

THE WAGWORKER



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The Church and Its Many Shortcomings

At the regular meeting of the Lincoln Ministerial association on Monday, February 3, Rev. H. O. Pritchard, pastor of the Christian church at Bethany, the seat of Cotner university, read a paper entitled, "The Social Problems of the Modern Pulpit."

It is not surprising that the paper caused an interesting discussion. It was such a radical departure from the usual self-complacent ministerial paper that it rattled some theological dry bones and stirred up things generally. It needs but a perusal of that part of the address published in this issue of The Wagworker to demonstrate to the reader that Rev. Mr. Pritchard is something of a ministerial iconoclast viewed from the modern pulpit standpoint. He talks straight from the shoulder, like a man as well as a minister, and like a man who believes that the gospel of Jesus Christ is quite as much a thing for today as it is for an indefinite tomorrow.

Workingmen of the city who happened to read the summary of Rev. Mr. Pritchard's paper as published in the daily press were immensely pleased with it. At the meeting of the Carpenters' Union the following night a vote of thanks was tendered him, together with an invitation to address the union at some time in the near future. The Central Labor Union last Tuesday evening followed the example set by the carpenters.

By the way, before presenting a portion of Rev. Mr. Pritchard's address, The Wagworker would like to know what has become of the ministerial union's delegates to the Central Labor Union.

That portion of Rev. Mr. Pritchard's address of particular interest to union men is as follows:

"What should be the attitude of the church with regard to the social questions of our day?"

"The temperance problem, the divorce problem, the problem of the children, the problem of the poor and the still greater problem of capital and labor. While reformers are scattering their seed of truth, while the workers in the slums are trying to ameliorate the sufferings of the poor, while the courts are dealing with divorce, while the socialists in their blind way are trying to work out an economic system that will be just, shall Christians still be content to sing songs and go home to dinner?"

"Or what is more important? Shall the man in the pulpit lift his voice against the sins of an age, against social injustice and against wickedness in high places, or shall he be a mere figurehead mouthing out glittering generalities concerning literature and art?"

"Of all moral questions today none are so pressing as morality. What right have ministers to back away from these questions and refuse to contribute whatever discernment God has given them?"

"I am aware that the position of the Christian ministry today is an exceedingly delicate one. On the one side there is a wide cleavage between the church and the masses which has its ground in class consciousness. We hear much about the unchurched masses, and there is no use trying to deny the charge that in our great centers of population our churches only touch the fringes of the great fabric of cosmopolitan life."

"The wage-earning class as a whole regard the church as an institution allied with capitalism and the local church as a social club. Mr. Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said: 'My associates have come to look upon the church and the ministry as the apologists and defenders of wrong committed against

the interests of the people simply because the perpetrators are the possessors of wealth whose real God is the almighty dollar and who contribute a few of their idols to suborn the eloquence and intellect of the divines, and make even their otherwise generous hearts callous to the sufferings of the poor and struggling workers, so that they will use their exalted positions to discourage and discountenance all practical efforts of the tilters to lift themselves out of the slough of despondency and despair."

"In the program of the radical socialists the church must go for it is the organization of the rich. All this is on the one hand.

"On the other hand is the attitude of the church itself. We regret to admit it, but we must. The church is out of sympathy with the masses. Many churches are made up for the most part of the rich and the well-to-do. Some of them who pay pew rent do it with money that has the stain of blood upon it. There are faithful attendants at the church services who esteem human life cheaper than dividends. Others who wring the life out of little children in factories. Others who ruthlessly crush their fellows in competition. Others who claim to serve the master of love, who build up their business success at the expense of justice and love.

"On the one side is an unsympathetic world, on the other an unsympathetic church. Between the devil and the deep sea stands the man in the pulpit today. What is he to do? With all these stern realities of our changing social order pressing in upon him, with the sanctity of the home polluted by legalized adultery in the midst of a generation mad for gambling, with saloons and brothels at the very door of the temple; facing a world in the darkness of heathenism, with a submerged tenth rotting in our cities, with an industrialism that is more murderous than war; with all this shall the preacher still be content with manuring conventional theology?"

"What has the story of Jonah and the whale or the dimensions of Noah's ark to do with all this struggling and suffering host?"

"There is but one thing for him to do. He must be a prophet for his age. He must declare unto men, 'all the words of this life.' Being a man of God he must speak the word of God.

"To a dying world he must give the bread of life. He must lay emphasis upon the sinfulness of sin, and like every true prophet he must rebuke sin wherever found.

"Let him use tact in so doing, but at the same time remember that the world will never be moved by tact. Some preachers are so tactful that their prophecies are never anything but smooth things to itching ears.

"It is not his business to try trimming and straddling. He must have a straight as the moral law. The pulpit is no place for the temporizer or the time server. God's judgment is set upon the false prophet in what ever age he may appear.

"The Pharaohs of this world have to afflict them with burdens. The story of the bricks is again being doubled and straw is being taken away.

"There is about to be another great labor movement as there was in the days of Moses, for God has called out: 'Let my people go that they may serve me.'"

DETROIT CIGARMAKERS STRIKE.

The cigarmakers are involved in a conflict with the Detroit branch of the La Azora company, of Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo concern reduced

wages 50 cents per 1,000 cigars made and 250 men quit. The order to make the same reduction in Detroit, where the concern is known as the Main Issue Cigar company and is located at 75 Bates street, resulted in 75 men quitting rather than accept the cut.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Removal of Stillings Causes a Big Smile All Around.

The removal by President Roosevelt of Public Printer Stillings caused a huge smile to chase over the faces of Lincoln printers. Stillings is a notorious "open shop" advocate and a big wig in the "Tea-pot" movement. His inability to measure up to the requirements of the big office is no surprise to the printers, and to them

field and three to nominate. That's going some.

Says the Omaha Western Laborer: "The Benevolent Order of Zoos will shortly issue a circular wherein the admission to this great order of Theodore Roosevelt will be announced. He is a brave 'scavenger, buzzard and viper,' and is entitled to rank among the most 'poisonous critters' in the jungle. The educated pup has us skinned a mile when it comes to 'viping.' There promises to be a large increase in the tribe of Zoos this year."

The death of A. F. ("Pard") Bloomer at Washington is a distinct loss to the organization. He was a forceful writer and a consistent agitator in behalf of closer organization. Peace to his ashes.

Among the Live Ones in Lincoln

The board of directors of the Lincoln Labor Temple Association met in regular session last Monday evening. The unfinished perspective of the proposed building was brought to the meeting and aroused a lot of favorable comment. The drawings will be completed in time for presentation at the meeting next Monday night, and then everything will be ready for the great hustle for funds.

Not later than March 1 the campaign for subscriptions will begin, and from that time on until success is

week. Through his efforts the local stereotypers got together again and resurrected their local union. Conditions in the jurisdiction are now such that the local members can have no reasonable excuse for not keeping in line with their fellows.

A. E. Small was elected president and Sam Aiken secretary-treasurer. Every stereotyper in the city was formerly a member of the local, and everyone signed up for a revival thereof.

Mr. Sumner is a leader in the labor movement in Kansas City. He graduated from law school and was admitted to the bar, but preferred working at his trade and making a personal study of social and economic conditions. His visit to The Wagworker was thoroughly enjoyed by the editor. The labor movement would profit much if it had more leaders like the gentlemanly and educated young man who visited Lincoln in the interests of the stereotypers' union.

THE MUSICIANS.

Everything Ready for Their First Annual Ball Thursday Night.

The Musicians have everything ready for the first annual ball at Fraternity hall next Thursday evening. The committees in charge have worked hard, and are satisfied with what they have done. The ball will doubtless be a success from every viewpoint.

Joe Frolick served refreshments at the meeting last Sunday, celebrating his recent marriage. The local paid its respects to the refreshments and voted congratulations to the bride and groom.

All the amusement resorts in Lincoln are on the fair list. What threatened to be trouble at one of the smaller resorts has been amicably adjusted, and all is now peace and serenity.

Sunday, February 23, is the date of the next meeting.

THE BARBERS.

Conditions Good and Work Growing Better Every Day.

The Barbers' Union meeting last week was a quiet affair. Nothing but routine business was transacted until "good and welfare" was reached, and then some short but interesting and instructive talks were made.

Work has been slack for a month or so, but is improving as spring approaches.

President McBride and Secretary Schwinkler are supposed to be putting in their spare time preparing a list of the fair shops for publication in The Wagworker.

Women barbers are admitted to the Austrian union, but they are required to apprentice themselves for three years before they can go into business on their own account.

The Barbers and Wig Makers' Union in Vienna is very stringent in its examination before it will admit any new members to the society. Only fully competent persons are allowed to practice.

CRUSHED HER FINGERS.

Miss Arla Gibson, a pressfeeder in a local printery, forgot to remove her hand after feeding a sheet Tuesday afternoon, and as a result, three fingers on her right hand were frightfully crushed. The injured digits were attended to by a surgeon and the injury will not be permanent.

IN KENTUCKY.

Girls and women work from sixty to seventy-five hours for \$3 to \$6 per week in laundries at Louisville. And this in chivalrous Kentucky.

If Christ should come Today
By the Rev. Charles Stelze

Long years ago the angels' wondrous glory song
Was heard by humble shepherds,
Who watched their flocks by night.
None heard that song in palace, temple, court or mart:
The ears of all within were deaf.

The Christ came first to those whose aching hearts
Eried out: "How long?" the common folk—
Who heard Him and were glad.
He healed the sick, the lepers cleansed,
He gave the blind their sight. To those
Who needed life, He gave His own.
His came in largest measure to the men
Whose hearts beat to His heart most true.

If Christ should come to earth to-day,
Would He go first to temple and to mart,
To palace and to court?
Or, would He seek the cottage and the slum;
Seek those who still cry out: "How long?"
Seek those whose waiting hearts still beat with pain
And long for Him who made the angels sing
Of "Peace on earth, good will to men."

is due in large measure the credit for showing up his incompetency in such a convincing manner that President Roosevelt summarily removed him.

The anniversary ball on February 26 will be a record breaker. The committee has its plans all made and is now engaged in seeing that they are carried out to the letter. The committee will meet Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Righter to make final arrangements and listen to reports. The Nebraska Press Association members who accept the union's invitation are going to be given one of the best times they ever had.

Even Indianapolis, the home of the executive council, seems to have succumbed to the wiles of the enemies of union labor who have camped on the trail of the big man. The sneaking guerillas of the manufacturers' association seem to have gotten in their deadly work, for No. 1 has actually nominated Hudspeth and Crowley. So has New York. So has Dallas. So has Joplin. So has Terre Haute. So has Lincoln. The unions that are still getting big results from the "special benefit" list went just as was expected.

If Miss Wilson shows up in the election like she did in the nominations she will land an easy winner in the race for trustee of the home. "Bix Six" gave her 384 votes out of a total of 686 cast, nine candidates in the

FOR PROTECTION OF LABOR.

Anti-Trust Law Amendment Might Make Statute Unconstitutional.

The American Federation of Labor's plan for overcoming the effect of the boycott decision of the federal supreme court was introduced in the house on February 7 by Representative Nicholls of Scranton by request of President Gompers, Secretary Morrison and other Federation officers.

It is embodied in the following bill which, if passed, will be attached to and become a part of the anti-trust law: "That nothing in this act shall be construed to apply to trade unions or other labor organizations, organized for the purpose of raising or regulating wages, shortening hours of work, or making more tolerable other conditions under which labor is to be performed."

Those who have considered the opinion believe if congress should pass the Nicholls bill the effect would be to make the whole law unconstitutional on the ground that it does not afford the equal protection of the laws to all persons.

MORE FULL DINNER PAILS—NIT.

Word comes from Sharon, Pa., to the effect that the independent steel plants are preparing to follow the lead of the Republic Iron and Steel company and reduce wages. The cut will range from 10 to 18 per cent.

won every director, and every union man who is desirous of seeing a labor temple erected in Lincoln will boost to beat the band. When the picture of the proposed building is shown to the public, and the plans outlined by the incorporators are thoroughly explained, there can be no doubt about the result.

Everything is working along at a gratifying rate, and if the union men of the city will do their part the cornerstone will be laid on Labor Day, 1908—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

STEREOTYPERS REASSEMBLE.

Organizer Sumner Rehabilitates the Local and Gives New Start.

Charles A. Sumner, general organizer of the Stereotypers' International Union, with headquarters in Kansas City, was in Lincoln the first of the

FIRST ANNUAL BALL
LINCOLN MUSICIANS UNION NO. 209
FRATERNITY HALL
Thursday Evening, February 20, '08
TICKETS \$1.00 EXTRA LADY 50c

Twenty-Fifth Annual Ball
Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209
FRATERNITY HALL
Wednesday evening, February 26, '08
TICKETS \$1.00 EXTRA LADY 50c