

THE WORLD OF LABOR.

INTERNATIONAL.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.—The strike of the coal miners in the Charleroi district was revived unexpectedly. In sympathy with the men of the Borinage district, hundreds returned to work this morning. Shortly before 3 o'clock, however, men began to leave the pits. More than 25,000 men are out, and the number is likely to be increased. In several towns there was some disturbances and troops have been sent from the large garrisons.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.

PROTEST AGAINST TROOPS.—Several thousand people attended a meeting held upon the green here at which the authorities were denounced for sending troops into the mining districts, and for killing men who were only, it is claimed, trying to obtain what was justly due them. Among the crowd were men carrying banners upon which caps of liberty were perched. Mr. Matto, one of the speakers, remarked that rent was robbery and that profit was plunder. These assertions caused the wildest kind of applause and cheers. Mr. Cunningham Graham and others also made violent speeches, saying that the coal mine owners were traitors and deserved to be hanged.

LONDON, ENGLAND.

STRIKERS CONTINUE THE FIGHT.—After a conference which lasted several hours, between the mayors of Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Nottingham, Derby and Barnsley, and the representatives of the striking coal miners and of the coal mine owners, at Sheffield to-day, the miners' representatives agreed to submit to a general ballot of the miners, and the mine owners agreed to refer the matter to an executive committee of the proprietors, the proposals made by the mayors that the miners should be allowed to return to work at the old wages with a reduction of 10 per cent from the 40 per cent advance in their pay which they have received since 1888. The time at which it is suggested that the men shall resume work is six weeks from the present time, as it will require that much time to put the pits in thorough working order. The proposals further provide that a tribunal of conciliation to deal with the question of wages shall be established, and, in view of the severe distress now existing among the miners, the owners of the mines shall make money advances to the men, which shall be payable in weekly installments. The mayor of Sheffield, who acted in the capacity of chairman during the conference, expressed the highest hopes that the great dispute between the miners and the owners was on the eve of settlement. One of the largest paper mills in the Kingdom has closed its doors, owing to a lack of coal, and many other mills are upon the point of similar action.

HELP FOR THE STRIKING MINERS.—Fully 12,000 people assembled in Victoria Park, at the east end of London, and heard violent speeches in favor of the striking miners. Mr. "Tom" Mann, the labor agitator, addressed an assemblage of about 2,000 people at Trafalgar Square, speaking in behalf of miners on strike in various parts of England. Mr. Mann urged the government control of railways and of mines.

TOM MANN AS PASTOR.—The newspapers are making much of the report that Tom Mann will take holy orders in December. To Mann's friends the report is no surprise. He has had a wide religious experience as a Methodist, Swedenborgian, etc. Like Tillet, Hardie, Pickard, and most other labor agitators in England, he can talk as well from a pulpit as from a truck. As a curate of the Established Church, he is likely to have some curious experiences, as his future colleagues in the clergy are already eyeing him askance.

DISCUSSED SOCIALISM.—A sound

conception of Socialism prevailed in the meeting of the Ministers' Union held in London last week. Dr. Clifford, who presided at the meeting, "described himself as a Christian collectivist, who believed in the collective control of industries, beginning with the nationalization or municipalization of the gasworks, waterworks, tramways, and coal mines." The other speakers—one of them Tom Mann, the labor agitator—denounced "every form of exploitation of the workingmen." In short, all the speeches were notable for the language and tendency which are affected by Kier Hardie and John Burns.

NATIONAL.

AUBURN, N. Y.

SHOEMAKERS ENJOINED.—Judge Foster granted a petition for a temporary injunction restraining the 118 defendants, officers and members of the International Boot and Shoe Workers', Lasters' Protective and Cutters' Unions from further acts tending toward the intimidation of the help in the shoe shops here, and to the injury of the business of the manufacturers. This action on the part of the manufacturers was unexpected, and there is great excitement.

CINCINNATI, O.

UNEMPLOYED STRIKE.—Five hundred unemployed men in Covington, Ky., went on a strike. Last Thursday the City Council and Board of Aldermen of Covington passed an ordinance to employ 500 unemployed Covingtonians in a quarry that the city owned. A lot of picks and shovels were purchased, and the men showed up for work. City officials were on hand to look after them, and each man was told that he would be paid 50c a perch. By working 10 hours, they could earn \$1.50 per day. The leaders struck, and wanted \$1.50 a day of eight hours. This would not be tolerated, but some of the men wanted to go to work any how, but the leaders interfered and the unemployed went out on a strike.

MACON, MO.

STILL ON STRIKE.—Mining matters at Bevier are still at a standstill. Notices were sent from Bevier to all the mining camps in this and adjoining states telling men to stay away until the strike was settled. Many of the oldest and best men have left Bevier and will seek work elsewhere. There has been no disorder of any kind, but a settlement of some kind will have to be made soon.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RECEPTION OF THE FRENCH DELEGATES.—A kind reception was given to the French Labor delegates in this city on their return from the World's Fair. Comrade Benditt of Cigarmakers Union 165 delivered a short address of welcome, which was responded to by one of the delegates, Comrade Lecavallee of Paris. Comrade Henryot delivered an eloquent address to the French delegation and was greeted with applause.

TEXTILE WORKERS' UNION.—This union has elected a committee for the purpose of finding out ways and means to assist the thousands of unemployed workmen in Kensington and vicinity. All business men have been requested to help in aiding the poor workers and their families.

BREWERY WORKERS' UNION No. 5 held a well-attended meeting and initiated several new members. Mr. Pommer of New York was present and gave an extensive report of the proceedings of the Milwaukee Convention of the International Union.

LEATHER WORKERS' UNION held a meeting and decided to remove its headquarters to the Labor Lyceum. The first meeting in the new hall will be held on October 18th.

WALLACE, IDAHO.

CONTINUE THE STRIKE.—The union miners on Canyon Creek have decided to go with the strike and not accept the tender of the mine-owners for \$3.50 for the

miners and \$3.00 for car men and shovelers. The Butte Union, which has loaned the local unions here considerable money, sent delegates, and they demanded that the strike be carried on. The mine-owners say they will put competent men at work as fast as they can get them.

KILLED BY HIRELINGS.—James Pitts, the fireman on the Peoria and Eastern Railway, who was shot by Special Deputy Stokes, of the Big Four shops, died. Pitts was merely a spectator, and was taking no part in the riotous proceedings. Stokes has not been arrested.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

ANOTHER VICTORY OF THE BREWERS.—Wm. J. Lemp has also signed the Beer Drivers' and Brewery Firemen's contract. The contract has now been signed by two of the largest breweries in the city, both of which are members of the Brewers' Association. A conference will be held with the secretary of the association with a view to having the contract signed by the remaining members of the association. The managers of the American, Home and Columbia breweries, which are not members of the association, will be requested also to sign the agreement.

SEWER WORKERS STRIKE.—The striking sewer workmen are still out. Committees are keeping watch over the jobs in construction, and whenever a gang of men are put to work they are immediately notified that a strike is in existence and thus far have had no trouble in getting the men to quit work. A gang of Italians were put to work on the Prairie avenue sewer, but did not hesitate to quit work when told that a strike was in progress. One of the members of a committee was arrested for endeavoring to call off a gang of workmen on a job in the North End.

GARMENT CUTTERS' TROUBLE.—The trouble between Garment Cutters' and Trimmers' Assembly and the Schwab and Marx & Haas Clothing companies, due to a reduction of wages by these firms, has been put in the hands of the Executive Board of District Assembly No. 4, who will decide whether or not the companies were justified in making the cut. The managers of the companies have expressed their willingness to abide by the decision of the executive board.

WANT THEIR CONTRACT SIGNED.—A committee from the Knee Pants Workers' Union has been busily engaged canvassing the knee pant factories in order to have their contract signed. They report that all the firms, with the exception of the McGuire Clothing Company, have signed the contract. The boycott placed on the delinquent clothing company some time ago will now be pushed with vigor.

BOOKBINDERS MEET.—Union No. 18, of the National Brotherhood of Bookbinders indorsed the action of the delegates to the National Convention in inviting the national body to meet in this city next May, which has been accepted. The Paper Rulers' Union has made application for a charter under the regulations of the Brotherhood of Bookbinders, and will shortly affiliate with that body. George A. Page was chosen Vice President to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Schoenfeld. The union label of the broom-makers was indorsed.

WATCH CASE MAKERS EXPLAIN.—The employees of the St. Louis Watch Case Company state that they have no trouble with Isaac Swope & Co., but with the St. Louis Watch Case Company, Isaac Swope, as its president. About the middle of July the men were subjected to a 10-per-cent reduction in wages. They submitted, and after working two weeks, were told that they would have to work half time. After working half time for one week they were told that the shop would close down, but if the men were willing to accept another cut of 10 per

cent for 2000 until 1825, when they were legalized in England. I will admit that the condition of the laboring classes has improved in the last 40 years, but the improvement is due to organization.

BOYCOTTS STILL ON.—The boycotts against Boss butcher Anton Laux, Boss brewer Louis Obert, and the Welle-Boettler Baking Co., are still being vigorously pushed.

RETAIL CLERKS' BOYCOTT.—The Executive Board of Local No. 80, Retail Clerks' Association, have met G. Deale & Bro.'s, of Franklin avenue and Olive street, on several occasions, and have tried their utmost to settle matters between said firm and Local No. 80. They have exhausted all fair means to settle the difficulties, but to no avail, and have concluded now to push the boycott against Geo. Deale & Bro.'s stronger than ever and ask all friends of Organized Labor to assist them in their fight against Capital by staying away from the stores of said firm.

NEW YORK.

A public meeting was held under the auspices of the Labor Conference last Saturday night at Union Square to protest against Gov. Flower's and Mayor Gilroy's indifference and inactivity in regard to the question of helping the unemployed of New York. Speeches were made by Messrs. Campbell, Evans, Weismann, Barends, King and Sullivan.

ORGANIZED LABOR AND SOCIALISM.

SECOND LECTURE OF LAWRENCE GRONLUND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ST. LOUIS TRADES AND LABOR UNION.

A largely attended mass-meeting under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis was held at Central Turner Hall. Lawrence Gronlund delivered his second lecture on the subject of "Organized Labor and Socialism." He said:

"Socialism means public management of all industry under democratic auspices, that every citizen performs some public function in the administration of affairs. Socialists prefer to use the word administration instead of government. Socialism will be a blessing and is sure to come and soon and therefore we should prepare for it.

"Organized Labor ought to prepare for it. Socialism is more than the Labor question. Socialism will create an abundance, give freedom and security and be a blessing to all. Under our present system we are daily tempted to immorality. Under Socialism every citizen will be given suitable work and subsistence. Every one will become honest and painstaking, we need only the same human nature we have now but under different conditions. All reforms are accomplished not by gradual and imperceptible steps but rather, while the progress at first is slow, the movement becomes accelerated and finally with a bound the revolution is accomplished. This is the case in the evolution of all human affairs.

"The interests of Capital and Labor are not the same. Labor is a living thing and must be where the work is, while Capital is a dead thing. We cannot do without Capital but we can do without Capitalists.

"All legislation against trusts is futile and the trusts will go on forming until all industry from the Atlantic to the Pacific shall be under their monopolistic control and by that time it will be absolutely necessary to try Socialism. Let us begin the peaceful elimination of the Capitalist by purchasing his plant at its actual value and paying him therefor in annuities without interest. We must take care of our trades unions because we will be compelled to do so by the organization of Capital. "Trades unionism in earlier times was strictly forbidden by law; but they existed, nevertheless,

until 1825, when they were legalized in England. I will admit that the condition of the laboring classes has improved in the last 40 years, but the improvement is due to organization.

"The presence of machinery should tend toward bettering the condition of the laboring classes, but this is not the case. It is good that there is discontent, for discontent increases with social improvement. Respectability is an important factor in American life, and it is in the struggle for this respectability that the laboring classes are engaged. The love of liberty so dominant in Americans is to us a great damage. Americans have not the right to do as they please. Their love of liberty is confused with their great idolatry of license, of which they should be freed as soon as possible. The present state of government tends to produce immorality. It is indeed to be wondered at that there are so many good people in the world when the vast majority are dependent for their daily bread on the favor of some fellow-citizen, and the time will come when it will be considered immoral for a man to keep outside the union of his trade.

"The laboring men should have the legislatures make unions privileged bodies to make rules which non-union men must respect. Laws should also be made compelling industrial arbitration. The selfishness of labor and of the farmer as classes are alike and identical with the public welfare, and for this cause they should work for each other's good and extend and strengthen trades unions and the Farmer's Alliance. The tendency of all movements for bettering the condition of labor is toward Socialism, and the advocates of single tax are the 'John the Baptists' of Socialism, which must inevitably be realized."

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION.

A New York capitalist paper publishes the following interview with a labor leader who is affiliated with the New York Central Labor Federation:

"There is now on foot in this country and in Europe a plan to form an international railway union which will include in its membership all the railroad employes in the civilized world. The chief benefit of such a union will be through the bureaus of international correspondence. Through these, for instance, the printers of England and France are notified through the International Typographical Union that the trade in this country is overcrowded, that many men are out of work, and the unions are warned to keep their members from coming to the United States. In the same way when trade is good and wages high the labor organizations in other countries are notified, and the men who wish to emigrate are allowed to do so. The amalgamation of the American Railway Union and the French Union of the same trade will be easy. In France the workingmen are all Socialists, who believe in class war and in independent political action on the part of the working class. The American Railway Union, which is less than six months old, is organized on the same basis and the same principle runs all through its constitution. It was founded by Eugene V. Debs of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, and his object was to start an organization which would supersede the old brotherhoods of the different railroad trades. The American Railway Union now claims a membership of nearly 100,000, two-thirds of the total membership of all the old brotherhoods put together. It admits to membership every employe of a railroad, no matter in what capacity, whereas the brotherhoods only admit skilled labor. The organization is also opposed to strikes, and favors arbitration of all disputes between employers and employes. It also favors independent political action on Socialist lines, which will do away with the possibility of such disputes by abolishing the employing

class. While the whole union is governed by one central council, each trade has its own organization inside the general one, which looks after its own affairs. Besides the intended amalgamation of the railway unions, the workingmen's organizations of France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, England and Italy are about to issue a joint appeal to the workers of America to join them in organizing an international Socialist party, in which the workers of all countries shall act together politically. One feature will be that the expense of elections in one country shall be borne by all countries equally, and thus the weaker and poorer organizations will have a chance to carry on a vigorous propaganda.

"The beginning has been made by some unions here, notably those connected with the Central Labor Federation."

TO A FAIRMINDED PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND ORGANIZED LABOR IN PARTICULAR.

Greeting: The Furniture Workers' Union hereby appeals to you to extend to it and its members your moral support in order to induce two firms to do justice to their employes, as well as the organized furniture workers.

These two firms are: Brunswick, Balke & Collender (oilliard table manufacturers) and Rothschild & Co., otherwise known as the American Bar Fixtures Co.

Both firms have factories in all the larger cities of the country, the principal ones being located in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Indianapolis, etc.

All attempts to organize their employes were frustrated in the most reprehensible manner possible. Every union man was discharged and victimized as soon as his connection with the organization became known.

The negotiations attempted by us with both firms led to no result and after considerable shifting about they flatly declared that they wanted to have "nothing to do with organized labor or its representatives."

We have done all in our power to put a stop to the tyrannical treatment and unfair exploitation of their men, but having failed thus far, we appeal to you to give us your moral support and aid in securing justice from these firms.

This can best be done by patronizing other places than those where billiards are made by Brunswick, Balke & Collender, or bar fixtures of Rothschild & Co., i. e., the American Bar Fixtures Co., are in use; by bringing every possible influence to bear to have them replaced wherever found, and to continue to specially favor other goods until such time as the firms in question see fit to do justice to organized labor.

All saloon-keepers, brewers and other business men who use store and office fixtures are hereby requested not to allow themselves to be persuaded by the agents of the aforesaid firms that they are running strict union shops—for they are not—and by bearing this fact in mind and acting accordingly a great deal of good and less vexation will be accomplished to you and for us and to all concerned.

It hardly needs mention that the furniture workers of America have ever been ready to aid and help other organizations, hence we believe that in this struggle others will help and enable us to bring such concerns paying starvation wages to their senses.

This matter has been submitted to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and after due consideration has been found correct and sanctioned.

All workingmen, and especially all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, are therefore earnestly requested to make the fight their own.

Hoping that you will not deny us your valuable assistance, we remain

Yours with fraternal greeting,
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMM.
International Furniture Workers' Union of America,
949-955 Willoughby Ave.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.