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**WAGWORKER**

WILL M. MAUPIN, EDITOR

Published Weekly at 127 No. 14th  
St., Lincoln, Neb. One Dollar a Year.

Entered as second-class matter April  
21, 1904, at the postoffice at Lincoln,  
Neb., under the Act of Congress of  
March 3rd, 1879.

"Printers' Ink," the recog-  
nized authority on advertis-  
ing, after a thorough investi-  
gation on this subject, says:  
"A labor paper is a far bet-  
ter advertising medium than  
an ordinary newspaper in  
comparison with circulation.  
A labor paper, for example,  
having 2,000 subscribers is of  
more value to the business  
man who advertises in it  
than an ordinary paper with  
12,000 subscribers."

**TEMPERANCE VS. PROHIBITION.**

In the discussion of any question  
the wise disputant will first define  
his terms. Prohibition does not  
mean temperance. Neither does tem-  
perance mean total abstinence.  
Neither does temperance mean sole-  
ly the moderate use of alcoholic  
liquors. It means moderation in  
everything—including language—a  
fact that many advocates of temper-  
ance forget.

The Wagworker is not a pro-  
ponent of the saloons. On the con-  
trary it is opposed to the liquor  
traffic and seeks by every sensible  
method at its command to eliminate it.  
But the enactment of a prohibitory  
law does not mean the destruction  
of the liquor traffic. Neither does a  
majority vote against the saloon  
mean that a majority of the voters  
will do their full duty in enforcing  
the law they have put upon the  
statute books. In discussing the  
liquor problem with an elder of a  
prominent church the other day, the  
editor of The Wagworker made a  
remark to which the elder replied:

"Well, I will vote against the sal-  
oon, and there my responsibility  
ends."  
"On the contrary, there is where  
your responsibility begins," was the  
editor's reply.

This elder's position is the posi-  
tion of a majority of those who vote  
for prohibition—and that is why the  
law is usually a farce.

The Wagworker is not impressed  
with the argument of those who op-  
pose prohibition on the ground that  
it will increase taxes, create vacant  
property and throw men out of em-  
ployment. Neither is it impressed  
with the argument of the prohibition-  
ists who declare that the enactment  
of a prohibitory law is the solution  
of the liquor question.

This humble little labor paper be-  
lieves that the solution of the liquor  
problem lies in education. It believes  
that the commonsense of the Ameri-  
can people will sooner or later teach  
them that the saloon has nothing to  
recommend it, and that when they  
reach this conclusion—and they are  
rapidly approaching it—they will  
eliminate the saloon. The work of  
practical temperance reform has  
taken greater strides during the last  
ten years of practical education than  
it took in forty years of "red ribbon"  
and "blue ribbon" campaigning under  
Gough and Murphy and Benson.

There is less drunkenness today than  
ever before in the world's history,  
partisan prohibitionists to the con-  
trary notwithstanding. Men are more  
temperate as a rule than they were  
in former years, not because of the  
moral wrong of over-indulgence, but  
because they realize the physical and  
mental injury thereof. We believe  
that another decade of progress along  
temperance lines similar to the pro-  
gress made during the last decade  
will bring us to the final and proper  
solution of the question—the elimina-  
tion of the saloon as it exists today.

The danger is that in their haste  
to force the solution men will enact  
laws that will be impossible of en-  
forcement, and a law unenforced is  
a farce and a menace.

There are a great many men in  
Lincoln who are just as anxious to  
rid the country of the saloon evil as  
Brother Wolfenbarger, or Brother  
Batten, or Brother Carr, or Brother  
Flansburg. They are just as honest  
as either member of this little band  
of brethren. But because they differ  
in their conception of the proper  
course to follow they are branded as  
"saloon advocates" and "tools of the  
devil" by the good brethren who  
would reinforce the gospel of the  
Nazarene with a legislative enact-  
ment and a sheriff's writ. For the  
life of us we can not see much dif-

ference between the man who loses  
control of his appetite and gets drunk  
and the advocate of temperance who  
loses control of his temper and in-  
dulges in intemperate language.

Why cumber the statute books with  
more laws looking to the elimination  
of the liquor traffic? The laws we  
have now would, if enforced like the  
Civic League says it will enforce  
prohibition in Lincoln, close 95 per  
cent of the saloons in Nebraska by  
making them unprofitable.

The Slocumb law forbids the sale  
of liquor to an intoxicated man. The  
courts have held that a man with  
one drink under his belt is intoxica-  
ted.

The law forbids "treating." Four-  
fifths of the money spent across the  
bars of Nebraska is spent in "treat-  
ing."

If we cannot enforce these laws,  
how in the name of common sense  
can we enforce a prohibition law?  
The Wagworker is asking for infor-  
mation.

We cheerfully admit that there is  
no argument for the saloon. But we  
do insist that there is room for argu-  
ment concerning the best methods  
of ridding the country of the saloon  
business.

Which is best—to educate men to  
do right, or to try to make them  
moral by legislative enactment?

Come, brethren, and let us reason  
together.

**SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW.**

Because of an editorial in last  
week's issue, The Wagworker has  
been charged with being a "saloon  
organ." Nothing could be further  
from the truth. The Wagworker has  
never carried a saloon display ad-  
vertisement. It never carried a dis-  
play beer advertisement. It has never  
asked a saloon keeper for an adver-  
tisement. In the publication of two  
"Friendly List" editions over-enthu-  
siastic solicitors did get contracts from  
two saloon keepers. The contracts  
were carried out. These two con-  
tracts amounted to exactly \$10. In  
the four years of its existence The  
Wagworker has not received as  
much money for advertising liquor  
as the morning organ of prohibition  
has received in one day for the same  
thing. Not one single saloon keeper  
in Lincoln has ever spoken to the  
editor of The Wagworker concern-  
ing its attitude in the present cam-  
paign for prohibition. One man—an  
outsider—wanted to use The Wage-  
worker as an opponent of prohibition,  
guaranteeing "big money" to the  
editor. The offer was declined. The  
saloon keepers repudiate the man  
and declare they will have nothing to  
do with him.

The Bartenders' Union of Lincoln  
has subscribed to The Wagworker  
in a body. The local did this before  
The Wagworker was three months  
old, and it has never failed to renew.  
Not one bartender has asked The  
Wagworker to oppose prohibition.

The editor of The Wagworker has  
been in the newspaper business as  
long as any man in the city of Lin-  
coln. He knows men as well as any  
other newspaper man in Lincoln. He  
rather believes that his profession  
as a newspaper man—having worked  
in every position from police reporter  
to editor-in-chief in cities far larger  
than Lincoln—has enabled him to  
know human nature as well as any  
minister in Lincoln. His thoughts  
are his own. The Wagworker's edi-  
torial columns are not for sale at  
any price. If it criticises a man in  
its editorial columns, those same col-  
umns are open to that man's reply  
without cost to him. The Wagwork-  
er is only a humble little labor pa-  
per, but it is above the petty mean-  
ness of attacking a man editorially  
and then charging him advertising  
rates for the space he uses in reply.  
It is above attacking a man's busi-  
ness in one column and advertising  
his business in another. The Wage-  
worker has not, and will not, ad-  
vocate the licensed saloon as a fixed  
institution. But it does reserve the  
right to think for itself when it comes  
down to a discussion of how best to  
eliminate the liquor evil.

It objects as strenuously to being  
called a "saloon organ" as it would  
to being called the organ of a band  
of fanatics who would reform men  
by legislative enactment.

"The saloon is an agent of evil,  
therefore it should be restricted to  
daylight hours in order to minimize  
the evil," is an argument advanced  
by some. Now let us take the logical  
sequence. "The church is an agent  
of good, therefore we will enact an  
ordinance compelling the churches to  
keep open all the time." And why  
not?

Members of the state board of pub-  
lic lands and buildings who let a con-  
tract to a man who used convict labor  
need not expect the support of union  
workmen.

Have you seen the picture of the  
proposed Labor Temple?

On the first page of this issue, in

bold type, will be found a quotation  
from a book entitled "Christianity's  
Storm Center," written by Rev.  
Charles Stelzle. Rev. Mr. Stelzle  
knows the workingman and the work-  
ingman's every day environment bet-  
ter than any minister in Lincoln, and  
better perhaps, than any other min-  
ister in America. We earnestly be-  
seach our friends of the Civic League  
to read what he says, remembering  
that their quarrel must be with Rev.  
Mr. Stelzle, and not with The Wage-  
worker.

The machine politicians are now  
fixing up the states, national, state  
and county. And workingmen who  
have no part, save to pay the ex-  
penses, will be supposed to accept  
the "dope" without making a wry  
face.

The Wagworker is not opposing  
the elimination of the saloon. But  
when the prohibitionists have elimi-  
nated the saloon, what will they give  
the workingman in its place?

Lincoln's progress is being re-  
tarded by the greed of landlords who  
are demanding exorbitant rents. Rent  
for residence property in Lincoln is  
25 per cent too high.

The first thing some advocates of  
temperance should do is to learn the  
use of temperate language.

Mr. Carnegie is a fair sample of  
how the protective tariff benefits the  
American workingman.

Lower the rents, not the wages!  
That should be the battlecry of Lin-  
coln workingmen.

**UNION MADE STUFF.**

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Sanctum by a Card Man.

Limerick.

There was an old man in Woonsocket  
Who carried his cash in his pocket,  
Until his wife's touch  
Relieved him of much—  
Now he keeps it right where he can  
lock it.

**Mistaken.**

Just as we entered the mine own-  
er's office we heard him say to the  
superintendent:

"Send them all out in the country,  
and see to it that they have plenty  
of rest and open air exercise, and  
the proper kind of diet to put them  
in good trim."

This pleased me mightily. So sel-  
dom do employers take such an in-  
terest in their employes. So we de-  
cided to speak our mind.

"We rejoice to see you manifest  
such an interest in your employes,"  
we said. "The men will doubtless  
show their appreciation of you?"

"Employes, h—!" exclaimed the  
mine owner. "I was talking about  
our mules."

**The Uterior Motive.**

With great interest we listened to  
the argument of the self-made man.

"I had to work hard when I was a  
boy," he declared. "I believe it is  
beneficial to children to make them  
work. They must not be allowed to  
grow up in idleness. Teach them  
habits of industry—that's my motto."

So interested were we in the argu-  
ment that after the self-made man  
had disappeared we asked who he  
was.

"That?" replied a friend. "O,  
that's Colonel Bloodso, the owner of  
the big cotton mill over yonder.  
Three-fourths of his employes are  
boys and girls under ten years of  
age."

**The Courts.**

The boycott is forbid by law.  
Although the black list's legal:  
Thus has the highest court declared  
Dressed up in black gowns regal.  
But there's a thing to bear in mind:  
Those judges are not able  
To send you off to jail because  
You insist on the label.

**Prosperity Items.**

"See the labor editor?  
Yes.  
He is wearing diamonds.  
You don't say!  
Yes, but owing to the fact that he  
is wearing a long-tailed coat you can  
not see them.

**Cards.**

Some parents secure a curfew or-  
dinance and then expect to make  
their children moral by ringing the  
bell.

Intemperate speech is as sinful as  
intemperate appetite.

The greatest criminal on earth is  
the man who, for personal gain, robs  
youth of its playtime.

Unionism is from the heart, not  
solely from the mouth.

You'll get almighty little out of  
unionism when you put almighty lit-  
tle into it.

Unions do not dole out charity;  
they deal out justice.

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