

WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE.



Third Year, No. 11

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ORGANIZED LABOR.

THE CONNECTICUT FEDERATION OF TRADES.

A Large Gathering of Trades Unionists—Election of Officers—A Good Beginning—Denouncing the Supreme Court.

The State convention of trades unions, held at Hartford March 8 and 9, was an unexpected success. Two-thirds of all trades unions in this State were represented by delegates. The following places sent delegates:

- Ansonia—Carpenters' Union and Cigarmakers' Union.
- Danbury—Cigarmakers' Union, Central Labor Union, Paper Box Makers' Union, Carpenters' Union, Hat Finishers' Union.
- Hartford—Carpenters' Union, Barbers' Union, Hodcarriers' Union, Central Labor Union, Typographical Union, Tailors' Union, Bakers' Union, Cigarmakers' Union.
- Branford—Iron Molders' Union.
- New Britain—Carpenters' Union, Barbers' Union, Cigarmakers' Union, 39 and 67, Tailors' Union, Typographical Union, Trades Council, Woodcarvers' Association.
- Bridgeport—Cigarmakers' Union.
- Southampton—Iron Molders' Union.
- Norwalk—Typographical Union.
- Meriden—Carpenters and Joiners and Central Labor Unions.
- New Britain—Iron Molders' Union.
- Norwalk—Iron Molders' Union.
- Waterbury—Bricklayers and Masons' Union.

Other unions, not able to send delegates, signified their intention to join the federation at an early date and accept the platform adopted by the convention.

The convention, after due consideration, resolved to form a State Branch of the American Federation of Trades.

The convention also resolved to recommend to the organized working people in general the trademarks (labels) of the Cigarmakers' International Union, the Tailors' Progressive Union, the Iron Molders' Union and the Baker's Union.

The convention also voted to recommend to Organized Labor to legalize their efforts in behalf of the working people by taking active part in independent labor politics wherever such may seem practical.

The class verdict against the *Courier* boycotters called forth an expression of sympathy for the New Haven printers, and the decision was denounced as contrary to justice and law.

Also to assist and encourage the labor papers of the State and in general.

At the request of the Hartford Typographical Union the *Hartford Examiner*, *Christian Herald* were denounced as "rat" papers.

The convention adopted in substance the constitution of the American Federation of Trades adopted at the Columbus, O., convention. The following officers were chosen for the next year:

President, H. J. Bacon, of the Carpenters and Joiners' Union, of Meriden; First Vice-President, R. J. Teale, of the Bricklayers' Union, Waterbury; Second Vice-President, Mrs. J. F. DeLong, of the Hat Trimmers' Union, Danbury; Secretary, W. E. Cree, of the Cigarmakers' Union, Hartford; Treasurer, P. H. Fagan, of Hartford Carpenter's Union.

An executive committee was elected as follows: D. T. McNamara, New Haven; John Garvey, of New Britain; S. G. Nichols, of Hartford, who, in connection with the President, First Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will compose the active officers for the ensuing year, and will endeavor to strengthen and promote trades union interests. James Godaker, Frank H. Gruenthal and E. H. Weir, all of Hartford, will be responsible for the funds with the treasurer.

Meriden was selected as the place of meeting for the next convention, and the first Monday in October the date.

A well attended mass meeting was

held at American Hall Tuesday evening, at which Samuel Gompers, of New York, delivered an address in favor of trades unionism. He showed clearly the natural growth of trades unionism, explaining their democratic conduct of their affairs, and disparaged the course pursued by the Knights of Labor in paying large salaries and buying expensive and luxurious quarters for their executives, and also proved conclusively that the absolute autonomy of trades is the surest method of preserving the objects for which wage-workers are striving through their unions. His remarks were much applauded.

He was followed by Mr. Edward Finkelstone, of the Barbers' Union of New York, who spoke for the barbers, one of the most overworked and poorly paid trades in the country, and asked all to aid them in their efforts to perfect national organization.

SOCIAL POLITICAL NOTES.

Strange how the "democratic" vote is being decimated in New York city. Boodler after boodler is changing his residence.

Local and sectional preference may place this or that qualifying adjective or adverb before the name of the Labor Party, but that need not alter the determination of American Labor to unite when the time comes upon some common, progressive platform. Whatever the name, the Labor Party is the party of the future.

The use of the boycott is no longer to be circumscribed by the General Assembly of the Knights of Labor, and the Executive Board has announced that the anti-boycott resolutions of the Cleveland convention are no longer in force. This sensible decision was necessary in view of the fact that as soon as the workingmen ceased boycotting, the bosses adopted the measure.

The Labor Party, of Denver, Colorado, proposes to take a hand in the April elections. An entire municipal ticket has been nominated, and a platform in which the following is the leading plank: "We, the organized working people of Denver, declare that the first principle of Americanism is that he who will not labor neither shall he eat; that we approve this doctrine and further declare that the produce belongs to the producers, the tools to the toolers and that speculators must go."

The New York monopolists are perfectly satisfied with the constitution as it is, and their hirelings in the State Assembly are doing their best to prevent the constitutional convention which the people of the State by an overwhelming vote demanded. When it comes to trampling upon the expressed will of the people it is time to prepare for the use of something more potent than the ballot.

The water thieves and speculators who have been operating in New Jersey are now at Harrisburg, Pa., seeking corporation powers and charters, to seize upon and possess the sources of water supply in the Keystone commonwealth, for the purpose of hereafter laying toll on towns and villages. The ownership of water is still within the people's control. The thieves will probably buy the legislators. Some day the outraged people may hang both gangs.—*N. Y. Leader.*

The organization of a national party at Cincinnati composed of all shades of dissatisfied people, is a fact. The convention finally adopted the name of Union Labor Party, though at one time it had been decided to name it Union Party. A reconsideration, however, followed, and the word Labor was inserted. One of the delegates suggested the name "Mixed-up" Party, but that was not

euphonious enough, however well it expressed the character of the agglomeration. Certain it is that the farmer element, which was largely represented, has taken a forward step, though the platform is not so radical as that of the United Labor Party in various localities, where the workingmen have already achieved victories. Nor is it likely that the workingmen who have marched under the banner of an advance labor party will beat a retreat, even though they may have to wait for the farmer's contingent to catch up with them.

SNEAKED OUT.

Charles Bradlaugh sneaked out of the House of Commons when the condition of the unemployed was brought on the other night. The workers never really supported this overrated bully, but they now hiss and hoot him publicly as a cowardly office-seeker and traitor to the cause of the people.—*London Justice.*

MRS. LANGTRY TELLS TALES.

Mrs. Langtry has been lately treated with coldness by the British aristocracy. They are tired of their pet. But the aristocracy were wrong to offend a woman who knows them so well. She has spoken some bitter and truthful words, that will make many an ear tingle. "The aristocratic world," she says, "is hopelessly corrupt. What the public learns is a mere trifle to what the public never hears. The men and women of fashion stand by each other and help in mutual concealment." "Besides," she adds, "they lay claim to moral privileges, and think they can do what other people dare not." This is the most terrible and most truthful word of all. And we, the Democracy, are not without our share of blame. Every moment that we permit these privileges of hell to continue, we are sinning against the clearest light.—*London Democrat.*

ENGLAND AWAKENING

A Labor Amendment Which Did Not Pass—Nevertheless a Good Sign.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Last week a most unusual thing occurred in the House of Commons. An amendment was actually moved to the Address that the question of the Unemployed should be considered! After three short speeches had been made the Speaker, who is simply a Tory tool, closed the debate, although night after night had been wasted with quibbling over some unimportant item of government policy. Of course, questions which deeply affect the interests of the working classes must be carefully excluded from that assemblage of landlords and capitalists yelet Parliament. To his great shame be it stated Mr. Chas. Bradlaugh, who has for so many years posed as the representative of the working classes, got up and left the House when the division took place upon the amendment. Some of the "labor representatives," so called, were also absent whilst those who were present and who voted for the amendment raised no protest against the arbitrary and despotic ruling of Speaker.

The present crisis in the Northumberland coal trade is one which will be long remembered. The attitude of both men and masters points to a long and bitter struggle. The coal owners are determined to enforce the reduction of the miners' wages, and the men are as firm in resisting the reduction. The drain upon the resources of the Union is enormous: close upon £8,000 (\$40,000) a week being required for strike pay. John E. Williams, of the Social-Democratic Federation, is visiting the district for the purpose of holding meetings and making collections in support of the men.

The iron trade shows signs of improvement, and advances are being asked by some of the Unions. The Bolton Branch of the Amalgamated Engineers have demanded an increase of fifty cents a week. This the masters refuse and a strike is expected. H. W. LEE.

WATCH TOWER'S LIGHT

Shines on the Pathway of Senator Bob and Makes it Look Crooked.

NEW BEDFORD, March 9, 1887.
To the Workmen's Advocate:
I am glad to see that you don't allow the film to grow over the eyes of your readers. If every one could discern public worth with the same mental sagacity, there would soon be an end to all bossism. Bob Howard, the king of the mule spinners in this district, Senator, and Master Workman of a Knights of Labor Assembly, has played some small capers in labor matters in this district of late. He was the arbitrator in the late spinners' strike in this city. He settled it by sacrificing the most conspicuous unionist among the spinners, whereby the man was debarr'd from getting any work in the place, although he is a good hand religious and temperate, and has a wife and six children depending upon him for daily bread. This man was promised ten dollars a week for his martyrdom. He got it for five weeks; then, five dollars for four four weeks. Then the generous and noble order offered him the magnificent sum of ten dollars per week, which he indignantly refused; yet, Senator Bob never uttered a word in his behalf.

The Senator engineered the strike of the woolen weavers in Fall River, and his shoddy sympathy for the master class was again conspicuous. He settled the strike by sacrificing the best and most prominent man of the Knights in the mill, and there not being another mill of the kind in the city, this man's fidelity will cost him dear at the hands of the Honorable Senator.

Possibly these are victories for Bobby and his friends, the manufacturers, but two of the best labor men in this part of the State have been sacrificed needlessly.

One of the subscribers here to the *Fibre and Fabric* received for his share a few weeks ago a barrel of beer.

WATCH TOWER.

THE WESTERLY, R. I., STRIKE.

Conspiracy of Capitalists Against Working People.

The following came just as we were going to press, and the burden of it is the same old story of wrong and oppression. Keep away from Westerly.

PROVIDENCE, March 7.—The Moss Manufacturing Company, of Westerly, R. I., by its arbitrary and tyrannical conduct forced its employees to go out on strike on November 4th last, since which time not one man, woman or child has returned to work.

On the one hand it is the Moss Manufacturing Company backed by the combined capital of the State, the "Slater Club," and on the other it is those men, women and children backed by organized labor.

Briefly, the strike did not arise from a question of wages, though incidental to it, but because the superintendent sought to compel the weavers to operate more looms, and produce perfect cloth than it was possible for them to do, and do so at a reduced rate, which was simply an attempt to increase the already destructive competition among the laborers. And now having failed to browbeat, cajole, or intimidate us otherwise, they have arrested two of the strikers, and sworn out writs for others, charging us with conspiracy to raise wages, and claiming \$20,000 damages from each man, and among others to be proceeded against the publishers of the Boston Herald, and the district master workman of the K. of L. of this State.

We ask you, Mr. Editor, to give publication to this that the masses may have some knowledge of the true state of affairs, and that the men and women may not be entrapped into doing something that they would not do were they rightly informed, namely, become the agents of their own degradation by being made the tools for the destruction of their fellow toolers. D. M. W.

IN LUXURY'S LAP.

"PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO THE FAITHFUL."

Especially Prosperity—The Luxury of One is the Luxury of All—Carpets of Hand-Woven Satin.

A Wine Cooler and a Burglar Alarm

(Condensed from the Journal, Official Organ of the K. of L.)

The general executive board of the Knights of Labor last week completed negotiations for the purchase of new and permanent headquarters for the order in Philadelphia.

The residence which has been vacated for the general executive board is considered one of the handsomest in the city. The building is of brown stone, four stories high, with a frontage of about forty feet, with a two-story brick stable, which is fitted up in modern style, with stalls, harness room, storage rooms and dwelling apartments for attendants.

The board has also purchased the real property, furniture, furnishings and fixtures of the building. The building is entered by a broad flight of brown stone steps, on either side of which is a heavy stone hand rail. Above the heavy walnut double doors is a small stone balcony, upon which one of the second-story windows opens. There are two large windows on each side of the door, and the entry separates two rooms, the width of each of which is about fifteen feet. The entry is carpeted with Wilton carpet and likewise the stairs, which lead to a large stained glass window representing the four seasons. The balusters are of carved wood of unusual thickness, and the newel post is surmounted by a bronze. The room on the south, which was the parlor, is carpeted with hand-woven satin and lined carpet that was made especially in Brussels. The room is about forty feet long, and contains three large mirrors framed in handsomely carved walnut. The mantels are inlaid with marble, fine lace curtains and ornamented hangings decorate the windows, and the walls are frescoed with elaborate designs. In this room are three immense old-gold satin tufted battings, one of which, on the southern wall, covers a surface of probably twenty feet square. They are several inches deep, and are bordered with colored satin hangings. Some of the wood carvings about the mirrors are elaborate. This room, which is to be occupied by General Secretary Charles H. Litchman and his corps of assistants, many of whom are ladies, is partly separated from a small reception room, about twelve by fifteen feet in dimensions, by huge veneered and highly polished double columns. A magnificent chandelier is one of the features of this small room. The reception room opens again, through sliding doors with plate-glass windows, upon what was formerly the picture gallery. The gallery is about forty feet long. The floor is inlaid with hard wood. Around this room, as around all others in the house, there is solid marble wainscoting about three feet deep.

On the north side of the entrance there is a room which was formerly occupied as a library. It is handsomely frescoed, and is partly divided by polished walnut columns. It is carpeted with Axminster and contains three stationary book cases, two large mirrors and hand-made lace curtains, with red plush hangings. There are two open fireplaces in the room with imitation logs, through which gas is burned, and around them are handsome brass-mounted steel "fire dogs." There are a number of large windows and easy chairs, covered with red velvet, together with a massive sofa upholstered in the same way, which extends a distance of ten feet along the southern wall and is rounded to fit a

pedestal over which a chandelier is suspended. This room will be used by the Knights as a "reception room." At the back of the room there are large windows which open upon the smoking room. This room has in it a large brown leather sofa and a wine cooler.

The wood decorations are beautiful and the floor is covered with a Wilton carpet. Back of the smoking room is the dining room, which is lighted through an octagon-shaped dome. This room is about twenty-four feet square and from an artistic point of view is probably the handsomest in the building.

The base of the dome has eight sides, upon which are painted representations of fruits and flowers. Above these sides are perpendicular skylights over which the dome again assumes the shape of an octagon, the sides of which are painted emblematic of the seasons. From the center of the dome is suspended a revolving chandelier, with twenty-four highly polished and ornamented brass burners. Around the base of the dome, carved in wood, is a deer, with real antlers, a bear, ducks, fish and other specimens of game. There are five doors in the room, around all of which is ornamentation, and eight carved columns run up its sides.

On the second and third floors of the main building there are eight large private apartments which are finely carpeted and the windows of which are covered with lace curtains and satin hangings.

On the fourth floor in front is one large room extending the length of the building, which contains a billiard table covered with marble.

The entire building is heated by steam, and there are registers in every room. There are also electric call bells, messenger calls and burglar alarms.

Ah, There!

BRIDGEPORT.

Politicians Uneasy—Straight Nominations—Socialism Applauded.

Last Sunday evening our Independent Labor Party had a large and enthusiastic meeting, and commenced making nominations for city and town election. The proceedings were spirited but harmonious. Everybody seemed desirous to have none but honest producers who are in full sympathy with radical reform on the ticket.

Up to the eleventh hour the politicians of the run and boodle parties trusted the Independents would not attempt to nominate a straight labor ticket, and that the workingmen would, as of yore, march under the party whips. In such idle hopes they were encouraged by some heelers who have unfortunately invaded the ranks of the K. of L. The subsidized party press had abstained for a while from its venomous attacks on labor organizers and agitators, which attacks had about the same effect on the latter as barking dogs have on the progress of a locomotive. But the die is cast and mud-slinging from the "democratic" quarters at least, is in order. With intense relish these organs reprinted a slanderous falsehood appearing in a paper issued by Troup's lieutenant, in Hartford—a fit disciple of that worthy.

I announced to your readers last week one of our most prominent carpet makers was to read a paper on "What is Socialism?" at the Scientific Society. The event took place Tuesday evening. I doubt whether the local dailies would have urged the public, as they did, to attend the lecture of Mr. McCord, who, they said, had all the ability to handle that subject, had they anticipated his conclusions. From such a course they certainly expected nothing short of denunciations of Socialism. The lecturer's clear and logical exposition of the new Gospel and his final endorsement of all its aims must have been a sad disappointment to them.

A remarkable feature of the lecture was that three-fourths of the audience consisted of ladies, who gave the closest attention to the speaker and manifested their approbation by prolonged applause. He quoted extensively from Bebel and Gronlund.

It is amusing to see the most conservative element gradually open their eyes, while the highest official of the largest labor organization is playing the ostrich for fear of stepping on somebody's corn and disturbing the beautiful harmony between the wolf and the sheep.

CRANK.