Dead Horse, Mont., I was chased for two miles by six infuriated miners, while my first bass and my tenor held the prima donna of the company so that she couldn't jump out of the window of the hack; at Black Mountain, Wyo., I stole a bride from the office of a justice of the peace just as that official was about to begin the marriage ceremony, and all through the western mining country I left behind me the reputation of being a cruel, brutal, savage slave driver.

"Allow Me to Present My Husband."

"I started out from 'Frisco last season with an opera company of twenty-six people, twenty of them being young women. I took particular pains to pick out good looking chorus girls, because we were going up into the mountains where operas had never been sung before, and I wanted to make a good impression. Our route lay up along the Pacific coast to Portland, and then over east through Montana and Wyoming, and down the Missouri river. Most of our dates were one-night stands.

"The third night out one of the leaders of the chorus did not appear for the performance. She was a pretty blond girl and one of the best singers in the company. I was just about to start out a searching party when she came into the theater accompanied by a large man in a blue flannel shirt and a big black mustache.

"'Mr. Goodwell,' she said, 'allow me to present my husband, Mr. "Tom" Parker. We were married an hour ago.'

"'But how about my contract?' I asked. 'You're bound to sing for me for twenty weeks, and I can't let you leave me in the lurch this way.'

"'Say, party,' the happy bridegroom broke in, 'if you've got any fault to find with my wife, why, I'm here to answer for it, see?'

"I hastened to assure the gentleman that not for the world would I venture to criticise his blushing bride. In fact, I went so far as to congratulate them both, and in the conversation which followed I began to get an idea of what was ahead of me.

"'Three of the other girls are engaged,' said the bride. 'They're going to be married right after the performance is over.'

"I called in the tenor, the first bass, and the basso profundo and laid the case before them.

The Girls Wore Heavy Veils.

"'If this thing keeps on,' I said, 'there won't be anybody but us men left in the company by the time we're out three weeks. We've got to do something, and do it quick.'

"We got three hacks—all there were in the town—and lined them up outside the stage door, and when the last act of 'The Mikado' was half through we called the roll and packed the women of the company in them one man going with each hack to see that nobody escaped. In that way we managed to get out of that town with only a single wedding to our credit. But evidently the news of our coming had been passed along the line, for when we reached the next place on our list the station was crowded with mining magnates and other prominent citizens. By way of precaution I made the girls all wear heavy veils, but that only served to stimulate curiosity.

"We got in at noon, and right after dinner the mayor sent a written proposal of marriage up to the prima donna of the company, accompanied by documentary proof of his good financial and social standing, and, after a conference, his proposal was accepted. I heard of it just in time, and, knowing full well that if our leading songbird left us we might as well close our season, I resolved on desperate measures. The girl herself refused to listen to reason. She liked the mayor and he liked her; she might never get such a chance again and she was going to take it.

"The basso, the tenor, and I resolved to kidnap her. After she had sung her last solo a note was sent back to her asking her to come outside the stage door for a moment. She came, expecting to see the mayor. Instead, we were in waiting, and, without wasting time on explanations, we threw her into a waiting hack and started away down the trail for the railroad station, which was fortunately two miles away on the side of the mountain. Before we could get the door closed on the young woman she had uttered a shrill scream, which called most of the audience out to see what was the matter. The mayor and the city marshal were at the head of the crowd, and they made it their first business to investigate and discover that the promised bride of the former was missing. Fortunately, we had a good start, and, fortunately also, the train started soon after we reached the station. With the assistance of the trainmen we managed to stand off the mayor and the two or three who had followed him until the rest of the company got on board. Then we pulled out for the next town, to practically repeat there the experience we had had.

"The men who live in all these mining towns are splendid patrons of a good show. They pay $1.50 or $2 for a seat quite as readily as does the theatergoer of Chicago or New York. But in most of the towns a fairly good looking woman is a rare and precious sight, and the twenty stage fairies I had picked out won their hearts. At one camp in Wyoming the leading contralto started to marry a local magnate and had get as far as the office of a justice of the peace when the first and second tenors 'stood off' the bridegroom, the justice and the witnesses at the point of revolvers, while the other masculine singers and myself kidnaped the contralto and carried her off, screaming and kicking, to a waiting wagon.

We Stood Off The Justice.

"Several times we had a number of Indians in our audiences. They would come in from the reservations with plenty of money, and nothing but the best seats in the house would satisfy them. At one place, I remember, a drunken Blackfoot got so excited that he drew his revolver, cocked it, and started for the stage to put an end to the miserable career of the heavy villain with the deep bass voice. Fortunately, most of the audience were used to 'gun plays' and they put the Indian to sleep before he did any damage.

"That western country is a great field for a theatrical man, but he wants to make sure, before he starts, that the women of his company are hideously homely."—H. M. H. in Chicago Tribune.

President's Pleading Effective.

Had it not been for President Roosevelt's intervention the Harvard football eleven would this year have lost the services of its brilliant captain and half back, "Bob" Kernan. Last spring, the young man's father, who resides in Brooklyn, informed him that he had played football long enough and it was now time to go to work. Even when Bob was elected captain the old gentleman remained obdurate, though the university football authorities pleaded for one more season. Then some one suggested that Mr. Roosevelt, an alumnus of Harvard, be asked to interpose his good offices. This was done and the president wrote to Mr. Kernan, senior, on the subject, whereupon the latter withdrew his objections and "Bob" remained on the team.