

THE WAGWORKER



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Will Union Men Show Resentment?

Following immediately after the annulment of the employers' Liability law by the supreme court comes another by that tribunal declaring the Erdman act also unconstitutional. This act was one prohibiting railroads engaged in interstate commerce from discriminating against members of labor organizations in the matter of employment. The case was that of William Adair vs. The United States. The opinion was by Justice Harlan, Justice McKenna dissenting vigorously and declaring the decision to be along very narrow lines. Justice McKenna was the justice who held favorably to the idea of Moyer and Haywood in the famous habeas corpus case.

The court held that Adair, as master mechanic of the Louisville & Nashville railroad, had a right to discharge an employe because he was a member of a labor organization just as it is the employe's right to quit such employment because of his membership in such organization. Such a course, the decision added, might be unwise, but, regarded as a mere matter of right, there could be no doubt. Congress could not under the constitution authorize a violation of contracts under the guise of protecting interstate commerce.

On Wednesday evening the Lincoln Evening News printed the following dispatch from Washington:

"President Roosevelt is considerably disturbed over the recent decision of the United States supreme court which defeated the most important provision of the Erdman act, which prohibited interstate railroads from dismissing employes because of their membership in labor organizations. It comes on the heels of other notable decisions, declaring the employers' liability law to be unconstitutional, together with other recent judicial mandates, which are interpreted as decidedly hostile to organized labor. The Erdman law defeat has raised grave apprehension on the part of republican leaders regarding its effect on the labor vote at the coming presidential election.

"President Roosevelt has written a special message to congress urging the prompt enactment of an employers' liability law that will be within the restrictions of the constitution." He also intends to write a message on the Erdman law decision, indicating his disappointment with it and the desirability of putting on the statute books a constitutional act that will give reasonable protection to members of labor organizations.

"The other day Judge Dayton of West Virginia, one of President Roosevelt's appointees, issued an injunction against labor leaders of that state so sweeping in character as to attract the unfavorable attention of the white house and senate. The president has caused inquiries to be made into the facts and a resolution is pending before the senate calling for information to determine whether the situation warranted Judge Dayton in going so far as he did in restraining labor leaders.

"The president and his friends realize that the unfavorable decisions, taken with the fact that the panic has resulted in the reduction of the forces in mills, factories, and in other industries, are bound to have a bad effect on the big labor vote.

"President Gompers of the American federation of labor was at the white house yesterday and talked with the president about the situation."

Well, it certainly, looks like there are enough counts in the indictment to make union men sit up and take notice. Here are some of the—count them:

The supreme court's decision in the

Moyer-Haywood habeas corpus case. That famous "undesirable citizen" letter.

The appointment of notorious "open shop" Stilling to be public printer and at the head of the great printing office maintained by the government.

Sending troops to Goldfield to break a strike brought on by a breach of contract on the part of the employers.

member should make it a point to be present when President Bain lets the gavel fall.

THE PLUMBERS.

Fixing Pipes for Another Good Time Next Monday Evening.

The Plumbers are planning for some more "social doings" next Monday evening. That is the regular meeting night, but instead of attending to routine business the plumbers will lay aside carking care—or caulking care—and smoke and eat and talk it over. The non-union men will be invited to come up and learn first-

Friday night at Walsh hall. There were also several visitors present who are prominent in the offices of the Lincoln division. The guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Moore, Mrs. Joe. McCoy and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Holmes, after which a program of several numbers was rendered.

It being leap year the gentlemen were escorted to the lunch rooms by the ladies, the ladies finding their partners by original little poems written on charity organization cards. After being seated, shingles, pasteboard box covers, wooden plates and tooth picks were passed in a large clothes basket, by two poverty-strick-

Central Labor Union Will Elect Officers

The meeting of the Central Labor Union next Tuesday evening should be the most important one of the year. It is at this meeting that officers for the ensuing six months will be selected, and this is a matter that should receive the earnest attention of every accredited delegate, and every such delegate should be present. This can, and should, be made the banner year

and have it done inside of six months. It can not be done by holding meetings where committees report, "nothing to report," and where the sum total of business is a little "rag chewing" and a lot of long-winded speeches.

It is time to inject some ginger into the central body. Get out to the meeting next Tuesday night, pick out the men who you think will do the most efficient work for the good of organized labor, and elect them to office. Make up some committees that will give just a little time to the work in hand and then insist that they do it

THE MACHINISTS.

Holding Their Annual Ball While The Wageworker Is At Press.

While this issue of The Wageworker is at press, Lincoln Lodge No. 698, International Association of Machinists, is holding its fifth annual ball at Fraternity Hall. Bruce's union orchestra is furnishing the music and the hall is full of merry-makers. The Wageworker acknowledges the courtesy of an invitation and a ticket. Next week's issue will contain a review of the occasion.

Machinists' Union, No. 204, I. A. of M., wants all machinists to know that machinists are on strike at all points on the Erie railroad. Stay away.

THE TEMPLE PROJECT.

Directorate Meets and Adjourns to Await Some Belated Help.

The Labor Temple directors met Monday evening and held a brief session. Owing to a delay in securing the sketch of the proposed building it was necessary to postpone further operations for another week. As soon as this sketch is received a line drawing will be made, and a pamphlet issued containing the articles of incorporation, and outline of the proposed work and statistics to show the profitability of an investment in Temple stock.

New Haven Typographical Union sent in for one share of stock and another local whose location cannot at this moment be recalled, sent the money for ten shares. It will be properly credited in the next issue.

Treasurer Riss is still holding on owing to the delay in selecting his successor. The matter will doubtless be settled at the meeting next Monday evening. The directory has hopes, but it does not feel at liberty at this time to make public the name of the gentlemen it hopes to prevail upon to accept the onerous position.

Matters have reached a stage where but little can be done other than wait for a propitious time to begin the active canvass for subscriptions. But everything is ready for that, and before February's winds cease to blow there will be a financial crusade that will make a big stir.

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH?

The American Federation of Labor has declared that the "eight hour day" is to be the paramount issue. With only two representatives in Congress, who are identified with the labor movement, the "paramount issue" will be daggered to death by old Joe Cannon, who makes a specialty of administering "knockout drops" to labor bills.—Miners' Magazine.

NO DUAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has decided that a general circular shall be issued to city central bodies and state federations of labor, notifying them that all seceding or dual organizations must in accordance with the law be denied representation in these bodies.

THE REAL FACTS IN THE CASE

The real meat of the union question lies not in strikes, in boycotts, in resolutions nor in manifestos. It lies in a universal demand by union men and women for goods that bear the union label. If every union man and woman in the United States would for twelve consecutive months, thirty days in the month, demand the union label on everything they consume, and refuse to take the goods without it, there would be no need of strikes, of boycotts, nor of unfair lists. The way to boycott is to demand the label. Demanding the label is the best method of striking the unfair shops and mills. It is a silent strike that hits the pocketbook of the unfair employer, and the pocketbook nerve is the most sensitive nerve possessed by man in this commercial age.

Lincoln unionists are entirely too careless and negligent. They consult their own selfish wishes or their own personal tastes, and give no heed to the appeals of their brothers of the different crafts. They think that when they have insisted upon the label of their own craft they have done all that is necessary.

That sort of thing is the bane of unionism. Every time you buy non-union goods you violate your union obligation and prove a traitor to your fellows. Every time you purchase goods manufactured by men who are opposed to organized labor you "lend aid and comfort to the enemy," and that is treason in its worst form.

The fact that you carry a union card does not make you a union man. Unionism is of the heart as well as of the pay envelope and the shorter work day.

The union label is the sign by which union labor must conquer if it conquers at all.

Just think this matter over in the quiet of your own home. Ask yourself this question: "Have I been doing my duty to my fellow workers?"

If you do not always and everywhere insist upon the label you are not doing your full duty.

There is no getting away from these plain facts. And no genuine union man will want to get away from them. Unionism is something to be lived for, not a thing to get a living from.

The supreme court's decision that the employers' liability law was unconstitutional.

The supreme court's decision that the Erdman act was unconstitutional.

The decision of a federal judge that a labor union is a trust contrary to law, followed by an order that the union must be dissolved.

The sweeping injunction of Judge Dayton against labor leaders in West Virginia.

The boosting of William Howard Taft for the presidential nomination—Taft, the original injunction judge.

...It would seem about time that somebody began to pause to take political stock.

Organized labor is very patient—and often criminally negligent of its own interests—but there may be a limit even to the patience of the three millions of union men who hold the balance of political power if they only knew it and would use it wisely.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

February Meeting Important One in a Great Many Respects.

The meeting of the Typographical Union at Fraternity hall next Sunday afternoon will be an important one in many respects. The plans for the anniversary celebration will be submitted, and the committee appointed to attend to the matter of a monument for the burial lots in Wyuka will report. In addition it will be the time for the nomination of international officers. President, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, home trustees and delegates to the American Federation of Labor are to be nominated, and this is a matter that should be given careful attention.

The anniversary committee has been holding regular meetings and the plans outlined are calculated to arouse great interest in the event. Every

handed what the union stands for, and also to smoke some union made cigars and eat some sandwiches. These little social affairs are always interesting and always profitable.

Work has been fairly good all winter, the open weather being particularly favorable for new jobs. The Plumbers are grateful that the lack of freezing weather has had the effect of relieving them in large measure from the old busted pipe—millionaire plumber joke.

The outlook for the coming season was never better. There are some big jobs in sight, and the union contractors are getting in on the best of them. It pays to be square.

THE BRICKLAYERS.

Annual Convention at Detroit One of Best in Union's History.

The annual convention of the Bricklayers at Detroit, which began January 12 will doubtless be concluded just as Wageworker goes to press. From both the business and social standpoints it has been an unqualified success.

Once more the question of affiliation with the American Federation of Labor was brought forward and the argument was warm. The question will again be submitted to a referendum vote. Postal saving banks were endorsed.

The social round has been strenuous. The local union gave a grand ball for the visitors. Wm. M. Finck, the big manufacturer, had the delegates as his guests at a theatre party, following with a big dance at his manmoth factory.

At the close of the afternoon session on Friday of last week, Hamilton Carhart provided cars for the officers and delegates and took them to his big "uniform overall" factory. There he tendered them a big banquet, following it up with a big ball which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Boston, Buffalo, LaCrosse and Joplin were candidates for the 1910 convention, but up to the hour of going to press The Wageworker had not learned the name of the successful city.

ENGINEERS MAKE MERRY.

"Poverty Party" Was an Event Enjoyed By a Big Crowd.

About one hundred of the engineers and their families were present at the "poverty party" given by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers last

en maidens, and then a delightful surprise came to the hungry guests, when the Misses Duffey, Conner, Johnson, Graves, Morrison, Aylwin and Shafer served an elaborate luncheon. Mesdames Hutchinson, McLacklin, and Morrison assisted in the dining room.

The first impression one received on entering the parlors was that he had been transported to the times when Coxe marched his labor army through the country, if he judged from the dress of the guests. In passing into the main hall one might think he was entering butterfly land, as hundreds of green, red and white butterflies had been used, these being the local colors of Division No. 98.

The members of the committee in charge were F. Ryan, Roy Hutchinson and J. N. Hyder. After the prepared program several of the visitors were called upon for impromptu talks. Those responding were E. Bignell, Dr. Hollenbeck, Julius Detrich, William Ackerman, and Joseph McCoy, the chief engineer of the order. The program as rendered was as follows:

Piano solo, Mrs. Fred McLennan. Vocal solo, Fred Farguhar. Selection, Scandia, Quartet, Messrs. Olson, Peterson, Samuelson, Lyon. Duet, Ralph Hyder and James McLaughlin.

Vocal Solo, Hazel Walker.

Piano Duet, Fern and Marie Freeland.

Reading, Mrs. Lee Emerson.

Selection, Scandia, quartette.

Vocal Solo, Miss Jude Dey.

Reading, Mrs. J. N. Hyder.

Vocal solo, Josephine Johnson.

The committee appointed to decide who was the most poorly dressed man and woman, gave to Mrs. Farguhar a Happy Hoolihan statue and to Engineer Lamb a de r Teddy Bear, in engineer's garb.

One of the attractions of the evening was the Herpolsheimer railroad in the rear of the hall.

A NEW EDITOR.

W. C. Whitthorne has assumed control of the Colorado Springs Labor News and will guide the destinies of that staunch labor organ in future. He is an experienced newspaper man, a thorough unionist and well acquainted with the work in hand. Here's wishing him abundance of success in the Sunshine City.

There is a Nurse Girls' Union in New York City.

Twenty-Fifth Annual Ball

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209

FRATERNITY HALL

Wednesday evening, February 26, '08

TICKETS \$1.00

EXTRA LADY 50c

FIRST ANNUAL BALL

LINCOLN MUSICIANS UNION NO. 209

FRATERNITY HALL

Thursday Evening, February 20, '08

TICKETS \$1.00

EXTRA LADY 50c