

Christmas On Crusoe's Isle

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ROBINSON CRUSOE.

THE Christmas morning not many years ago I found myself up a tree in Crusoe's island. I was hunting meat for my Christmas dinner shortly after daybreak that morning, and as the most abundant supply was promised by the peccaries, or wild hogs, that ranged the island, I had left camp and started out after them. It was great fun for awhile, for I fell in with a herd of about a dozen and had secured two of the "varmints" when the survivors, seeming to think that "turn about is fair play," began hunting me. Then the situation assumed a different aspect entirely, for the peccary when aroused is one of the most bloodthirsty of creatures and as revengeful as an Indian. Fortunately for me, a great gum tree stood conveniently near, and by means of the lianas that swung from its branches I was soon safe from harm and looking calmly down upon the little black beasts as they raged around the trunk. But a peccary, as is well known, can entertain only one idea at a time, and the idea that possessed the shallow brains of my friends below was how to effect my destruction. After rooting around awhile they all sat down in an attitude of expectation and patiently waited for me to descend. And they would sit there, I felt sure, knowing peccary nature as I did, until they starved me to death rather than allow me to escape.

I had only a few rounds of ammunition suited to their needs, but I killed three more before it was exhausted and peppered the hides of several others so that if they ever had entertained the idea of leaving they abandoned it entirely. I had not a morsel of food about me. The limbs I sat astride of were not so soft as they might have been if they had been made to order, and I was getting uncomfortable when I noticed a commotion in the herd. The leader of the band, a grisly old tusker with recurved fangs like Turkish scimiters, suddenly stood up and sniffed the air; then he uttered a "whoof" of rage and despair, struck a 2:10 gait and disappeared in the jungle, followed by all the survivors. I was saved by a black man and a dog.

It may or may not be true that the peccary has as intense a dislike for the black man as he has for a dog, but anyway the combination proved effective in this instance. The man who appeared at this juncture was the

while me done cut up an' skin dese hawgs—one, two, three, fo', five. Golly, massa, we done gut 'nuff meat fo' de Christmas dinnah, ain' we? Not to menshun dis yere bag wiv two dozen fine fat crapauds in um, sah."

Pappy Ned set to work dressing (or, to be exact, undressing) the peccaries, being careful not to taint the flesh with the contents of the peculiar musk gland which the species carries on its back, and while he is thus engaged seems a good opportunity for me to make my explanation as to the exact location of Crusoe's island.

It is not, as ninety-nine persons in a hundred think, the island of Juan Fernandez, on the southwest coast of South America, but it is a good many miles nearer the coast of our own United States, in the southeastern part of the Caribbean sea. I will not waste any time, either the reader's or my own, in argument, but respectfully refer the earnest inquirer to old Crusoe himself. Robinson Crusoe, Esq., mariner, of Bristol, England, whose adventures were first written out and published by Daniel De Foe in 1719, was somewhere in latitude 11 degrees north of the equator when he was wrecked—that is, of course, assuming there ever

with me back to our hut. Hanging three of the pigs up in a palm tree to await his return Pappy Ned shouldered the other two and the sack of crapauds and toted the load to camp, which was distant but a mile or so, and I followed after with my gun. As Tobago is a tropical island the meat would not keep a great while, and we really had much more than we could eat, but Pappy Ned said he knew of some black people over on the other side of the forest who would devour what there was left provided he could get word to them in time.

There never was a more beautiful situation for a hut than the site of mine on a hilltop above the forest line, with views of tropical woods and shining shore, and, as the weather that Christmas day was simply perfect, I ordered my man to make our "spread" in the open, beneath the cocoa palms, sheltered from the blazing sun by the golden rooftrees only. So he set the table out of doors and lost no time in getting at the cooking, which was done over an open fire. Pappy Ned was as adept at preparing exquisite dishes from next to nothing as any Parisian chef that ever lived. We had a garden filled with such plants as the manioc, tania, sweet potato, arrowroot, yam, etc., not to mention corn and mountain rice. From a wild grove of coffee trees I obtained the fragrant berry for my morning beverage; also cacao, or chocolate, from another copse on the border of the forest, while the cocoa palms above and around my hut held a delicious cool drink in their urripe nuts. Pappy Ned dried and grated the cassava tubers, making "farine," from which he cooked great cakes more than a foot across. The juice of the cassava is poisonous in its crude state, but it is converted into a palatable substance by heat and forms the basis of the noted "cassareep," or pepper pot. We always had a pepper pot on hand as a standby, into which we threw the odd pieces of meat left over after ordinary repasts, and a goodly amount of the peccary flesh was thus disposed of, the cassareep acting as a preservative as well as condiment. But pepper pot was a poor man's makeshift, Pappy Ned always declared, and the day before he had walked the beach for sea turtle eggs, several score of which he had brought back to camp, together with a fine fish he had caught on the shore.

After working three or four hours



FREDERICK A. OBER.



A PECCARY.

was an entity called "Crusoe" in the flesh. But, whether he ever existed or not, that is where De Foe placed his hero when he had him wrecked on the coast of his island. To quote the words of Crusoe himself, just before it happened, "The master made an observation as well as he could and found that he was in about 11 degrees of north latitude, so that we were gotten beyond the coast of Guiana and beyond the river Amazonas, toward the Orinoco, commonly called the Great river."

Now, that would be evidence sufficient for any sailor, but let Crusoe further explain, as he does well along in his narrative, when he first circumnavigates his island kingdom: "The land which I perceived to the west and southwest was the great island of Trinidad, on the north point of the mouth of the river Orinoco."

Trinidad, as everybody knows, is off the north coast of South America and

After working three or four hours

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Get him an Easy Chair or a Couch for Christmas and he won't!

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FOSTER'S BIG FURNITURE STORE.

Clinton Letter.

The C. L. U. had quite an interesting meeting Sunday morning. Credentials of O. P. Sears and C. C. Badgley of the Federation of Musicians were read and delegates sent. Nothing of importance came up until the election of the following officers:

- President—Ed Wallace;
- Vice-President—Wm. Griffy;
- Secretary—Geo. H. Pascoe;
- Treasurer—Harry Moore;

Trustees—Dave Reed and John Dooley, were elected trustees on the first ballot, leaving one more to be elected. Another ballot was taken and one more dropped out, leaving three candidates in the field with no election. On the next ballot the three candidates were tied. Another ballot was taken in hopes some of the delegates would change their votes, but it resulted in a tie again. The election of the third trustee was then laid over until next Sunday, when, we doubt not, there will be a large attendance.

The Miners' Locals have all elected their delegates, with the exception of the Oak Hill and the Klondike locals, which do not elect until the last meeting in the month. The delegates elected so far are: Ed Wallace, local 42; Wm. Griffy, local 1671; Arthur McCool, 2661; Thomas McRea, 74; Joe Brock, 1982. President Hargrove will vote for local 2422.

Yours respectfully, G. H. P.

From Old Vincennes.

Thomas Jordan has been appointed district deputy organizer by Samuel Gompers. Mr. Jordan is one of the liveliest union men in the city, he having secured a larger and better affiliation with the C. L. U., instrumental in the Glass Workers' Union Band being organized, and brought together the Cereal Mill Employees' Union, their charter arriving last week.

The Bricklayers' Union have inaugurated a new move and will give a banquet, New Year's, the same to be a feature every year. The wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and sweethearts of the bricklayers will be the guests of the evening.

St. Louis World's Fair Bureau.

Every ticket office of the Vandalla Line is a FREE information Bureau of the great World's Fair at St. Louis in 1904. The Bureau address at Terre Haute is 684 Wabash Avenue. A "Rooms" booklet of St. Louis hotels and boarding houses, their location and rates, compiled by the World's Fair Management, can be obtained from him; also other valuable information about the Universal Exposition.

Seven

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"I want to say a few good words for Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine. I have been troubled very much with insomnia since I made the change to the new paper and on account of this have tried various remedies without relief. I was finally induced by a wholesale druggist, a personal friend of mine, to try Nervine. I can assure you it has done me a lot of good. I do not find it necessary to use it regularly now but occasionally when I find that I am excessively nervous and restless I again take it up as I always keep a supply on hand. It has never failed to give me the desired relief."—A. Haegen, Publisher "Daily Free-Press" Milwaukee, Wis.

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These pills are covered with a fine coating of sugar. They are not sticky and do not stain the teeth. They are sold in 4-cent packets and in a family bottle.



THE SURVIVORS BEGAN HUNTING ME.

only other in that forest save myself, my sable servitor, Pappy Ned. He had been out all night hunting crapauds, or forest frogs, and, was on his way back to our camp with a backload of batrachians, the legs of which were to be served up in a style which only Pappy Ned knew to perfection.

"Gorarnighty, massa!" he exclaimed in astonishment. "Was dat yo' gun goin' off pam! pam! lak yo' shootin' a reg'munt ob sogers? Kl, but it's lucky ol' Pappy Ned come 'long, hey? Dem hawgs done know Pappy Ned an' jes' c'lar out when dey hear um a-comin' along wiv dis yer dawg. Dey don' lak niggers, an' dey don' lak dawgs nuther, but dey's death on de buckra man."

"Well, pappy, the buckra man, as you call me, has brought death to the peccaries this time, and they've good reason for not liking me. I fancy. But you came along just in the nick of time, old friend, and I owe you a second reward for saving my life a second time." He had nursed me through a fever a few months before.

"Oh, me massa, dat ain' nuffin'. Me only too glad to serve me good massa, fo' slush. Yo' jes' set down an' eat

is one of the finest British possessions in the West Indies. The only other island which fully answers the description given by Crusoe in relation of location to Trinidad is that of Tobago, from which Sir Walter Raleigh probably derived the name of the "weed" we call tobacco.

I long held the theory that this was Crusoe's island, and in order to prove it went down there on a hunting and exploring expedition, afterward writing a book about my adventures which gives all the evidence, even if it does not sufficiently establish the facts. At any rate, I "played Crusoe" for months in Tobago, the island of the ancient mariner's adventures, built a hut of palm leaves in the forest and for a time lived as good old Robinson lived, with the exception that I did not have any goats; neither did I tempt an attack of rheumatism by residing in a cave. I even had my poll parrot, my hammock under the palms and my "Man Friday," only the latter was not a Carib. Like Crusoe's factotum, but a black man, honest and faithful old Pappy Ned, who was furnished with these provisions and was my

over the open fire Pappy Ned came to announce, "Dinnah done ready, sah," at the same time handing me a "cassaw stick" made from the juice of an aromatic fruit brewed with rum and stirred to effervescence with a "swizzle stick."

The grand repast of the day opened with gumbo soup, followed by fish, frogs' legs and turtles' eggs, while in the center of the table was peccary roast, flanked by a nicely browned guinea bird and a native wild turkey, with a vast assortment of vegetables from my garden. There were no drinks artificially cooled, ice being an unobtainable luxury in Crusoe's island, but there were tropical fruits in abundance—pines, guavas, mangoes, oranges and custard apples—all of which had been "jucked" within a stone's throw of my hut.

One thing only was lacking—a goodly company to enjoy that Christmas feast in Crusoe's island! But we were content for, as Pappy Ned observed, "De good Community Jesus gib us all we want, and de good Lord send a heap of 'em."—F. A. Ober.

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SOCIALIST NEWS

The National Secretary writes that Jas. Carey of Massachusetts will be given a route in this state in March or April. Locals desiring dates should make application to the state secretary, who will file them and make the terms known as soon as possible.

Hymers in Sullivan county reports that they expect to organize a local of at least fifteen members, and have written for instructions.

New Albany sends a splendid report of the Gaylord meeting, stating that he is "the best speaker heard around the Falls Cities."

Frankfort reports good prospects in re-viving the local movement. They have been particularly active in distributing literature.

Lawrenceburg will probably secure the services of Father McGrady to answer the persistent attacks of local priests.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

National Secretary Mally's Weekly Press Bulletin.

The national organizing fund has reached a total of \$2,237.36.

The Fon du Lac, Wis., Commonwealth gives out the startling information that "Socialism is encountering many obstacles in Germany, the recent elections showing a heavy falling off in that party's vote." The American press is always ahead of the world—for lying.

Charles Pergler of Chicago has been selected to act as Bohemian organizer and Robert Sattiel as German organizer. They will take the field under the direction of the national headquarters on Feb. 1st. Locals requiring their services should make application through their state secretaries or direct to the national secretary, Omaha, Neb. Italian Organizer Origo has been delayed in beginning his tour, but will probably start out in February or March.

Under date of Dec. 16th, State Secretary Dial of Kentucky reports as follows to the national secretary:

"I am instructed by the state committee of Kentucky to forward a statement of the controversy between Calvin C. Ross and Comrade F. J. Lavanier, jr. They request that it be mentioned in the weekly press bulletin. The statement follows:

"In October, Comrade Lavanier wrote Comrade Critchlow, of Ohio, stating that Ross, who had been speaking in Ohio, was a fakir, etc., with a penchant for borrowing money; that he had been expelled from Texas for similar tactics. Critchlow turned a copy of the letter over to Ross, who demanded a retraction of the statements from Lavanier. Upon Lavanier's refusal to retract or modify his statements, Ross wrote a letter to Local Covington, demanding Lavanier's expulsion for making false statements and accusations against a member of the party.

"Local Covington referred the matter to a special committee of three for investigation. This committee secured information, and deeming it sufficient, reported to the locals and were discharged.

"Local Covington decided that, according to the testimony, Comrade Lavanier's statements in his letter to Comrade Critchlow were true, and dismissed the motion to expel him. They further decided to send a statement of the case to the national secretary and request him to insert it in his weekly press bulletin."

Dates for James F. Carey's lecture tour have been arranged in Pennsylvania, as follows: Jan. 4, Philadelphia; 5, Reading; 6, York; 8, Meadville; 9, New Castle. Carey will then enter Ohio for about two weeks. Applications for dates in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois should be made through the respective state secretaries, and in Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota, Michigan and Nebraska to the National Secretary, Omaha, Neb.

A New Book by Isadore Ladoff.

Charles H. Kerr & Company of Chicago have just arranged for the publication of one of the most important contributions yet made to the literature of the American Socialist Movement. It is a work by Isadore Ladoff, a well known socialist writer, and the author of "The Passing of Capitalism," entitled "American Pauperism and the Abolition of Poverty." The opening portion of the work consists of the most exhaustive compilation of facts concerning social conditions in the United States that has ever been gathered together and presented from the socialist point of view. The mass of statistics concerning the condition of the working class constitutes one of the most powerful indictments of capitalism ever penned. It will prove just the storehouse of facts that socialist agitators, speakers, writers and workers generally have been needing for many years. These facts are then explained and interpreted in connection with an exposition of the socialist philosophy, which makes the work as a whole a splendid piece of propaganda. The book will be published in cloth binding in the standard Socialist Series, uniform with the eight numbers already issued, and will be sold for 50 cents. Copies can be ordered through this office.

Literary Announcement.

Because of numerous requests for the November and December numbers of the International Socialist Review, we are re-

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quested to state that no more of these numbers can be supplied.

The January number will, we believe, be better than even these two issues. It will contain an article by Eugene V. Debs replying to an anonymous critic of his position on the Negro Question. This article shows Comrade Debs at his best, as it is filled with the fire of combat and the strength which comes from pleading the cause of the oppressed. The resolution of the International Socialist Bureau on the same question, together with an article by Oscar Edgar appears in this number. Other articles of interest are one on the Canadian Socialist Movement by G. Weston Wrigley, and the "Present State of Corporation Law" by Marcus Hlitch, and an article in a lighter vein entitled "Looking backward," a letter from the Strange Land Capitalist," by Isador Ladoff. This number will also contain the first installment of "The Trade Union Movement in Germany," by Albert Thomas, translated by A. M. Simons, which will run through three numbers.

With the completion of these, A. M. and May Wood Simons will begin a series of articles on "Concentration of Industry in America," continuing for several months. The only way of being sure to receive a copy is to subscribe. \$1.00 a year; 25c for three months.

The Under Dog.

The action of society in industry reminds me of a dog fight, with the inhuman, brutish spectacle of everybody kicking the under dog. Place the poor and unfortunate upon the toboggan slide, give them a shove, with everybody kicking them as they descend.

The trouble is the slide has no end except in eternity. The more one thinks of the question, the more we see the awful FRAUD of capitalism. It sets up conditions which makes business industry depend upon irresponsible individuals, and, as Carroll D. Wright says, capitalists are not always "generous or great-minded." It leaves thousands of people with never enough to eat, while it dumps tons of food into the ocean, where it is lost to nature, but lost energy to the laborer.

In every community there are people who might be considered capitalists. We know that were they to come into direct competition with the REAL THING they would be wiped off the earth without leaving a grease spot. That we have absolutely no chance against organized capital must be evident to any man who thinks, and yet respectable (?) society in every community blames the poor man for being poor.

Capitalism has no politics, and it ought to be evident to every one that exercises a grain of horse sense that the capitalist press is belittling the importance of politics and encouraging a sentiment which says: "Oh, politics don't amount to anything; I don't want to study it!" The people look for great leaders that can stand in conventions and nominate candidates and resolve a platform which leads them away from the real question, and they go to the polls and vote blindly, shouting at sight of the stars and stripes and boasting of their right to vote. All because they are blinded by the glamor of capitalism.

There will soon come a reaction from this false sentiment, as there will be from that other sentiment which puffs the laborer up to think that everybody is a capitalist. Then the man who toils will become conscious of his class interest, and there will be something doing at the polls. G. W. S.

Frankfort, Ind.

THE WORKERS ABROAD.

Bird's Eye View of the Struggle in Other Lands By Agnes Wakefield.

GERMANY.

The Berlin Vorwarts of November 6th gives accounts of the following Socialist victories in municipal elections:—In Luckenwald's city council elections in the third class, 953 Socialists and 88 opposing votes were cast, so the Socialists won all the seats of that class. In Giebichenstein Comrade Gering with 1,706 votes defeated Director Brandes, who had only 402 votes. In Hornberg, Baden, for the first time, a Socialist was elected to the common council.

A Socialist has been re-elected in Arnstadt; there are two Socialists in the city council.

In Baden Minister Schenkel has formed a plan for limiting suffrage; if it becomes a law only men who pay direct government taxes and who have lived at least a year in Baden will be allowed to vote. A man must have an income of at least \$216 a year to pay a direct government tax in Baden. Many laborers move frequently from place to place in search of work. The new law would disfranchise at least a third of the working class of voters. The Mannheim Volkstimme says that the minister, fearing the anger of the people, tried to keep his project a secret until after the legislative elections which were held October 30th, but at the last hour it was made known and created great indignation among the workers and Socialists, who will oppose such injustice with all their strength.

Comrade Franz Hofner, M. P., Socialist deputy from the 22nd district of Saxony, died at his home in Chemnitz, November 4th, aged 51. He was a cigar maker by trade. He had been a member of the Socialist Party for many years, and was a favorite lecturer. In the last elections he was re-elected to the German parliament with 19,100 votes against 12,900.

An impressive case of "How the Sins of Children Are Visited upon the Father," in Germany is related by Berlin Vorwarts, of November 6th, two young carpenters from Petriben, in East Prussia, have joined the Socialist Party and are distributing socialist leaflets and oelander. The conservative father, who was president of the town council did not know of his son's action until the state council found out about it and discharged him (the guilty father!) from practice. They say that the indignant father, of a sudden, became deeply impressed with the im-

portance of Socialism and will now help his sons distribute Socialist leaflets.

Two editions of the Report of the Dresden Convention of the German Socialist Party have been sold, and a third edition has now been published by the Vorwarts press, 20 Lindstrasse, Berlin. A single copy unbound costs 75 pf (10 cents) and bound 1 Mark (24 cents); the postage is 5 cents.

For publishing an account of a plan to build a castle of refuge, for the German emperor and his family, on the Island of Pichelswerder, near Berlin, the Socialist daily journal Vorwarts of Berlin has been prosecuted for lese-majesty. One of the editors, Comrade Leid, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, and a second editor, Comrade Kaliski, to four months.

ITALY.

The Socialist daily journal of Rome, Avanti, edited by Prof. Enrico Ferri, M. P., has severely criticised several members of the new ministry. The foreign minister, Tittoni, and the minister of finance, Rosano, were accused of complicity in bank scandals. Avanti said that the new Premier Siolite made Rosano minister because in 1892 Rosano as under secretary of state rendered him useful service in covering up the Roman Bank affair. Soon after these attacks Minister Rosano committed suicide. Shame at the revelations made regarding his conduct is assigned as the reason for the tragic deed.

The Socialist Club of Mantua recently passed a resolution advising that the Socialist Party convention of November 8th, should effect a division of the party. The reasons given were that the two tendencies existing in the party cause conflicts which hinder energetic organization and agitation, and that the Reformists devote more and more from Socialist principles, one part following the Republican party while the other adopts anarchist methods.

AUSTRIA.

At the close of a universal suffrage meeting of 10,000 workers in Brunn the police interfered and wounded 20 persons, including a child of 6 years.

FRANCE.

A bill to abolish private employment officers has been passed by the French parliament, with the large majority of 500 against 16 votes. The Socialist deputy Coustant, a Guesdist, advocated the immediate abolition of the private employment offices, without reimbursement. But the majority adopted the Labor Committee's plan to buy out the offices for a certain price, within five years. The bill empowers municipalities to immediately abolish private employment bureaus.

The shop employes are particularly eager for the abolishment of the private employment offices, as they are largely dependent on them for finding places, and have to pay fees which are exorbitant in comparison with the low wages they receive. They held a crowded meeting in the Labor Exchange, November 5th, with other organized workers, to agitate for the bill. Some excitable persons made a disturbance and Prefect Lepine came with many policemen who broke up the meeting. There was a dreadful conflict in which 70 workers and over 50 policemen were wounded. The workers and the radical press were very indignant. The matter was discussed in parliament the next day, and the Socialist deputy Valliant accused the Prefect of barbarous cruelty. The prime minister severely condemned the Prefect and promised an investigation.

To complete report of the French Socialist Party's convention held in Rheims in September, has been published in octavo pamphlet form and is sold by Comrade Lucien Roland, 7 Rue Rodier, Paris. A single copy costs five cents, and two cents additional for postage.

SWITZERLAND.

The Geneva Cantonal Great Council has unanimously voted to admit women to the practice of law. Only the Socialists voted for the complete freedom of admission to the bar.

SPAIN.

The general strike in Bilbao has ended with the agreements that after January first wages shall be paid weekly and that the workers shall no longer be obliged to buy at the mine owners' shops nor to live in their dwelling houses. These agreements, recommended by the government, were accepted immediately by the workers, but the employers opposed them as long as they could.

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LOCAL NEWS NOTES

The damage suit of Martha Hagerman against the Terre Haute Street Railway Company for \$10,000 damages was dismissed in the superior court, Monday. The attorneys for the railway filed a demurrer, which was sustained and judgment given the defendant. The damage suit was the result of the shooting of Wm. Hagerman, a miser at Seeleyville, during the street car strike.

The Toiler goes to press one day earlier than usual, this week, on account of Christmas coming on Friday.

Captain D. G. Coy, formerly of the Salvation Army, has been opened a "working-man's hotel" in the old Tribune building, once occupied in part by The Toiler. Meals, lodging, baths, etc., are provided for a moderate price. The "best" people will continue their patronage of the Filbeck and Terre Haute hotels.

State Mine Inspector Epperson states that the fire in the Citizens' Coal Company's shaft near Sullivan, Sunday, was much exaggerated. No men were burned, and those who fought the fire were familiar with the mine.

A call has been issued for a district convention of the Mine Workers to meet in Miners' Hall, at Brazil, on January 2, to consider the questions that will come before the national convention.

The Boller-makers' Ball of last week proved to be a big success. Over three hundred couples danced to the music furnished by the Ringgold orchestra.

The quarterly report of J. H. Kennedy of the Mine Workers shows nearly 145 locals in good standing, being an increase of 15 locals over last year. Several recently organized locals, which have not paid their per capita tax, are not included in the report.

George Purcell of the National Executive Board has been sick for some time, but expects to return to the work of organization in Tennessee soon. He expresses satisfaction with the progress of the strike in the west.

Broom Makers Elect.

At a regular meeting of Broom Makers' Local Union, No. 76, held Dec. 15, 1908, the following officers were elected:

- President—N. H. Price;
- Vice-President—W. M. Dudley;
- Treasurer—J. F. Shepard;
- Secretary—C. E. Abel;
- Guide—George Meissel;
- Guard—W. M. Dudley;
- Trustees—George Meissel, 18 months; Charles Abel, 6 months.

The broom trade is generously good; all the shops in Terre Haute are organized and using the union label, and all of our members are working. A great many of the small shops are forced out of business on account of the high price of broomcorn. Poor little fellows! Isn't it too bad? We can't all be big fellows!

It sometimes occurs to me that there is enough produced in this grand country for all of us to have plenty. Queer ideas some of us wage-slaves get into our heads, but I notice a great many of the small business men coming down into the ranks of the wage slaves. The next thing they know they will be one of the wage slaves, and perhaps then will realize, like many others, that there is something wrong. Let us hope that they will not forget who they are on that special day when every wage slave is a gentleman for one whole day. Let us hope there is something in store for us besides a full dinner pail. Perhaps we don't know what belongs to us. Let us open our eyes and look around. Perhaps we can strike where we are sure to win, even if we haven't got a dollar in the treasury of our union, we have got the ballot-box one day out of every four years. Try the co-operative commonwealth to win. CHAS. E. ABEL.

Bartenders Elect Officers.

The Bartenders have elected officers as follows: William Herron, formerly business agent, chosen vice-president; J. P. Fries, re-elected treasurer, and John Kolsm elected recording secretary in the place of T. P. Conalty who retired. The meeting was well attended, and S. B. Layman, William Meyer, John Freaa and Fred Russell were admitted to membership, and two new applications were received. The other officers chosen were: Chaplain, Ed Brown; inspector, William Pritchard; guardian, Edward Taylor.

The Terre Haute local is in better shape now than it has ever been. Its membership is rapidly increasing, and it promises soon to be the largest local in the state outside of Indianapolis.

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LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Frost From Far Away.
Oh, the year is growing old and the sunshine growing cold,
And the shadows gather sooner every day;
Every tree is touched with fire, each day mounting high and higher,
And the night brings up the frost from far away.

There are days of sunny calm when the winds bring only balm,
And the fair blue sky above us bears no cloud;
But the night creeps down the hill and the soft, sweet air grows chill,
And with rage the prowling north wind shrieks aloud.

Long ago each winged rover sang:
"Farewell, the summer's over,"
Spread his wings and to the southward took his way;
Not a scarlet mother-brood hovers o'er the empty nest,
All uncovered where the leaves have fallen away.

Oh, the year is growing old and the sunshine growing cold,
And the winter coming nearer every day;
But within the hearth is warm, there is shelter from the storm,
And we know the spring awaits us, far away!

—New York Sun.

NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD.

Items of Interest Gathered from Many Sources.

The Pittsburg Traction company will advance the wages of its employees.

The Edwards cotton mills, Augusta, Maine, announce a cut in wages to take effect Nov. 30. About 1,300 employees are affected.

Many of the delegates who voted for the socialist resolution at the New Orleans convention of the Federation of Labor a year ago voted against it at Boston.

The strike of the bridgemen on the Grand Island river bridge near Kansas City was settled, and thirty Chicago bridgemen were sent to the work the other day.

The Pittsburg Steel Works, employing 2,000 men, has resumed operations. The American Tin Plate Company will also resume, and the Port Vue tin plate plant close for repairs.

The auditing committee's report at the A. F. of L. convention showed that the receipts last year were \$282,028.69; expenses, \$196,015.51, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$86,013.12.

Fifteen hundred of the 3,000 employees of the Passaic Steel company have voted to strike if the company makes a cut of 10 per cent in wages, as it has announced its intention of doing.

The cotton mills owned by M. C. D. Borden of New York will follow the other Fall River mills in the reduction of wages. Notices of the cut down of 10 per cent have been posted. Nearly 10,000 operatives will be affected.

The Central Foundry company, which operates one of the largest plants in Indianapolis, has closed its doors as the result of the recent labor troubles. The closing down of the plant has thrown about 200 men out of employment.

For the first time since the disastrous strike of thirteen years ago, when the Coke Miners' union was completely wiped out in Pennsylvania, efforts are now being made to organize the 18,000 coke miners in the Connelville region.

Venor & Montgomery, shoe manufacturers of Rochester, voluntarily reduced the hours of labor in their factory from ten to nine last week. The employees responded by sending a letter of thanks for the "spirit of fairness" shown by their employers.

John B. Lemmon, general secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America and treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, is a pioneer of the labor movement and has the reputation of being one of the most upright workers in labor's cause.

National officers of the United Textile Workers' union announce that the work of organizing the textile workers in the southern mills is at an end, so far as the union is concerned. The attempt to organize the southern workers in that industry, which has ended in a failure, has cost thousands of dollars.

By a referendum vote the Bricklayers and Masons' International union has decided in favor of the death benefit feature obtaining in many of the other trade unions. The new benefit will be \$100 to members who have been six months in good standing and \$200 for those five years or more steadily on the union's books.

With the approval of the unions especially interested, a day and evening school has been started at 5 Willoughby street, Brooklyn, for technical instruction of stationary engineers, firemen, oilers and water-tenders. The course is calculated to increase the mechanical information of engineers and to prepare the others for promotion.

United States Consul Baker at Sydney, Australia, in a special report on labor in New South Wales, says that the length of the day's work has been fixed at eight hours and a minimum wage of \$1.70 per day for common laborers, with half holidays at the employers' expense, and the state and banks and factories give preference to union men.

A humorous incident occurred at the A. F. of L. convention in Boston when a telegram was read from the Stenographers' union of Chicago, asking if the convention's stenographer is a member of any union. Amid the laughter, President Compers announced that the telegram should be referred to the committee on distribution. Then some one asked if the tel-

egram had been delivered by a union deliverer, and this was not answered. "I have just returned from an extended tour through the mining states," said a mine manipulator to a New York newspaper reporter a few days ago, "and I'll tell you what I discovered. The mine owners and all their friends, men who have invested millions in gold and silver and copper mines, have decided that they will smash the labor unions. If they don't smash them the unions will smash the owners and their friends."

William D. Mahon, who is in control of the union forces now on strike against the Chicago City Railway company, is reported to be one of the most successful organizers of labor in the United States. Shrewd, cautious and conservative, he has so managed strikes—especially in Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Milwaukee—that success crowned his efforts. Mr. Mahon was elected president of the American Association of Railway Employees in 1892 and since that time has organized unions of this branch of labor in 321 cities. He is about 46 years of age and his home is at Detroit, Mich. He is a voracious reader of literature affecting the labor question.

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen is up in arms against the recent order issued by Postmaster General Payne, which, it is claimed, will have the effect of making every train in the United States a mail train. The trainmen say further that the order will place every train under the protection of the United States government. The order is to have train baggagemen handle full packages of paper mail, for which they will be paid "something" in addition to their regular wages as trainmen. Before the order can become effective it will require an appropriation from Congress and the trainmen are urged by their officers to fight such appropriation.

What would happen in Montana if a tax were placed on copper ore lands in accordance with the selling value of those lands? The litigants would stop some of their court fighting and go to digging and refining copper. If such a tax were made very heavy the great absorbing Amalgamated Copper Company would stop acquiring copper lands merely to shut them up and prevent others from getting copper from them. On the contrary, that corporation would let others use them, or else it would engage more miners and operate these lands itself. If the tax were heavy enough no one would find any profit in holding copper-bearing lands idle. The tax would act like a heavy fine upon idleness.—Henry George, Jr.

Miss Agnes Sobeskel is recording secretary of the Chicago Women Can Workers' union, local No. 10,870, of the American Federation of Labor, and Miss Martha Lautrup is trustee of the same organization. The union was organized last February by John J. Fitzpatrick, organizer of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and has about seventy-five members. There are three unions of women can workers in the district, one on the North Side, one in the stock yards district and one in Maywood. The Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International association has jurisdiction over this class of work, but its constitution prohibits the admission of women. When the girls in Chicago were organized it was found there was no international union with which they could affiliate, and they were granted local charters direct from the A. F. of L. until the constitution of the Sheet Metal Workers' union is amended to allow their admission.

George J. Thompson, label secretary of the Cigarmakers' union, has been sent to Washington to enter a protest before Congress, on behalf of the organized cigarmakers, against the enactment of that portion of the Cuban treaty which makes a reduction of 20 per cent from the Dingley tariff rates on imported Cuban cigars. The cigarmakers allege that the effect of this provision of the treaty would place the skilled workmen who make high-grade cigars at the mercy of the American Tobacco company, commonly known as the tobacco trust. The trust controls 80 per cent of the cigar output of Cuba. It controls about 90 per cent of the Cuban tobacco crop. If the tariff is removed, Mr. Thompson says, it will mean that the trust will increase the output in the Cuban factories and place the product in the markets of New York and Chicago, driving independent manufacturers out of business and throwing over 6,000 skilled workers out of employment.

Judge W. C. Hall of Salt Lake has rendered a decision of interest to labor unions. The case was that of R. B. Harper, a plumber, who deserted the union, returned to work on a job which had been declared on strike, and barred to union men, and was fined \$500 for his act by the Plumbers' Union in Butte, Mont. Harper left Butte after being fined and went to Salt Lake, but the officers of the union in that city were notified. Before being allowed to work in Salt Lake Harper paid \$200 of the fine and agreed to pay the rest later. He changed his mind, however, and refused to pay. When the building trades struck on buildings on which he was employed Harper sued the union for damages and his \$200. Judge Hall decided that the Plumbers' union in Salt Lake City was justified in the stand it took and that Harper had no cause for action. In this decision the judge said the case involved the liability of unincorporated labor unions depriving a nonunion man of the opportunity to work with organized trades, and that the individual members of unions could not be held liable for the acts of the organization nor the organization for the acts of its members.

Central Labor Union.
There was a good attendance at the regular meeting of the Central Labor Union, Tuesday night. Byron Martin of the Cigarmakers and Dennis Coughlin of the Jervis Lodge were seated as delegates. Bills to the amount of \$85.65 were allowed. The various committees made reports which were concurred in.

The secretary's quarterly business report was accepted, and recommendations were referred to committees for investigation, which will meet, Sunday morning, at 7:30 o'clock.

The organizers reported progress being made with the organization of two crafts in the city. Messrs. O'Connell, Terrill and Markle were chosen as delegates to the Building Trades Council, which meets Friday night.

The body adjourned to meet, January 7. The annual reports of the different officers will be read the first Thursday night in February. Nominations for officers in the Central Labor Union will be made the first two meeting nights in January. They will be elected the first Thursday night in February.

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