

LABOR'S 'DAY OFF' SPENT IN PICNICS

Parade Is Omitted, for First
Time in Years, by Vote of
the Federation.

200,000 SHARE IN OUTINGS.

Many Women Workers Take Part
in the Procession Held in
South Chicago.

Labor day was celebrated in Chicago without the usual parade of organized workers affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor. Instead of a display of strength in a street demonstration, thousands of workmen, with their families and friends, spent the day at various picnics and outings where they listened to speeches and engaged in dancing, music and athletic sports.

It was only in the suburbs that the parade idea was kept alive this year. Labor parades were held in Blue Island and in South Chicago. More than 3,000 workers, including 200 members of the Women's Trade Union league of Chicago, participated in the parade in South Chicago, which was held under the auspices of the South Chicago Trades and Labor assembly, the central body for that part of the city.

Speakers Address Crowds.

At the picnics and outings speakers recounted the progress and triumphs achieved by organized labor during the last year, predicted a successful onward march of the trades union movement, and described the ends which it seeks to attain.

President John Fitzpatrick of the federation celebrated the day by making one of the opening addresses at the annual convention of the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks, an organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. He praised the trades union movement as one which all but selfish men could unite in supporting and he denounced employers who take advantage of "the ignorance, religion, and race prejudices" of foreign born laborers "who see the United States as a haven of refuge from governmental and economic oppression."

200,000 Spend Day in Outings.

It was estimated that more than 200,000 organized workers spent the day in some outdoor form of recreation. Hundreds of unionists and their families spent the day in the country, taking trips on the interurban cars, and the lake excursion boats did large business in carrying members of labor unions to and from Michigan summer resort points.

It was the quietest Labor day in the history of organized labor in Chicago. A large number of business houses and mercantile establishments closed all or a part of the day in honor of labor's national holiday, and as a result thousands of unorganized workers were given a holiday on account of the occasion.

Unorganized Workers Join Fun.

Many of the unorganized workers joined with the unionists in the merrymaking at the picnics and outings. Special matinees were given at practically all the theaters, and crowded houses was the rule at all of them. All afternoon and evening the downtown streets were thronged with holiday crowds who sought to make the most of the day's sport in honor of the nation's toilers.

A crowd estimated at 30,000 attended a picnic at Riverview park given by the Building Material Trades council. Members of Carpenters' union No. 62, one of the strongest in the Carpenters' district council, held celebration of their own at World's Fair park. Speeches, dancing, music, and sports were indulged in by the crowds at both picnics. Secretary Edward N. Nock of the federation spent the day visiting at various picnics in an automobile, and other labor leaders took an active part in the fun.

Prefer Rest to Parade.

It was the first time in several years that the labor parade was omitted in Chicago. The proposition was voted down overwhelmingly by the unions affiliated with the federation, the members taking the attitude that would be better to spend the day at "rest and recreation" with their wives and children than "do a hard day's work at marching through the streets."

"The idea has been growing a long time that Labor day should be a day of rest

and recreation," said Secretary Nockels. "I believe the parade idea as conducted in the past is dead for a long time."

The parade in South Chicago terminated with a picnic at Nehl's grove, One Hundred and Third street and Indianapolis avenue. A feature of the demonstration was the big turnout of working girls, members of the Women's Trade Union league, headed by Mrs. Raymond Robins.

Members of the league were dissatisfied with the action of the Chicago federation in discontinuing the parade and for that reason turned out on review in South Chicago. The varicolored banners in May pole form displayed by them drew cheers and applause along the entire line of march.

Many Unions in Pageant.

Unions represented in the six divisions of the parade were the lumber tallymen, bartenders, engineers, piledrivers, lake seamen, firemen, and cooks, teamsters, boiler makers and iron shipbuilders, switchmen, street car men, building laborers, longshoremen, carpenters, and molders.

Street car men on all lines in the city and suburbs marked the day by wearing silk badges marked "Labor Day" and bearing the number of the division of the union to which the worker belonged.

The general labor situation in Chicago is the best in several years, in the opinion of the unionists. In the period since last Labor day there have been few strikes and those few have not been of serious consequence. The principal strikes were those of the building trades crafts, and in most instances the troubles were settled within a week or two with increased wages and favorable working conditions for the men.