

# THE WAGWORKER



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## How One Ministerial Delegate Was Received

(By the Rev. Charles Stelzle.)

My friend was a big-hearted preacher. I was sure that he would make good with the boys, even though he was the pastor of the smallest church in town—made up largely of employers.

He did lots of good, too. I shall not take space to tell about it, because I want to know about the welcome that he received by the Central Body. This is about the way that he told me about it:

"I had been told that the labor unions were hotbeds of infidelity; I had sat in a meeting of Socialists where preachers were referred to with scorn and the name of Jesus was received with cheers. When our Ministerial association appointed me a fraternal delegate to the Federated Trades Council, I wondered what would happen when I presented myself for admission. Would they sneer? It is revealing no important secret of the council chamber to say that when I crossed the threshold there was a round of applause, and that I was escorted to a seat on the platform next to the president.

I served as fraternal delegate for a year. It involved no little sacrifice; but it paid—paid big. I became a sort of chaplain among the workmen. They invited me to visit their local unions and to be present at their social gatherings and public meetings. When they asked me to speak at their annual outing in the amusement park, they inquired somewhat timidly if I objected to participating in a picnic where there would be a good deal of dancing and shooting the chutes. I said 'No,' most decidedly. It was a

great day. I never preached to the men. I did not try to get them to come to my church. I did not pose as a 'friend of the laboring men.' I simply went to the council as a delegate to help in any possible way. I did not even think it necessary to remind the council that I represented the churches or the Ministerial association. They, of course, understood that. I did say something on the subject of religion on one occasion. It was a banquet. They asked me to give one of the addresses. I tried to give them some idea of the service the church could render their cause in some such way as this: Laboring men are demanding justice, not charity. Every true minister is urging this every Sabbath. Laboring men are emphasizing the brotherhood of man. This is the commonest theme of the pulpit. Laboring men are struggling for what they conceive to be their rights as to property and leisure. We are eager to give them our help. And it is our mission also to remind them that they have souls as well as bodies, that there is a God and that heaven is just beyond.

When I sat down, the man at my right said: 'We ought to have something like that once a month.' And the man at my left said: 'I've been a member of the union for fifteen years and I never heard anything like that before. It's all right.'

I have found labor leaders intelligent, fair-minded and dead in earnest. The ministerial delegate who will go to them with a modest, genuine desire to help, will get from them more than he can give.

REV. CHARLES STELZLE.

## LEGISLATION AND LEGAL MATTERS AFFECTING UNIONS.

The bill fixing the maximum time for labor in the mines at eight hours per day was passed by the French Chamber of Deputies.

Governor Stokes has signed a bill establishing the initiative and referendum in the cities, boroughs, villages and towns of New Jersey.

The government of Belgium, having refused to pass a measure reducing the hours of labor in mines, was defeated on a vote taken in the Chamber of Deputies.

An immigration bill now pending in the British Columbia legislature imposes an educational qualification which, it is believed, will result in barring Chinese, Japs and Hindoos.

The Wisconsin assembly has passed a bill limiting the hours for railroad telegraphers to eight a day and has also passed a law giving street railway employes a ten-hour day.

By an executive order the employes of the government printing office are now enjoying a half-holiday on Saturdays during July, August and September, the same as employes of other departments.

The secretary of war has decided that the national eight-hour law ap-

provision of persons out of work while they are seeking employment. The state is already carrying out old age, sick and disability pension systems. The official bureaus operating these systems are further charged with bringing persons seeking work in contact with employers wanting labor, and also for forcing vagrants to labor.

Even though not incorporated, labor unions can be held responsible for damages which they inflict as organization, according to a ruling in the United States district court of Seattle. The question was raised before Judge C. H. Hanford in the suit of Don E. Johnson against Seattle Typographical Union No. 202. Johnson was expelled from the Seattle union. He was forced to give up a good position, and was unable to obtain work in Seattle. Suit for damages on the ground that the union was a co-partnership was resisted on the ground that the union was unincorporated. A verdict of \$3,500 damages resulted.

When the supreme court of the United States meets next October it will be confronted with a question as to the liability of a labor union to punishment under the anti-trust

## Some Live News From Realm of Printerdom

Upon Editor Maupin's departure for the Hot Springs convention he asked me to "dig up" a few items for The Wagworker during his absence. As Brother Smith, who is temporarily in charge of this household necessity, has a number of irons in the fire, I will do what I can to alleviate the pressure.

Speaking of Hot Springs and the convention—that was a very bright coup framed up by Delegate L. L. Ingraham. For several days prior to the time of starting Mr. Ingraham joined with others in planning the trip, not intimating but that he would be a member of the party. On Wednesday, however, he made a side trip out into the state and took unto himself a wife (the lady's name and the town being at present unknown), and from there Mr. and Mrs. Ingraham comprised a party bound for Hot Springs. It is quite likely that Mr. Ingraham paid well for his cuteness when the delegates learned what he had done. It is to be hoped that no one will suggest that Mr. Ingraham decided to make this move by reason of the increase allowed the delegates!

Among the accredited delegates to the convention we see the name of Frank Heimback of Mississippi, who for many years was a Missouri river pirate, spending much time in Sioux City and Omaha. Here is a little story that is told on him: A dress of brevier was put on the Republican in the latter city, which was not at all pleasing to the printers. One day Heimback appeared with a bandaged thumb. Upon being asked to work he exhibited the afflicted member, explaining that he had met with an accident which incapacitated him for work. He had been employed on the Republican the night previous when he struck a "molly" quad in his thumb—casting reflections on the size of type used.

It is said that Heimback has abandoned many of his old ways, and for a number of years has been employed in a Mississippi city, sober, industrious and married. It is to be hoped that if any of the pirates who have been riding the vehicle so ununiversally commended should drop their whip at the convention (which is not at all probable!) they will soon regain their positions on the wagon and partake of nothing stronger than aqua pura thereafter.

John I. Moore of the Star chapel is in receipt of a letter from O. C. Fodrea, who is located at Spokane, Wash., doing nicely and very much infatuated with the place. Mr. Fodrea has traveled extensively since leaving Lincoln. He related that Ollie Mickel had just "blown in."

Harold George, a former member of 209 and for a long time foreman of the News, was in the city last week on the sad mission of attending his father's funeral. Mr. George is now foreman of the Newspaper Union composing room at Omaha. In conversation with the writer he said that he recently sent Charles Brown, a former member of Lincoln union, to St. Louis to take a lucrative position with the W. N. U.

The Sioux City (Iowa) Typographical union has signed a six year contract with all the newspapers of that place for a \$4 scale. This is a significant piece of news for Lincoln printers. Sioux City has about half the population of Lincoln. In October Omaha's new scale of \$4 and \$4.50 is effective. Suggestive?

The demise of Col. L. W. Hurt, for many years a member of this union, has not been noted in these columns. He died in a small town in Washington early in July.

V. S. (Tony) Pastor invested some of his surplus "jitny" in a ticket to Pueblo a few days ago. As a direct result of this purchase Tony is now in Pueblo. Al Parsons, after a sojourn of several months in Lincoln, has returned to K. C.

A. T. Pentzer, late of Pasadena, is doing swimmingly as machinist at the Star.

Ed Howe of the Star chapel has moved into apartments in a new and up-to-date flat in the city. He is well pleased with his new quarters as reg-

ulation to immediate needs is very easy. For instance, he says that when he desires to change his uniform the entire apartment can be thrown into one room, thereby making it unnecessary to thrust his arms out of the window when changing his shirt.

Calvin S. Hoyt, who has been one of the dependable operators on the News for several months, has been transferred to the Journal chapel and will work nights. "Cal" is delighted with the change, as by working instead of sleeping at night he will have the entire day to devote to his own interests.

One hot afternoon last week "Abe" Compton of the News chapel went home quite exhausted after a strenuous day's work only to find that Mrs. Compton had absented herself from home, carefully locking the doors. Being unable to get in the house "Abe" sought solace and comfort in the cellar. He stretched out on a table and was soon in the arms of Morpheus, (as near as he can tell), but in his slumbers tossed about and overturned the table. There was a couple of feet of water in the cellar!

Eliminating comment as to the justice of the action of a certain union in placing a fine on its members for attending a certain amusement, there is one thing that can be said without fear of successful contradiction—that it was an excellent advertisement for the label; also that the manager of the aforesaid amusement will be very careful when he has another concession to dispose of.

Word comes from Colorado Springs that B. C. Sweeney, at one time a member of 209, is doing some good union work in the chapel in which he works. Mr. Sweeney is a machine operator on the morning paper in the Springs.

What is home without a mother? I had intended signing this communication "More Anon," but refrained, knowing if discovered it would be the end of your uncle

J. E. M.

Doc Righter is taking a "sort of" vacation. He keeps away from the keyboard and loafers around home trying his wife's board. Morris Crisman and Billy Wilkerson are "setting" stuff for him.

Billy Norton, being a member of the First Regiment band, is doing time in camp at Capital Beach.

Axel Johnson, at present superintendent of the composing room of the Western Newspaper Union's branch house at St. Louis, was giving friends the glad hand the past week. Axel used to browse in this territory ten or twelve years ago, in the "good old hand days," being a compositor in the Western Newspaper Union. Later he assisted his father, Hon. Eric New Era, going from Wahoo to Omaha, and finally to St. Louis. He informs us that John Sigourney, now foreman of the St. Louis house, is getting along all right and doing well.

## HOW TO WIPE OUT SWEATSHOPS.

There is just one method of wiping out the sweatshops, and that is to patronize the union label. The mother who insists that our label appear on the suit she buys for her little boy is doing her share toward preventing the boy of some other mother from being sentenced to a life of unrequited toll in a foul sweatshop, a tearless funeral, and a grave in the potter's field. She is helping to give honest employment under fair conditions to an adult man or woman and to drive out the awful evil of child labor. If we could impress these facts upon the public mind with enough force we would soon drive out the sweatshops and have our children in the schools instead of the mills and tenement workshops—Eight Hour Advocate.

Those big railroad presidents really cannot understand why they should be compelled to obey the laws, just like ordinary workmen.

The merchant will supply label goods just as soon as he learns for sure that union men and women will purchase no other kind.

## TELEGRAPHERS

### Key-Pounders Get Tired of Conditions and Go Out.

The telegraphers all over the country have taken the bull by the horns and are trying to get, through a strike, better conditions than they have been having. The present strike is a direct outcome of the failure of the employers at San Francisco to keep faith with the employes, having gone squarely back on an agreement reached there about two months ago.

At the time this is written, Wednesday morning, there had been no general strike called, but one is expected unless the men who are in Chicago for the purpose succeed in reaching some basis of settlement. Labor Commissioner Neill, Samuel Gompers, and President Small of the Commercial Telegraphers, are trying to settle the trouble, but there is little hope of their being able to do so, and a general call may be issued even before the Wagworker goes to press.

President Small says the trouble would cease at once if the men had the assurance that their grievances would be heard by the government board of arbitration, as the men are satisfied any reasonable board, after listening to the evidence, would decide that they were entitled to better pay and shorter hours. The chief offender is the Western Union, and the strike was leveled against it, but the Postal became involved through a sympathetic walk-out.

As a result of the strike the newspapers are handicapped in getting news, and various interests are hindered, but organized labor will take its share of the inconvenience attending the strike, and pray that the telegraphers will win out.

The men in the Lincoln offices of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies quit work Thursday morning at 7:30 on an order from Local Secretary L. F. Taylor, telegrapher at the Star, whose authority to do so rested upon a general strike order issued by Sam Small, president of the National Union.

### BIRTHS

Recently two members of the pressmen's union, E. C. "Dick" Chevront, and Charles Cameron became fond papas, their wives presenting them with baby girls. Both are as happy as clams over the event, and have ordered larger hats. Congratulations!

### CAPITAL AUXILIARY ITEMS

Capital Auxiliary met August 9 with Mrs. W. E. Moore, and a goodly number of the ladies were present, notwithstanding the hot afternoon. No specially important business was transacted, the auxiliary having its affairs pretty well in hand. Mrs. Hebard, the vice president, presided in the absence of Mrs. J. E. Marshall, who, as the auxiliary's delegate, is in Hot Springs attending the international convention. The auxiliary gave its delegate \$50 for expenses to Hot Springs, and still had money left in the treasury. The auxiliary membership is admittedly not what it ought to be in numbers, and it is hoped that when the weather gets cooler, interest will revive and the membership increase to what it ought to be.

A committee was appointed to arrange for a reception to our delegates and visitors on their return from the convention, and each one will be called on to make a talk of some kind or tell about the trip. Members of Typo union are invited; time and place given later.

Several cards have been received from our friends at Hot Springs and such expressions as the following, are most popular: "Hotter than—" This is a "hot" place; "Very warm here."

Master Richard Maupin decided at the last minute to stay in Lincoln and is being entertained, during the absence of his parents, at 2308 Dudley street.

Mrs. August Radebach has been visiting in Eagle during the absence of Gus, who is a delegate to the Hot Springs convention.

Mrs. Freeman has returned from the east and has very wisely decided to locate in Printerville, and with Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Freeman is moving to Twenty-fifth and Orchard streets.

Our secretary Mrs. Fred Mickel has been on the sick list a couple of days this week. MRS. C. B. R.

### AUXILIARY MEETING

Capital Auxiliary will meet with Mrs. H. W. Smith, 1725 P street, Friday, August 23, at 2:30 p. m. It is hoped a large number of the ladies will attend, as there are several matters of importance to come up for discussion.

Everybody at the Labor Day picnic! Let's make it the greatest social time the unionists of this community ever experienced.



V. A. MATTHEWS

Republican Candidate for Coroner. I Am Asking for the First Term. The Present Coroner is Asking for Fifth Term.

piles in Alaska as it does elsewhere, without regard to the difficulties of obtaining an eight-hour day at certain times of the year.

A government bill for granting state advances to farmers for agricultural improvements, similar to the system of agricultural banks in existence elsewhere, will be introduced next session in the Cape (South Australia) legislature.

Fifty-one years ago the first eight-hour league in Australia was established in Melbourne, and parliament has not yet made eight hours a legal day's work. In this direction the unions have done more than parliament for wage-earners.

The third annual state convention of postoffice clerks, held at Sacramento, adopted resolutions recommending the passage of the \$1,200-a-year bill for clerks and for an eight-hour day. The association agreed to ask congress for a thirty-day annual leave of absence and endorsed the pension bill for superannuated.

Count von Pcsadowsky Wehner, the vice-chancellor and minister of the interior of Germany, has undertaken the preparation of a scheme for the

law if a matter which has been certified to that court by the circuit court of appeals for the second circuit is pressed. The question arises in connection with the case of D. E. Lowe of Danbury, Conn., versus Martin Lawlor and 200 other members of the American Federation of Labor.

Lowe is a hat manufacturer and it is charged that the federation has sent out circulars to Lowe's patrons all over the country warning them that if they do not desist from purchasing his hats for their trade they will be put upon the unfair list and will lose the patronage of union men and their friends everywhere.

Lowe brought suit in the circuit court for the district of Connecticut, asking for \$249,000 damages under the anti-trust law, which provides that any violation of the law shall be punished by a fine amounting to three times the amount of the damage sustained. The case is certified to the supreme court on the one point as to whether the plaintiffs can maintain an action under the anti-trust law.

A "scab" coat never covered a good union breast.