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BILLY MAJOR'S DOPE CARD

THE SAME CONTAINING A FEW UNBIASED OPINIONS ABOUT MATTERS OF MORE OR LESS INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC

The knockers on the park bonds are now lousy. If it hadn't been on one thing it would have been on another. There is absolutely no truth in the statement that \$50,000 of the proposed issue will, if carried, have to be expended for the Lincoln Park site. The men who compose the park commission are level-headed business men, and they are not going to pay more for park lands than the lands are worth. If they buy Lincoln Park it will be because they think they are getting it at a bargain—and everybody knows that the site is not worth \$50,000. The proposition is to vote \$100,000 bonds for park purposes. The commission then spends the money as it sees fit, and it will see fit to expend most of it on Antelope Park. But the people of the west and southwest sides of the city deserve some recognition in the way of parks, and the Lincoln Park site is a good one. In time it can be connected with Antelope Park by a boulevard. Then the boulevard can be extended up Antelope creek until it is well around the northwest side of the city.

But the taxes! O, rot! Suppose the bonds run twenty years, and we raise a sinking fund of \$5,000 a year, and pay 4 1/2 per cent interest, which amounts to \$6,000 a year. That means we must raise \$11,000 a year. That, of course, will be lessened by the interest the city can secure by banking the sinking fund. But call it \$11,000 a year. We surely have 55,000 people in Lincoln. And say there is an average of five to a family. That's 11,000 families—and there's the cost, a dollar a family per year to bring about a park system that will be worth untold thousands in health, comfort, pleasure and satisfaction. I want every workingman in Lincoln who has a vote to vote for that kind of bond issue. The bulk of the money will be paid by men who have grown rich from the toll of the wage-earners; by the men who can go to the mountains or the seashore every summer. And we workers will soon have parks where we can take our wives and little ones on Sundays and our occasional holidays and get a breath of fresh air, roll in the grass, sit in the shade, and enjoy ourselves just like millionaires.

By all means, let every wage earner vote for the park bonds. More than that, let every wage earner become a bond booster and campaign for votes.

Yes, I'm about as crazy a baseball "bug" as there is in the country, and when a member of the home team makes a rotten error, or the home pitcher goes up in the air, I can accumulate about as huge a wad of disgust as anybody. But I'm no knocker. I've got too much sense to get up on my hind legs and cuss the player who made the error, or yell anathema at the pitcher. I've played a little semi-professional ball myself, and I know how it hurts to be cussed and damned by some addepledated hyena in the stand or bleachers. The player don't make errors on purpose, and yelling at him when he does don't help him to do better. Many a coming player has been ruined by consummate idiots on the bleachers eternally knocking. Ball players are humans, and it's a cinch that they'll resent injustice, just like you and I will. I've cussed 'em when they've played rotten, but I did it under my breath, interpolating a few loud mouthed excuses just to put a little more ginger and confidence into the player. For heaven's sake don't knock on the home team—that is, out loud! Trust the management to get rid of the shirker and the incompetent.

And, by the way, what I've said here about the ball players goes with the average workingman. The worker can appreciate a friendly boost or a little kindly oversight just like any other human being.

O, fudge! Judging by one of the city

dailies all there is of importance before the people of Lincoln is whether the council shall meet afternoons or evenings, or whether the sidewalks are on straight. There are a lot of people coming to the conclusion that this town is getting too blamed ladylike. Columns wasted on a few measly sidewalks, and not a word about some of the industrial conditions that are making for the lasting shame of the city. There are a thousand women working in Lincoln on an average of less than a dollar a day, boarding and clothing themselves, and hundreds of men trying to compete with them and at the same time support wives and children in semi-comfort. Girls sewing on forty-eight shirt buttons for a nickel, making overalls for 75 cents a dozen, working ten hours a day behind counters for \$1.50 a week—and yet crooked sidewalks and time of council meetings are about all the local stuff we get in the daily papers.

I wish some of the good women who are so all-fired interested in "civic improvement" would muster up a little interest in the welfare of their industrial sisters.

The wage earners of the Omaha congressional district have an opportunity to send to congress a man of their own class—a man of more than average brains, of unimpeachable honesty, of unquestioned sincerity. I'm afraid they'll make the usual fool mistake of letting the opportunity slip. It is not often that wage earners, and especially union men, have an opportunity to vote for a man like Laurie J. Quinby. He is a true-blue union man. He knows what the workers need, and he's got the brains and the ability to fight for them. I know Omaha like a book, and if I were asked to pick out the best fitted man from the ranks of organized labor in that district to represent the wage earners in congress, I'd unhesitatingly pick Quinby. The fact of the matter is, however, he's such a good man, and would make such a splendid representative in congress, that I'm awfully afraid he doesn't stand a ghost of a show to be nominated.

Are we going to try and elect any wage earners to the legislature from Lancaster this fall. We've got some almighty good timber to select from, and with the Oregon plan of electing United States senators there's no reason why we should let the senatorial fight cut any ice with us. I've heard Ed Howe mentioned, and he'd be a bully man to elect. He says he's a socialist, but that wouldn't count with me if he'd run. On the contrary, it would rather help. I could name a lot of them—Dug Smith of Havelock, "Doc" Righter, George Quick, H. E. McGurren, Pinney of the Musicians, McBride of the Barbers, Swanson of the Bricklayers, Frank Coffey, Pickard and Chipman of the Plumbers, Eisler, Walker, Jacobs—O, the list could be extended indefinitely without exhausting the available timber. If ever there was a time for the organized forces to get into the political game, that time is now.

Yes, the "Citizens' Alliance" is established in Lincoln. It is meeting regularly. I know the names of some of the members, for I saw them in session. Big employers, some of them, union haters most of them, plain ordinary felines willing to pull chestnuts from the fire for big monkeys some of them. But don't get excited. Just keep cool.

I don't give a hoot when the city council meets—whether in the afternoon or evening. No matter what time it meets it may be depended upon to waste a lot of hot air exuded by Candy and Leonhardt and others; to scrap over sidewalks; to play horse like a lot of kids and chew the rag until the councilmanic lungs are full of line. The only compensating feature is that the city as a whole is not judged by the

calibre of the majority of the council. There are some mighty good men sitting in that body. It would be hard to elect so many without getting a few good ones now and then. But if I should see a man willing to trust his private business of a million or two dollars a year in the hands of a body of men like our city council I'd holler for the lunacy commission before the men went plumb broke.

Yes, we are making a good thing out of municipally owned waterworks, thanks to a man like Schroeder at the head of the water committee. And the municipal lighting plant is all right, as far as it goes; the trouble being that it don't go far enough. We ought to have commercial lighting. And if we can make a success of municipal water plant and municipal lighting plant, why not street railway and gas?

After watching the opening game of the baseball season I am prepared to say that William J. Bryan is fully as good a pitcher as Don L. Love is a batter. And that isn't bragging very much on either of them.

I hope that "Labor Chautauqua" proposition isn't going to die a borning' life so many other good schemes have died. A little boosting and an absence of knocking, and it can be made a huge success. And a success would mean a bigger advertisement for Lincoln than any other thing that ever happened in this old town. Come on, boys!

Some people can not understand how union mechanics and union farmers can assimilate. But that's not to be wondered at. Some people can not understand the simple rule of three or grasp the meaning of the initiative and referendum. Low wages, low prices for farm products; high wages, high prices for farm products. Short hours, more men employed, therefore an enlarged demand for food products. Long hours, fewer men employed, therefore decreased demand for food products. It's so simple that the man who admits his inability to understand it simply admits his mental incapacity.

BILLY MAJOR.

BULLETIN OF LABOR BUREAU.

What One Daily Newspaper Says About the First Effort Put Forth.

Deputy Commissioner of Labor Maupin is to be congratulated upon the bulletin recently issued which is the first one to be devoted exclusively to labor affairs. It is also the first time the bureau has complied with the labor laws of Nebraska and the pamphlet is a convenient reference for information. Added to the laws is the collection of statistics on the burning topic, the cost of living. This showing is made on an average that is fair and the result is just about what the householder himself has been able to figure out in an indefinite way. But it is a comfort to have the figures for they relieve us of the suspicion in the always suspecting quarters that we are "calamity howlers." The figures are easily obtainable for reference and when a man worries about what becomes of an \$1,800 a year salary, it can readily be seen that he should not be the object of accusation for being a pessimist.

In the matter of statistics the bulletin gives a list of the labor organizations in Nebraska. The labor commissioner explains that this enterprise is entirely within the limits of the appropriation, and Nebraskans know that the appropriation does not admit of any waste of funds, the appropriation being ridiculously small, considering the large field which is prescribed for the operations of the bureau.—Omaha World-Herald.

GIRL STRIKERS RUN SHOP.

A shirtwaist factory owned by fifty girls, supported by local labor organizations, and conducted along co-operative lines, is the outcome of the shirtwaist strike at Sedalia, Missouri. The factory will be in operation after April 25.

HITTING THE POLITICAL PIPE

A FEW STRAY BITS OF GOSSIP CONCERNING MATTERS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH RUNNING THE CITY, COUNTY AND STATE

Ed Howe—not the Atchison Globe Howe is being talked of for the legislature as a socialist candidate. Howe is a printer, a union man, and would make good legislative timber. As a member of the legislature he would have a decided advantage—he could "demonstrate" over the recalcitrant members.

Ned Brown is quoted as saying he would like to be senator from Lancaster county for another term. Senator Brown is listed as a republican, and his record is as clean as a hound's tooth. He stood for the initiative and referendum, he advocated the two or three little industrial bills introduced, he favored making the Bureau of Labor something worth while, and he consistently opposed all vicious legislation. He is not a trades unionist but he is as square as a die.

We haven't heard a word about Senator J. E. Miller being a candidate for re-election, although there have been rumors that he might get into the gubernatorial fight as a county option candidate. We take no stock in the rumors, but we'd like to see him stand for re-election to the state senate. He sat as a democrat, and sat by the side of Senator Brown who sat as a republican. But somehow or other they seemed to be on the same side of practically every question. Senator Miller stands for the initiative and referendum; he favored what little labor legislation was enacted and wanted more, and he tried to secure for labor as much recognition as was given the hogs and the cattle.

Of course! And no one expected otherwise. No sooner was it proposed to have an extra session of the legislature to enact an initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution, than the anti saloon league served notice that regardless of all that it was going to make a county option fight. Got to make some showing in order to get the contributions. With an initiative and referendum law in force county option would be taken out of politics—where it never did have a place. But that would mean that a few eminent reformers would have to hunt new jobs. There are reformers in this world who rather the reform they seek would never come unless it came just the way they had framed up the program.

Mayor Jim has been down east giving a few exhibitions of his ability as a "roper." He says he is going to win the gubernatorial nomination hands down. He bases this assertion, doubtless, on the fact that he doesn't meet up with anybody to dispute it. But there are a whole lot of people who will agree to any sort of a proposition for the drinks.

When the Omaha reporters quoted Charles O. Whedon as saying that the Payne-Aldrich-Cannon tariff law was the best that could have been framed they simply paraded their own carelessness, or worse. Of course Whedon said something of the kind. And when those same reporters quoted Senator Aldrich—the Nebraska senator, not the Rhode Island boss—as being opposed to the principle of the initiative and referendum, they made a double exposure of the same sort of carelessness or ignorance. Whedon is of the opinion that the Payne-Aldrich-Cannon tariff law is about as vicious as anything could be, and unhesitatingly says so. Aldrich believes in the principle of the initiative and referendum. The only opponents of the initiative and referendum are those who would force the people to accept continued bossism by special interests.

The Lincoln city council is all torn up over the question of a president. We suggest that a rule be adopted to the effect that the president be denied the right to a voice on the floor, and then elect Leonhardt to the presidency. The

only possible objection that could be made to this selection is that perhaps Candy would be a better man for the position.

Without pretending to be a political prophet we hazard the prediction that there will be no special session of the legislature. An initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution can—and will—be submitted by the next regular session. The initiative and referendum ought to have been submitted by the last legislature, and would have been had it not been that a few senators put their fealty to certain corporate interests above their devotion to the interests of the whole people. Stoecker of Douglas, who wrote such a high-falutin' letter to show how much he detested the principle of the initiative and referendum, actually voted for it in the house. The mere mention of this little fact will serve to show the Stoecker calibre as a representative.

The name of A. W. Ladd of Albion is suggested as a good one for the republican nomination for governor. There is just one thing that will prevent the nomination of a man like Ladd. It is only once in a generation that the republican party in the average state selects a man like Ladd for governor—and this isn't the year. The man who will be the republican nominee this year will have some strings attached to him, and the closest scrutiny will fail to disclose any strings attached to A. W. Ladd.

Congressman Hinshaw has declined to stand for re-election, and some one has suggested that he be nominated for governor by the republicans. There are a lot of union wage earners in this state just aching to get a chance to throw the hooks into Hinshaw. The only time he ever had a chance to do organized labor a friendly turn he deliberately chose to do it an injury, and organized labor has not forgotten the fact.

The voter who allows himself to be influenced by the cry of "we must elect a United States senator this time" ought to go out and have his head bored for the simples. Under the Oregon plan the majority can name the senator, leaving the legislature to devote its whole attention to the enactment of needed legislation. Democrat, republican, socialist—no matter what the party name the candidates bear, the voters, and especially wage earners, ought to forget the senatorial three-shell game and vote for the candidates who best represent their interests.

Lincoln wage earners should not lose sight of the city charter. There is a "hen on" and it is up to the wage-earners to watch the hatching and see that some of the eggs are not tampered with. There are a few special interests that will bear watching lest they slip in a few duck eggs. And there are a few dreamers hereabouts who will try to put us all to sleep and allow the hen to wander off long enough to let the whole setting get cold. The Des Moines plan, with one or two up-to-date amendments suggested by experience, is good enough for Lincoln. This is not a time to let a few men hand their names down to posterity as the authors of an utopian plan of city government. The charter must be made for men who usually keep their feet close to the ground instead of going around with their heads in the clouds.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the women doing housework have formed a sort of agreement to maintain a wage scale of two dollars a day. The well-to-do are very much incensed, but the average mechanic's wife is not much concerned.

An effort is being made to secure a distinct international for the Bartenders, which is to contain no other class of workers.