

LABOR DAY.

The Workingmen to Meet in Social

Intercourse,

AND CELEBRATE LABOR'S TROPHIES.

Georgia's Advance in the Question of Labor Legislation—The Work of Fulton County's Representatives.

Tomorrow is Labor Day, and throughout the state it will be observed as a legal holiday.

The act of the legislature declaring the day a legal holiday was brought about through the agency of the Atlanta Federation of Trades.

A stronger organization does not exist in the south, and the history of the federation since the day of its organization nearly two years ago has been one of interrupted prosperity. The organization was perfected in January, 1891.

The federation is composed of six delegates from each of the different unions, and each delegate is elected for a term of one year. The delegates must be in good standing with their respective unions and represent in their membership a respectable occupation.

Mr. P. H. Moore, who is now serving his second term, is the present executive head of the federation. The vice president is Mr. C. P. Shackelford, the recording secretary, Mr. S. M. White; financial secretary, Mr. Charles L. Govan, and assistant recording secretary, Mr. M. B. Morrison.

The object of the members in organizing the federation was to expedite the establishment of unions throughout the country and acquire a greater strength in defending the rights of the laboring classes and also to adjust the difficulties arising between the workmen and their employers.

Tomorrow's Celebration.

Tomorrow will be the first holiday since the act of the legislature.

The day will be observed with appropriate exercises, and an interesting programme will be carried out in Concordia hall.

Addresses will be delivered by Hon. E. W. Martin, the author of the legislative bill, Mr. Hoke Smith, Mr. J. G. Woodward, and others. The exercises will begin at 7:30 o'clock.

Badges will be worn by the members of the different unions in order to distinguish them as members of the federation.

Wurm's band will furnish the music, and no doubt a large crowd will attend the speaking.

The different banks in the city will be closed during the day, and announcements to that effect have already been published.

It goes without saying that the first Labor Day will be a success in every particular.

Labor Legislation in Georgia.

Mr. E. W. Martin, of Fulton, introduced the labor day bill, and it had the active support of his colleagues, Messrs. Howell and Goodwin, and met with general approval as a fitting recognition of the great labor interests.

Nothing better illustrates the harmony existing between the professional, business and the laboring classes than the attitude of the representatives from Fulton, who were all from the largest city and business center of the state. While one of them was a newspaper editor and two were lawyers, the great laboring interests could not have had more sympathy or co-operation in legislation than it received from Fulton's representatives. Of this delegation a few words may not be out of place. Mr. Howell had been a member of the two previous legislatures, and Fulton's pride was aroused to see him in for a third time in order to reach the speaker's chair. The other two members were new men. Mr. E. W. Martin received the general support of all classes and especially of railroad employes. He took high rank as a legislator. Mr. Goodwin came into the race nearly at the close of the campaign, at the special instance and request of active and representative members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Order of Railway Conductors, and the men who were active in bringing him out in this way are now living in this city and are well satisfied with the manner in which he fulfilled their expectations, especially in matters affecting the great body of employes—railroad employes particularly.

In speaking of his election on the day following Mr. Goodwin said to a Constitution reporter:

"I feel more bound in the call made upon me by these representatives of railroad labor than I could have felt under almost any other circumstances."

The legislature of 1890 and 1891 was not only remarkable for the interest it took in labor questions, but for the active part taken in these questions by the delegation from Fulton.

A Bill Against Blacklisting.

In addition to the bill establishing Labor Day there were many others of great importance, among which was that introduced by Mr. Goodwin, known as the bill against blacklisting employes. The evil which had existed under the consolidation of various lines of railroads under one management was that it was claimed and argued that employes discharged for any cause, however trivial, on one line or branch of a great system were also prevented, by notice to other lines and branches of the same system, from getting employment anywhere under the general system. As a result instances were shown where employes could not get railroad work anywhere in the state, even though their discharge had resulted from the most trivial cause. They were thus driven from the state to get employment elsewhere. These facts induced Mr. Goodwin to prepare this bill, which "required railroad companies to give to their discharged employes the cause of discharge, when discharged, or removed, the cause of their removal, and on what complaint and by whom, and provided that a failure or refusal to give such statement of complaint should subject the railroad company to the payment of damages to the discharged employe."

Regulating Hours of Labor.

Another bill of interest to railroad employes, passed at the same session, championed by the Fulton delegation, was a bill to regulate the hours of labor of trainmen, so as to guard against excessively long runs. In the house Mr. Goodwin, of Fulton, and Mr. Calvin, of Richmond, had special charge, as a subcommittee, of perfecting this legislation, and its enactment was secured.

The bill regulating the appointment of peace officers and detectives—under which such outrages as the Pinkerton march on Homestead was rendered impossible in Georgia—was introduced by Mr. Calvin, of Richmond. When it came up in the house its passage was advocated in speeches by its author and by Mr. Goodwin, of Fulton. This bill became a law, and thus Georgia was placed in advance of legislation by congress, and that of other states. This bill provided that persons acting as detectives in Georgia must not only be appointed by duly constituted authority but must also be citizens of Georgia. Mr. Howell, being in the chair, lent all the influence of his position in aiding his colleagues to push through such favorable legislation.

They Will Close.

We, the undersigned, agree to close our doors Monday, September 5th, Labor Day, not to be opened under any consideration for business.

G. H. IRBY,
D. J. O'CONNELL,
CODY & RAY,
G. B. PARKER & CO.,
T. S. FIELD.