

State Historical Society

THE WAGEWORKER



Child Labor Bill Meets With Favor

Nebraska bids fair to soon have one of the best child labor laws on the statute books of any state, thanks to the efforts of a band of noble women and a legislature that is trying to do something for the state instead of for special interests. The editor of The Wageworker has, as a newspaper man, had considerable experience with Nebraska legislatures. Without hesitation he expresses the belief that in point of ability, energy, progressiveness and fidelity to the cause of the people, the legislature of 1907 is superior to any other that ever convened in the state house. It has gone about its work with an evident intention of doing what the people elected it to do.

One of the best child labor bills ever offered etoal etoalbm bmetaobmm drawn was offered simultaneously in house and senate, in the house by Henry T. Clarke, Jr., of Omaha, and in the senate by B. F. Thomas of Omaha. The bill was prepared on the initiative of the social science section of the Omaha Woman's club, presided over by Mrs. Draper Smith, than whom union labor has no better friend. The best legal talent procurable in Douglas county was drafted to assist in preparing the bill, and the advice of educators and union mechanics was sought. House Roll 9 and Senate File 91 gives promise of going through without amendment. The judiciary committee of the house met on Thursday of last week and listened to arguments in favor of the bill, Judge Kennedy of Omaha, Superintendent Stevens of the city schools, State Superintendent McBrien, Mrs. Draper Smith and W. M. Maupin appearing for it. At the conclusion of the hearing the committee unanimously recommended the bill for passage. Last Tuesday the house in committee of the whole reported the bill for passage with but two or three dissenting votes. This means its safe passage through the house without amendment. The senate gives bright hopes of similar action, and Governor Sheldon may be depended upon to sign it.

The bill as presented to house and senate is as follows, the sections prescribing forms of certificates being omitted:

"A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Employment and Use of Child Labor, to Provide for the Enforcement of its Provisions, and a Penalty for its Violation—

"Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the state of Nebraska:

"Section 1. No child under fourteen years of age shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in, or in connection with, any theater, concert hall, or place of amusement, or any place where intoxicating liquors are sold, or in any mercantile institution, store, office, hotel, laundry, manufacturing establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, factory or workshop, or as a messenger or driver therefor, within this state. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to employ any child under or service whatever during the hours when the public schools of the town, township, village or city in which the child resides are in session.

"Section 2. No child between fourteen and sixteen years of age shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in any theater, concert hall, or place of amusement, or in any mercantile institution, store, office, hotel, laundry, manufacturing establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, factory, or workshop, or as a messenger or driver therefor within this state unless the person or corporation employing him procures and keeps on file and accessible to the Truant Officers of the town or city, the State Commissioner of Labor, and his deputies, and the members of the State Board of Inspection, an employment certificate as hereinafter prescribed and keeps two complete lists of all such children employed therein, one on file and one conspicuously posted near the principal entrance of the building in which such children are employed. Upon the termination of the employment of a child so registered, and whose certificate is so filed, such certificate shall be forthwith transmitted by the employer to the city or county superintendent of

schools of the County in which the child resides, and shall be turned over to the child named therein, upon demand. Any Truant Officers, the State Commissioner of Labor, or his deputies, or any member of the State Board of Inspection may make demand on any employer in whose place of business a child apparently under the age of sixteen years is employed or permitted or suffered to work, and whose employment certificate is not then filed as required by this Section, that such employer shall either furnish him, within ten days, evidence satisfactory to him that such child is in fact over sixteen years of age or shall cease to employ or permit or suffer such child to work in such place of business, the same evidence of the age of such child may be required from such employer as is required on the issuance of an employment certificate as hereinafter provided; and the employer furnishing such evidence shall not be required to furnish any further evidence of the age of the child. In case such employer shall fail to produce and deliver to the Truant Officer, the State Commissioner of Labor or Deputy State Commissioner of Labor, or member of the State Board of Inspection within ten days after demand for the same, such evidence of the age of any child as may be required of him under the provisions of this act and shall thereafter continue to employ such child or permit or suffer such child to work in such places of business, proof of the giving of such notice and of such failure to produce and file such evidence shall be prima facie evidence in any prosecution brought for violation of this Section that such child is under sixteen years of age and is unlawfully employed.

"Section 3. An employment certificate shall be approved only by the superintendent of schools of the school corporation in which the child resides, or by a person authorized by him in writing, or where there is no superintendent of schools, by a person authorized by the school district officers: Provided that no school district officer or other person authorized as aforesaid shall have authority to approve such certificate for any child then in, or about to enter his own employment, or the employment of a firm or corporation of which he is a member, officer or employee, or in whose business he is interested. The officer or person approving such certificate shall have authority to administer the oath provided for therein or in any investigation or examination necessary for the approval thereof. No fees shall be charged for approving any such certificate nor for administering any oath or rendering any services in respect thereto. The Board of Directors of each school corporation shall establish and maintain proper records where copies of all such certificates and all documents connected therewith shall be filed and preserved and shall provide the necessary clerical service for carrying out the provisions of this act.

"Section 4. The person authorized to issue an employment certificate shall not issue such certificate until he has filed the following papers, duly executed, examined and approved and executed: (1). The school record of such child, properly filled out and signed as provided in this act showing that the child has completed the work of the Eighth (8) Grade of the Public Schools or its equivalent, or is regularly attending night school in compliance with Section eight (8) of this act. (2). A passport or duly attested transcript of the certificate of birth or baptism or other religious or official record, showing the date and place of birth of such child. A duly attested transcript of the birth certificate on file according to law with a registrar of vital statistics, or other officer charged with the duty of recording births, shall be conclusive evidence of the age of such child. (3). The affidavit of the parent, or guardian or custodian of a child, which shall be required, however, only in case none of the documents mentioned in clause (2) of this Section can be produced and filed, showing the place and date of birth of such child; which affidavit must be taken before the officer issuing the employment certificate. Such employment

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SPEND LINCOLN WAGES IN LINCOLN

The Wageworker has been accused of inconsistency in advocating the patronage of home industry in one breath and condemning a home industry in another breath. The accusers are possessed of feeble discernment. There are a lot of home industries that The Wageworker does not believe in patronizing and promoting. Some of them are found where the red lights glitter. Others are located where the telegraph sounder makes a noise and the operator marks figures on a blackboard. The Wageworker would not advocate the patronage of the saloon industry.

The Wageworker does, however, advocate the policy of spending money earned in Lincoln with those firms and institutions that are worthy of the patronage of wage-earners. There are Lincoln firms in every line of business, nearly, who are fair and who are deserving of the patronage of every wage-earner in the city.

There is no earthly reason why a single dollar of Lincoln earned money should be sent out of the city for flour. There is no earthly reason why a single suit of clothing should be purchased with Lincoln earned money from any catalogue house in Chicago or elsewhere. There is no reason why a single article of hardware, of lumber manufacture, of headgear, footwear, neckwear, or bodywear should be purchased with Lincoln earned money from merchants doing business outside of Lincoln.

What is true of the wage-earner is also true of the retailer in large measure. Retail grocers of Lincoln should buy their goods of Lincoln wholesalers. Retail druggists should purchase their stock of Lincoln wholesalers whenever possible.

But it should not be expected that union men will pursue the home patronage policy to the extent of patronizing their industrial enemies.

The home patronage policy, carried to its logical conclusion, would mean more for Lincoln during the next ten years than anything that has ever before added to its prosperity. It would furnish employment to more wage-earners, tend to increase wages, build up the commercial interests, and make Lincoln a bigger and better city.

Lincoln wage-earners should not let behind the home patronage movement. It will be missionary work for the cause of unionism. Lincoln housewives, wives of business and professional men as well as the wives of mechanics, should spend the money earned by their husbands with the business men of Lincoln.

Let us keep all the Lincoln made money right here in Lincoln that we possibly can. "Home first, the world afterward," may be a slogan that sounds selfish, but an enlightened self-interest is what this city needs right now.

And Lincoln's interests should be paramount with Lincoln wage-earners.

The beneficial feature of the Retail Clerks' Union went into effect recently. By its provisions any member that holds a paid up card and becomes sick is entitled to \$5 a week for twelve weeks, or as long as the disability remains.

Thos. I. Kidd, of Chicago, for 15 years general secretary of the Amalgamated Woodworkers' International Union, has accepted a position with the Burnswick-Balke-Collender company in connection with its branch house in New York.

OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Lincoln women who want to secure splendid jobs paying a magnificent rate of wage should hasten to consult Secretary Whitten of the Commercial Club. The daily papers state that the Commercial Club has an opportunity to land a big commercial enterprise in Lincoln provided its promoters can be assured that they can secure plenty of female help for the factory. It wants a hundred women and girls as a starter, and promises to double the force in a very short time.

The promoters generously offer to pay a rate of wage that will allow the female workers to earn from "FOUR TO TWELVE DOLLARS A WEEK."

Of course the new concern wants to employ garment workers who can run heavy sewing machines, and it expects to pay FOUR DOLLARS A WEEK. Lincoln needs a lot of industries like that. Women who want to work for FOUR DOLLARS A WEEK, and board and clothe themselves, should make great haste to register their names with Secretary Whitten.

After the women have paid their board and rent, laundry bills and clothing bills out of their FOUR DOLLARS A WEEK, they will find Lincoln merchants and Lincoln banks eagerly bidding for their surplus.

Among the Live Locals of Lincoln

The Central Labor Union met last Tuesday night and transacted a lot of business expeditiously. President Smith was prevented by sickness from presiding, and Vice President Quick wielded the gavel.

By unanimous vote the central body offered an addition of \$25 to the reward offered by the Appeal to Reason to any man or woman who would kidnap ex-Governor Taylor and return him to Kentucky, just as Moyer and Hayward were abducted and run off into Idaho. Incidentally the central body adopted a resolution caustically criticizing the supreme court of the United States for its infamous decision in the habeas corpus case of Moyer and Hayward.

Resolutions of regret and sympathy concerning Fred Karcher, who died last week, were adopted by a rising vote. Karcher was a member of the Bartenders' Union.

L. L. Ingraham of the Typographical Union was unanimously endorsed by the body as its choice for the position of deputy labor commissioner, and the endorsement will be forwarded to Governor Sheldon.

Messrs. Maupin, Leaden and Kelsey were appointed on a committee to meet the legislative committees on labor and secure, if possible, the framing and passage of a labor law or two.

The Central Labor Union will elect officers for the ensuing six months at the next meeting, and all delegates are expected to be present.

The executive committee was given two more weeks in which to examine and report on the books of ex-Secretary Long.

The piano contest, which has been dragging for a month, was settled just before the central body was called to order. Ticket holders were allowed to designate the manner of drawing, and it was conducted just as they willed. The holder of ticket No. 371 may have a fine union made piano by presenting the ticket to Treasurer Evans or the editor of The Wageworker.

The meeting of the central body was one of the largest in recent months and several very interesting topics were made.

Plumbers' association recently pleaded guilty to indictments charging them with violating the Valentine anti-trust law. Five of the members were fined \$60 and costs and three \$50 and costs.

Mrs. Bert Chipman has been seriously ill for some time. Her many friends will rejoice to hear of her speedy recovery.

Union plumbers of Detroit, hearing that a former member of the union but hailing from another city, had died and was about to be given to a medical college, claimed the body and gave it Christian burial. The first time the Citizens' Alliance does a Christian act like this we will print the fact in big red letters.

PRESSMEN RENEW CONTRACTS. For Five Years and Get Eight-Hour Day January 1, 1909.

The following from the Washington Trades Unionist will take a load off the minds of the Lincoln pressmen, but we should wait until it is officially confirmed before jubilating very strongly:

The Philadelphia Ledger of the 8th instant says: "The executive council of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union and a committee from the United Typothetae of America met in Philadelphia on Tuesday and an agreement was entered into renewing the present contract for five years, with a provision for inaugurating the eight-hour day on January 1, 1909.

This is a compromise. The pressmen wanted the eight-hour day to begin next May, when the present contract expires. It will affect about 14,000 men in this country and Canada, who are employed in book- and job-printing offices and are what are known as "flat-bed" pressmen.

The job and web pressmen have dissolved and will organize separately in Denver.

Lincoln pressmen are kept busy these days. Work was never better in the city.

CARPENTER NEWS.

Items Picked Up Here and There for Local Men to Read.

St. Paul, Minn., carpenters have decided to ask for an increase from 40 to 45 cents an hour. Notice to that effect has been given to all St. Paul contractors.

While it is agreed that the French speaking carpenters are fairly well organized, there is still much work to be done, and they feel that an organizer who can speak the French language will do much in Ottawa to thoroughly organize that craft.

Strike of the union carpenters of the Pittsburg district has been declared off. Less than 100 men are now being carried on the benefit list and over 8,000 men are now receiving \$4 for eight hours.

Two hundred ship carpenters in the employ of the Newport News Shipbuilding Co. are minus their tools as a result of a disastrous fire which destroyed a large part of the plant. It is estimated the 200 tool chests and their contents were worth \$10,000, which will be a total loss to the men.

MACHINISTS.

The union machinists of Omaha will give their annual ball at Creighton hall on February 12th.

Over in Montreal nearly 100 machinists joined the union in one night. It created so much talk that at the next meeting 200 got in line. And they are still a-coming.

Business Agent Powers of the Boston machinists' union, says that he has jobs for 225 union machinists and has sent word to several cities for men.

BRICKLAYERS.

The bricklayers of Kansas City have served notice that on and after April 1, 1907, the scale will be 70 cents an hour, foremen 80 cents. This action was taken the first of the year.

The Garment Workers' Union is the largest in the United States, and composed chiefly of women.

LEATHERWORKERS' BALL.

Union Celebrated Fourth Anniversary With Merry Social Event.

The local union of Leatherworkers on Horse Goods celebrated the fourth anniversary of the organization of their union Thursday night of last week. The celebration took the form of a ball, which was given at A. O. U. W. hall with Quick's orchestra furnishing the music. Over one hundred couples were in attendance and the ball, like all others given by this organization, was a social and financial success. The committee on arrangements attended to their duties in a manner that warded off all criticism, and the floor committee saw to it that everybody had a good time.

The local union is in good shape; better, perhaps, than ever before in its history.

PLUMBER NOTES.

Items of Interest for the Boys Behind the Traps.

The Plumbers' Union of Chicago is preparing a letter to President Roosevelt asking what he thinks of the union's scheme to give a bonus of \$100 for a baby, \$200 for twins and \$500 for triplets. The Wageworker opines it would be a good thing. It will give a little prize of \$5 to the first set of twins born to a union plumber and his wife in the city of Lincoln, and a fine baby carriage to the first set of triplets born to a Lincoln plumber and his wife. This same offer holds good with any union man and his wife in Lincoln.

Many members of the United Association of Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Steam Fitters are urging that the organization establish a home for the aged and infirm, along the same lines as the typos.

The steamfitters and helpers of the Pittsburg district have secured an advance in wages of 25 cents a day.

Members of the Ashtabula, O.,