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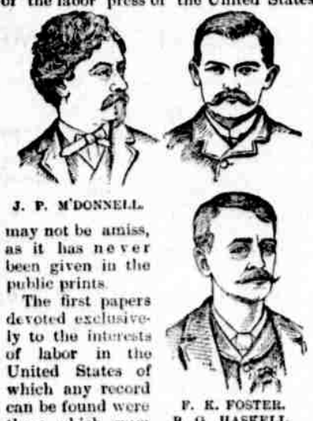
LABOR'S TORCH BEARERS.

HISTORY OF WORKINGMEN'S PAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The First Appeared in 1829—Four Years of Boom Followed by Swift Decline—A Pathway Lined with Suggestive Tombstones—"Labor Associated Press."

Early in September a circular letter, signed by J. M. Kelly, of Pittsburg, as chairman, and Charles Guy Brown, of New York, as secretary, was sent to the editors of labor papers in the United States, asking their attendance upon a meeting to be held in New York city on Oct. 11 and 12. This circular met with a hearty support, as a closer union between the publishers of journals devoted to the interests of labor has long been desired. The principal object to be attained through such a union is the establishment and perfection of a plan whereby the important news in the industrial centers of the country may be gathered and furnished each of the co-operators; in other words, the organization of an "Associated Labor Press." Such an organization existed several years ago, but it was a failure and soon fell to pieces because of a lack of effort on the part of its members.

Apropos of this meeting a short review of the labor press of the United States



J. P. M'DONNELL.

F. K. FOSTER. B. G. HASKELL.

may not be amiss, as it has never been given in the public prints.

The first papers devoted exclusively to the interests of labor in the United States of which any record can be found were those which grew out of the political movement of 1829 in New York, Massachusetts and three or four other eastern states. In that year the Workingmen's party was organized and several weekly journals espousing its principles were established, but they were not supported, and hence were short lived. In 1832 about the only paper of this class existing was The New England Artisan, published at Boston. It was the official organ of the Workingmen's party, but it soon went the way of the rest from lack of support. There was a slight revival in this direction in the forties, and papers were established in several of the prominent eastern cities, The Voice of Industry, which made its first appearance in Fitchburg, Mass., being the most noteworthy.

But these papers, like those of the earlier movement, and like the purely labor paper ever since, had a precarious existence and died young. In 1874 monthly and weekly journals devoted to special interests were quite numerous, the machinists', the iron workers', the shoemakers' and the coopers' unions each having their official journals. There were also other and more general labor papers established about this time, among which was The Workingmen's Advocate, of Chicago. Some of these papers lived only a few months, others survived for two or three years, but none of them are as much as remembered by the rank and file of the labor movement today. The only journals of this class that were started prior to 1880, which are issued today, are The Labor Standard, of Paterson, N. J., edited by Joseph P. McDonnell, its present editor, and The National Labor Tribune, of Pittsburg, founded by Thomas J. Armstrong and conducted by him until the time of his death, somewhat more than a year ago. The latter paper is now managed by the widow and a brother of its founder.

The great boom in the field of labor journalism came in the years of 1882-1886, during the time of the phenomenal growth of the trades unions and the Knights of Labor. Towns of 20,000 inhabitants, and in several instances of less population, had their weekly papers, some of goodly size and some very small; some ably edited and some otherwise. In several cities dailies were started, notably The Leader, of New York city, which was among the first to go when the decline began. Now three or four German and as many English daily papers in the United States are devoted exclusively to the interests of labor. Though many of those established during the boom did not live to celebrate an anniversary, there were in the United States in 1886 not less than 300 such papers. Quite a goodly number were devoted to the class interests of distinct callings and were issued by the authority of unions, and many of those are still being published; but the greater number were for labor, whether skilled or unskilled.

Several were pronouncedly socialistic, and three or four went so far as to fly the banner of anarchism. It is not essential, if it were possible, to give the names of more than a small proportion of the labor papers of three, four or five years ago, a few from each section as representatives being sufficient. In the east there were John Swinton's Paper and the Boycotter (now The Union Printer), of New York; The Craftsman, of Washington; The Leader, edited by Frank K. Foster, of Boston; The Labor Standard, of Paterson, N. J.; The Examiner, of Hartford; The Tocsin, of Philadelphia.

In the middle country, The Tribune, The Herald and The Commoner, of Pittsburg; The Ohio Valley Budget, edited by John Ehmann, of Wheeling; The Workman, of Cleveland; The Labor Leaf, edited by Joseph A. Labadie, of Detroit; The Unionist, of Cincinnati; The Signal, of Indianapolis; The Knights of Labor, of Chicago; the Union, of St. Louis.

Southern Industry, of New Orleans, and The Labor Herald, of Richmond, Va., were the leading southern representatives.

The Labor Enquirer, of Denver, edited by Joseph R. Buchanan (who conducted a paper of the same name in Chicago during 1877-78); The Hayes Valley Advertiser, of San Francisco, and The Western Watchman, of Eureka, Cal., looked out for the west. The Denver paper was radically socialistic. Truth, of San Francisco, edited by Burnette G. Haskell, a paper which attracted considerable attention because of its pronounced socialism, suspended in 1884. The public is already more or less familiar with The Alarm, of Chicago, which was founded by A. R. Parsons, one of the men executed Nov. 11, 1887, for participation in the Haymarket meeting.

Since 1886 there has been a steady decline in the number of labor papers, and at present there are not more than 130 published. Most of the distinctly trade papers have survived, and several have been recently added to this class. This is due probably to the great growth of the trades unions during the past three years, while the decline of the other class may be accounted for in the remarkable decline of the order of Knights of Labor.

The pathway traveled by the labor movement is lined with mounds whose slabs bear the epitaph: "Labor Paper! Died from Starvation."

Among the leading papers taking special interest in the New York conference are Labor Standard, Paterson, N. J.; Truth, Buffalo; Union Printer and Workman's Advocate, New York city; Labor Tribune, Glassworker and Commoner and Glassworker's Budget, Pittsburg; Labor Signal, Indianapolis; Craftsman, Washington; Critic, Baltimore; Examiner, Hartford; Labor Herald, Richmond, Va.; Labor Press, Brooklyn; Labor Bulletin, Decatur, Ills.; Working World, Atlanta, Ga.; Workman, Brockton, Mass.; Leader, Boston; Free Press, Baltimore; Review, Lonaconing, Md., and the following official trade journals: Painters' Journal, Cigarmakers' Journal, Granite Cutters' Journal, Furniture Workers' Journal, Tailors' Journal, Laster (shoemakers), Carpenter.

CHESS AND CHECKERS.

Chess problem No. 31.

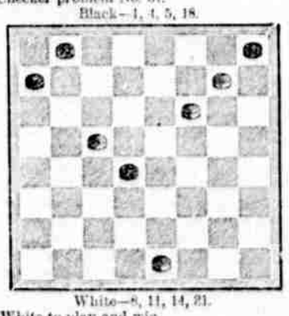
Black.

White.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Checker problem No. 31.

Black—1, 4, 5, 18.



White—8, 11, 14, 21.

White to play and win.

SOLUTIONS.

Chess problem No. 30:

White.	Black.
1..P to B 3 X.	1..K to R 4.
2..B to B 7 X.	2..P interposes.
3..B X P mate.	

Checker problem No. 30: Black—1, 24, 32*. White—10*, 31.

White.	Black.
1..16 to 19	1..32 to 28
2..19 to 23	2..28 to 32
3..23 to 19	3..24 to 28
4..19 to 23	4.. 1 to 6
5..31 to 27	5.. 6 to 10
6..27 to 24	Drawn.

Base Hits.

Pettit and Burke, of the Toronto team, are said to have received an offer to play in Australia this winter and are thinking seriously of crossing the Pacific ocean to the Antipodes.

Faatz, captain of the Clevelands, has been fined more than any other National league player.

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THE GENUINE DR. C.

McLANE'S

—CELEBRATED—

LIVER PILLS!

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Fleming Bros.:

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Sioux Falls, Dakota.

NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL.

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nov30-1yeod Tu,Th,Saw

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2. WORMS, Worm Fever, Worm Colic		.25
3. CRYING COLIC, or Teething of Infants		.25
4. DIARRHŒA, of Children or Adults		.25
5. DYSENTERY, Griping, Bilious Colic		.25
6. CHOLERA MORBUS, Vomiting		.25
7. COUGHS, Cold, Bronchitis		.25
8. NEURALGIA, Toothache, Faceache		.25
9. HEADACHE, Sick Headache, Vertigo		.25
10. DYSPEPSIA, Bilious Stomach		.25
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