

FROM SHOP AND MILL.

Nine Thousand Men Affected by Strike of Men Employed by the Gould Southwestern System.

Important Information Gathered and Compiled by the Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly.

A Hard Case of a Cooperator Company—A Brawl at the Triple of Co-Operation.

Church and Societies—Notes From all Around the State—Twin City Shops.

THE SOUTHWESTERN STRIKE. Nine Thousand Shopmen Said to be Affected.

St. Louis, March 6.—A special from Sedalia, Mo., to the Post-Dispatch, says: The order for the general strike upon the Gould Southwestern system reached that place at 10:30 this morning and every man in the Missouri Pacific shops put up his tools and walked out. The employees here number about 700. The men are determined to support the end of the demand of the Texas strikers. Everything quiet and no trouble of a violent nature is anticipated. The trains are running on time and no effort has been made to interfere with them, except the carrying out of the boycott insisted against the Texas Pacific cars, which are said to be soon as they reach this place. The trouble with the Missouri Pacific railroad has extended to Little Rock. This morning all the workmen in the St. Louis & Iron Mountain railroad machine shops, over 300 in all, stopped work, and business is at a standstill. The men are quiet and good order prevails. The officers of the Missouri Pacific in New York say that Jay Gould is not in the city and that the news of the strike has not been communicated to them officially. The St. Louis Knights of Labor struck at Little Rock. Over 9,000 men are affected. The trouble said to have arisen from the action of the Texas Pacific officials in discharging the foreman of the shops at Marshall, Tex., for actively engaging in organizing the Knights of Labor in that place. The general strike applies only to shopmen, all trainmen being at work.

AT ST. LOUIS. St. Louis, March 6.—Direct application by an Associated Press reporter to the high officials of the Missouri Pacific system has elicited the following information in regard to the strike, its cause or its present aspect. Neither Vice President Hoxie, General Superintendent Kerrigan nor Traffic Manager Newman would talk. The few leaders of the Knights of Labor, who are here, are also quite reticent. It will therefore be seen that information can be obtained only under extreme difficulties.

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necessitate, would bankrupt any street railway company in Baltimore. The men have a sympathy for the entire community in their movement and meetings are held in high prominent and influential citizens, including ministers of the Gospel, participate for the purpose of urging the company to reduce the hours of labor required by the men. The drivers and conductors have been for the past week organizing as an assembly of the Knights of Labor, and are known as the Midnight assembly, with a membership of 1,000. The men will use every endeavor to settle the difficulty without resorting to a strike.

Engineers on a Strike. NEW YORK, March 6.—The strike of engineers of the New York Steam Heating company continues. This morning the coal bins were nearly empty and the company sent word to the United States officers and the postoffice that they could not perform their contract to furnish heat to the various departments, unless perfect protection was offered by the authorities. He was referred to Superintendent Murray, who ordered Capt. Eastman and Bergholt to furnish all the necessary police to the company had five boat loads of coal at pier 3, North river, which longshoremen refused to handle. The police were placed along the route from the dock to the company's structure and a steady stream of coal was employed to handle and cart the coal. The Brotherhood of Engineers has issued orders, it is understood, that no member shall haul coal for the steam heating company.

A Strike at Reading. READING, Pa., March 6.—All the blacksmiths and their helpers employed in the Philadelphia & Reading car shops in this city have struck. The strike is owing to an order issued by Supt. Rankin, that all stay-bars for coal cars shall hereafter be bent by contract, for which the men should be paid at the rate of \$3.25 per 100 bars. The men claimed that they were making 42 cents per hundred bars, and that they could not afford to work under these conditions. Several hundred men are affected by the strike.

A Bill Called. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 6.—The secretary of the national executive board of the Knights of Labor has directed state organizers to quit organizing for forty days in the city of Philadelphia. Applications for charters have been coming in at the astonishing rate of fifty per day and the secretary is nearly swamped in business. He is now endeavoring to get the present healthy process and rightly thinks that it would be for the good of the order to halt and educate and secure the new legions.

A Strike at South Bend. SOUTH BEND, Ind., March 6.—About 1,000 men employed in the Studebaker carriage works laid down their tools and quit work at 2 o'clock this afternoon. They had asked for an increase in wages two weeks ago, and as it was not granted, all marched quietly to the Knights of Labor hall, where they went into secret session.

Report of the Statistician of the Minneapolis Assembly. On Aug. 7 the Trades and Labor assembly of Minneapolis had printed and distributed 500 circulars of inquiry among the working people of the city, asking the condition of the different trades, the rate of wages paid, average number of months' work during the year, average number of men employed, etc. From the replies received to this circular, John Laub, the painstaking statistician of the assembly, has made up the following valuable report, which was submitted at the meeting of the assembly Friday night:

In a number of the trades a sufficient number of answers were not received to determine with any degree of accuracy the condition of the trade. The laborers, carpenters, boiler-makers and stonecutters, however, have sent reports full enough to give some idea of the condition of their trades.

In answer to the question, "Is your labor sufficient to obtain for yourself and family a regular supply of wholesome food, suitable clothing, shelter, etc.?" 37 reports in the affirmative, 13 in the negative. The majority of the favorable reports on the question comes from the organized trades, a significant fact in favor of organization. In fact the general average of the reports is raised by the unorganized trades, and the hopeful answers that come from the members of trades that are organized.

Eighteen complain of abuses at the hands of employers and foremen. Only three out of eighty have freedom from the hands of the master. The report shows in a striking manner the condition of affairs that has been reached under the wage system in this city. Evidently a vast majority of the workmen are housed, or in debt, in debt, report their children in attendance at school, and two report they are not. This is the best feature of the report and speaks well for the public school system. The report goes on: Twenty report circumstances giving better, 19 report them about the same, 10 report them worse. The take labor papers, 51 do not. This showing is not creditable. Aside from the educational influence of these papers every sentiment of justice and gratitude requires that we should sustain the men who stand at the front and fight our battles; who are craves if we do not.

A great variety of opinions are expressed as to the measures which would be of most benefit to labor. A majority, however, agree that permanent means of relief, and that the best means of reaching this is by agitation, education and organization. The political idea is also advanced, but it is not the dominant one. In closing this report I desire to make a few remarks. An attempt, however weak, by the labor organizations of the city to do what the state in its blind devotion to mere business interest

HAS NEGLECTED TO DO. In the mad desire to make the product of the laborer's work the worker himself has been entirely forgotten. The report must necessarily be imperfect owing to the limited facilities for obtaining information, workmen as a rule do not contribute to the local organizations. The only way in which a thorough knowledge of their condition can be obtained is by verbal inquiry and actual inspection of the circumstances under which they work and live. To do this is evidently beyond the power of the present organizations. In the case of laborers' work earnings, about \$300 per year, want is the general condition. Undoubtedly these men are sinking to the lowest point at which existence is barely maintained.

Families and the law of wages is here reaching its final development; the reduction of the laboring classes to the condition of wandering outcasts, the destruction of the working season at good wages, and social forces which must inevitably breed turmoil and anarchy.

In none of the reports does there seem to be any exaggeration. There is no attempt to make matters seem either better or worse than they really are.

Those who have permanent employment invariably express themselves able to live even when the wages run as low as \$3.25 per hundred bars. They are fortunate, and do not work more than three months in the year. It is needless to say that these men report themselves lacking the necessities of life.

Some GENERAL FACTS. First.—That the organized trades are the most prosperous. Second.—That whether people are willing to educate themselves or not, they are at least willing to educate their children. Third.—That the wages of the class of Minneapolis are not to any great extent its property owners.

Fourth.—That labor papers and publications are not supported as they ought to be. Fifth.—That the pay of unskilled labor has reached a point where it is no longer possible to support families, not to speak of giving them a living.

Sixth.—That it is possible to ascertain the exact condition of labor everywhere if the facilities could be had that are desired. Seventh.—That there is no better chance for labor in this city than anywhere else throughout the country, and that it is useless for men to come here in hopes of improving their condition by the change.

A HARD CASE. Unfortunate Position of a Minneapolis Cooperator Company. To the Editor of the Globe: The Northwestern Miller of March 5 tells us that "a good deal of trouble has been occasioned the past week by the action of the Hardwood Storage company in dismissing some of its men on Tuesday because they would not agree to stand by the company until contracts taken last fall had expired." But the men say that the excuse for not keeping is that they cannot earn a sufficient amount of wages paid by Mr. Reeve to sustain their families, and that they "do not care to bind themselves to work any length of time under the conditions exacted for them. But Mr. Reeve pleads that they are not to do so, and we have lost money in keeping our side of the agreement."

A hard case, truly! Poor Mr. Reeve and his company have lost money, and are, perhaps, embarrassed thereby and liable to a discharge from the city. The men, however, shall they be permitted to suffer to save the manager and his company? This hard case is easily solved. Mr. Reeve says "Go, you promise breakers. So far as I am concerned your families shall suffer."

of five was appointed to act with a similar committee from the St. Paul Trades and Labor assembly in an investigation as to whether the second penitentiary should be run upon a reformatory plan in order to serve the interests of honest labor. The Statistician's report was listened to and other business of a routine nature transacted.

LABOR MEETINGS. Typographical union meets to-day. The workmen of the Third ward meet Saturday evening at Hunt's hall to nominate a candidate for alderman. The stonecutters employed on the post-office building contract charge the Minnesota Stone company with reducing their wages to a point below that paid to apprentices, or \$16 for eight days and a half. They claim that they get only 40 cents here for what brings 65 cents in St. Cloud and other points where stone work is now performed.

A well-attended meeting of the Plasterers' Protective union was held at the rooms of the union on Friday evening. A resolution was passed to the effect that the union should join the Knights of Labor, a meeting to further consider the matter being appointed. A resolution was also passed regulating wages, the new scale of prices to take effect April 1.

MINNEAPOLIS RED-NEEDS. The Trades and Labor assembly has taken a wise step in appointing a committee to make a thorough investigation of the convict-labor question and the exact status of the establishment of the second penitentiary, also the system which will reduce the competition of convicts with honest labor as well as the effect of the convict-labor system upon the penitentiary to be reformed as well as punishing criminals. Too much has already been said upon the subject in its various phases by men who were not well enough acquainted with the facts pertaining thereto to either speak or act advisedly.

John Lamb, the trades and labor statistician, has contributed a valuable document showing the effect of the different trades. It is a matter of regret, however, that so many workmen who received circulars of inquiry were too indifferent to their own interests to take the trouble of replying and thereby affording a more reliable basis for the report. Those who are endeavoring to correct the many evils and abuses from which the wage-workers are suffering.

The street railway company has indicated a willingness to make reasonable demands for the improvement of the condition of the drivers. If this reasonable spirit is maintained on both sides there is no doubt but that the grievances of the men can be righted, in a measure at least. "Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink." Plenty all around us, and yet multitudes of faithful, strong, temperate men with families are suffering. What is the remedy? CHOKER.

A BUSINESS QUESTION. How the Masses Can Work Out Another Principle of Co-operation. To the Editor of the Globe: Business men of integrity wish to build on solid foundations. Men who take contracts want to know what will be the cost of material and labor before they sign papers. The time is almost here when all uncertainty will be done away with, so far as labor is concerned. The chaotic condition of the labor market will soon cease. The laboring units are rapidly becoming one great unit of the numerical order called millions. They will negotiate as such, and business men will know that the contingencies of the labor market have been removed. Let us hope that the men who are equal in strength, and both equally necessary to each other, equitable arrangements will be the order of the day.

As it is now, a just, large-hearted contractor must be on the lookout lest competitors will be small-time speculators, and away with his job, by hiring portions of the laboring mass at less than the usual rates. He can make calculations on no solid basis, as he may be called on to raise wages in the next week. But if the trades become masters of their own occupations they will make terms for a whole year or for a whole job and adhere to them. The steel and iron workers and the glass blowers do so now.

Let us hope that the necessities of business are to be lessened almost to extinction, and thus give honest men a good show. The prizes may not be glittering, but the certainty of fair reward is better than the most brilliant uncertainty, and far more attractive to the masses.

If I am right in the above statement we have no occasion for alarm at the rapid massing and drilling now going on among the heretofore discordant and competitive units of the sons of toil. It is in my opinion a grand opportunity, and one in which the world will have occasion to rejoice. X. MINNEAPOLIS MARCH 6.

An Important Meeting of the Trades and Labor Assembly. The Trades and Labor Assembly Friday evening was very largely attended. The committee appointed to arbitrate the difficulty between Typographical union and Johnson, Smith & Harrison, job printers, reported that an amicable and satisfactory adjustment has probably been made. The assembly decided to await action of Typographical union, which meets to-day, so the report was laid on the table for one day. The committee will be brought up before that body at its next meeting.

George A. Lafayette, of the committee from the St. Paul Trades and Labor assembly, moving the necessity of united action between the assemblies of the two cities in regard to the other matters of mutual interest. Delegate Swift thought that if convict labor continues that all working men will soon be reduced to a state of starvation. The Trades and Labor assembly, which was received with applause, and the boycott was withdrawn from his goods. The following standing committees were appointed to serve during the ensuing year: Executive—Delegates McVale, Duerrert and Wise. Organization—Delegates Morgan, McVale, McGibb and Pare. Complaints—Delegates William McGaughy, McCormick and Jennings. Entertainment—Delegates Hays, Dewar and Wall. Publication—Delegates Dewar, Sibson and Patterson. Practical Suggestions—Delegates Lamb, Higley, McCormick and Sexton. Inspection of Officers—Delegates Esler, Swift and Gibson. Co-operative Industries—Delegates Lambert, Hoop and Willard.

The convict labor question was discussed at length at the Trades and Labor assembly. The houses are being furnished with hardware coming from the state prisons. The committee on organization was instructed to confer with the Minneapolis Sash and Door Manufacturers' association. A committee

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will build an elevator with a capacity of at least 1,000,000 bushels, and possibly 3,500,000. Several of our head millers have formed a fishing club, electing James W. Tamm, president; (Geo. Baker, treasurer. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday.

The Northwestern mill starts up this week and will be operated by the Zenith. The Operative millers cleared about \$10 by their dancing party. The Operative Miller's association meets to-day. The water-pool is now a dead letter.

THE CHURCH AND SOCIETIES. As Spoken of by Bishop Ireland in a Recent Sermon. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Ireland preached a sermon at the cathedral last Sunday on the Attitude of the Church Toward Secret Societies, which was of especial interest in view of the recent agitation of the question, and which contained no intimation that he viewed the Knights of Labor as an organized obnoxious to the church. He said that it had always been the aim of the various sects, just as to all classes, rich and poor alike. Bishop Ireland showed that societies were of various kinds. In fact, the whole human race was one great society and without societies we would not be able to exist. The church itself was a grand society, the highest, the noblest, and in a measure a secret society; and so long as these societies were organized for good and legitimate purposes, and did not transgress the great principles of morality, the fact of their being secret societies was not particularly objectionable to the church. There was unfortunately a tendency on the part of some societies to transgress the laws of the church; to accept the natural for the supernatural; to usurp the authority of the church; to engage in secret societies, to do by their lawless rulers; to place men under unknown leadership and make them swear or enter into contract to follow them; to recognize the authority of ministers of the church; to compel men to join their ranks, whether they thought such a step prudent or not, and thereby infringe upon individual liberty. He would divide societies into four classes, namely, secret societies, those composed wholly of Catholics and recognized and encouraged by the church; in fact under the immediate direction of the church. Secret societies which the church recognizes, third, those societies which are secret, but which are not recognized by the church; and fourth, suspicious societies, societies of which the church knew but little. Of the latter societies he would advise Catholics to guard against; that while he would not condemn them, he would advise Catholics to guard against them, and to be on their guard against their own consciences and judge for themselves.

ST. PAUL TIME. The capitalist says, "Am I going to let somebody else tell me how long to run my mills?" The intelligent laborer now says, "I am going to let somebody else tell me how long to let my God-given strength and brains?"

There is every promise that the movement just begun by the organized labor of the state against the trusts will be successful. With the Trades assemblies, the Knights and other organizations, the farmers and the politicians, who seek their favor, united for its suppression, it is bound to go to the next legislative session. There is encouragement in the recent success of the similar move of the Knights of Labor of Illinois, who created such a popular sentiment against prison labor in that state that no one could be found to bid for it this year. THE TIMEKEEPER.

Resolutions of Thanks. The committee from the Trades assembly has passed the following resolutions as to the recent boycott of the cigar manufacturing firms in St. Paul: Whereas, Much has been done by the various labor societies of the city and the Trades assembly and the cigar makers in furthering their claims for proper recognition of their rights, and the interests of workmen at large. Resolved, That in behalf of organized labor we hereby express our appreciation of the fact that they have justly recognized the demands of Mr. Henry Grunhauser; and that inasmuch as Mr. Grunhauser has acceded to the demands of the cigar makers in what is just and fair and in harmony with the interests of labor at large, all that labor societies of the city do hereby request to return their patronage to him. BOYCOTT COMMITTEE.

A Knight on Human Liberty. To the Editor of the Globe: In reading the GLOBE of the 3d inst., I see that the Champion's paper, of Springfield, Ohio, have discharged several hundred of their employes for belonging to the Knights of Labor. They say they were compelled to do so for the cause of human liberty. What lovers of human liberty are we? Are we to strive to preserve what to the workman? They would take away your liberty to act as freemen. Is it not a privilege of every man to protect his interests? Is he not at liberty to join the Knights of Labor to protect himself against the demands of such champions of liberty as the Champion Reaper company of Springfield, Ohio. Let us try the same thing that capitalists have done. They unite for mutual protection, determining what is to be compensation for their services, and then make such demands as suits them. The papers are full of the proceedings of meetings of railroad officials, manufacturers, cattle kings, etc. Why are these conventions held and the champion's paper of Springfield, Ohio, have discharged several hundred of their employes for belonging to the Knights of Labor. They say they were compelled to do so for the cause of human liberty. What lovers of human liberty are we? Are we to strive to preserve what to the workman? They would take away your liberty to act as freemen. Is it not a privilege of every man to protect his interests? Is he not at liberty to join the Knights of Labor to protect himself against the demands of such champions of liberty as the Champion Reaper company of Springfield, Ohio. Let us try the same thing that capitalists have done. They unite for mutual protection, determining what is to be compensation for their services, and then make such demands as suits them. 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