

# THE WAGEWORKER.

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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

Not knocking on anybody, but I do wish Lincoln had about 'steen thousand more citizens like the Woods Bros. and their partner, Mr. Boggs. If we had 'em there would be something doing all the time — something calculated to make Lincoln grow like the proverbial bay tree. I like men who are willing to take "the gambler's chance" and stake their money on the bet that the town will grow up to their enterprise. Every time I look at that Rogers' tract and think how the people who own it are snitching on the rest of us; and every time I look at the young tract and see how the owners of that are getting all the benefits of a city and refusing to help pay for them—when I look at such people the only thing that keeps me from cussing until it sours on my stomach is to turn my attention to such bully good boosters as the Woods Bros. and their partner Mr. Boggs. Of course, Woods Bros. & Boggs are out for the money, and I'm hoping that while they are boosting Lincoln ahead they'll make so much they'll have to haul it to bank in a hay wagon. What Lincoln needs right now is a number of funerals, thus making way for a generation that will do something more than sit around like warts on a pickle and let a lot of us sweat them richer and richer. Elm Park, Franklin Heights, Sheridan Place and Peck's Grove make a quartet of monuments to the enterprise and unbounded faith in Lincoln's future of the Woods Bros. and their enterprising partner, Mr. Boggs. Here's hoping their like and their tribe will increase.

Glory be! Here comes the Traction Co. attorneys with a single tax argument that is unanswerable. When I read the following from the protest of the Traction Co. against its assessment I jumped straight up into the air and sang the Doxology:

"There is every reason for taxing real estate to the full limit and no reason for laying excessive tax burdens on street transportation; the real estate of this county has appreciated in value in the last fifteen years approximately four-fold; this increase is purely a social value; it was not created by the labor or thrift of the individual owner, but is the result purely of the growth of the state and the nation. On these unearned values the owner is permitted to demand an income, and high rents based on the enhanced value of real estate have greatly increased the cost of living to the general community. Because this unearned value in real estate is a free gift of the community, the owner should in all fairness be required to contribute liberally to the revenues of the state."

That's the milk in the cocoanut—the men who create the values get nothing in return. The men who profit by the increased values do nothing to create them. While the great body of workingmen give without getting, the few get without giving. And the only solution of the problem, the only way to make everybody bear their just burden of taxation, is to levy the taxes on the value of the land for use and occupancy, thus putting an end to the foolish system of taxing enterprise and putting a premium on sloth.

One way for the workingmen of Lincoln to make a start towards getting a larger part of what they create is to vote for the park and high school bonds. That will make the big property holders come across and give back to the public that created the values some portion of what the general public has created. I'm for the park and high school bonds, first, because I have a Rooseveltian family of children and I want them to have playgrounds and a decent high school. I'm struggling to do my duty to my city, my state

and my nation by rearing a family of children and doing my best to make them creditable citizens. And I'll be blest if I don't think those people whose only family is a pug dog and a fountain syringe ought to come across and help me a little. They'll help, too, if my vote will suffice to carry the park high school bonds.

I wish I could get Charles Landers to tell the public through The Wage-worker all about the recent "Lincoln Industrial Exposition." Mr. Landers has a mighty interesting story, and it would fit in almighty well with the action of a lot of Lincoln "boosters" who ignored the Lincoln musicians and went out and hired a little country band because they could get it cheap.

Speaking of "boosting for Lincoln," what do you think of a bunch of men who would chase off on a "trade extension excursion" right at a time when Lincoln needs every "booster" at home? It looks to me like a lot of fat-headed work had been performed in dating that "trade extension" trip the week before the bond election, the very time that every man who is a

### A CLOSING WORD.

Mr. Workingman, The Wage-worker, edited by a workingman and published by workingman, makes an appeal to you to line up on the side of municipal progress. You, above all men, are interested in the development of a worthy park system and the erection and maintenance of a modern high school. The high school is as far as you may, in reason, hope to send your children on the educational road. The parks are the most in the way of scenic attraction and healthful recreation that you may, in reason, hope to give to your children. You may not send them to college, for the industrial system that has been foisted upon us demands that your children enter the lists of the breadwinners almost before the bloom of childhood is brushed from their cheeks. That same industrial system makes it impossible for you to give them the joys of summers in the mountains or at the seashore. But it is within the bonds of possibility for you to give them the advantages of a high school education, and you should see to it that they have an opportunity to take advantage of it to the limit. It is also within the bounds of possibility for you to give them a chance now and then to get close to nature's heart in beautiful parks provided by the municipality. And you can make those who have grown rich from the profits of your toil share with you the burden of expense.

It is a duty you, owe to yourselves and your children to share matters so your children may have superior high school advantages, and plenty of opportunities to learn nature at her best in the shaded dells and on the grass-grown slopes of pretty parks.

The opportunity to secure these things is at hand. It all depends upon you. If Lincoln is to have a modern high school and handsome parks it will be because the workingmen of Lincoln blaze the way with their votes. The bonds can not carry without the votes of the workers. The rich and childless are not going to tax themselves for the benefit of the children of the poor. But we workers can make them come across. They owe it to us, and we ought to seize the opportunity to collect the debt. Work for the bonds, talk for the bonds and vote for the bonds. Every one of us would reap goodly profit by losing a day's work on June 30 and gaining all the advantages that are offered to us and to our children.

Let's make it unanimous for the bonds.

### ALL TOGETHER NOW.

For a bigger and better Lincoln. For a city beautiful. For a city full of happy children. For a city of health and happiness. For all that goes to make life worth living for better business. For better opportunities for earning a livelihood. For all that is best in the lives of men and women—let us get out and work for the bonds that will provide our children with a modern high school and all of us with parks.

The defeat of the bonds means a black eye for Lincoln. The success of the bonds means a black eye for the detractors of Lincoln. Let the other fellow wear the discolored optic.

Let every wage earner vote and work for the interests of himself and his little ones. That means working and voting for a modern high school and an up-to-date park system. The future of Lincoln is being weighed in the balance. The scale will tip according to the votes of the workers. The voting of the bonds means a bigger and better Lincoln; the defeat of the bonds means stagnation and dry rot.

Under which flag, Mr. Workman.

"booster" at heart as well as a booster" in name ought to be at home attending to the larger business on hand. I have my doubts about the sincerity of the man who claims to be a "Lincoln booster" and then skips out of town at the very time when boosting is most needed.

Of course John E. Miller is for the bonds. Mr. Miller is a business man and he knows what good business is. He's been a consistent advocate of parks for years. I had the honor of serving for over two years on the park commission with him, and he not only gave his valuable time to further the work, but he gave money. Mr. Miller is shrewd enough to know that a happy and contented working population makes the best possible customers. I am not giving Mr. Miller credit for being a philanthropist; I am merely giving him credit for enlightened selfishness. When more men realize that they serve their own interests best by serving the public interests best, then we'll have a better and happier state of society.

I know several big property holders who are opposing the bonds on the grounds of taxation. You hunt them up and this is what you will find: You will find men who own a lot of property that has been made valuable by the toil and sacrifices of others—workingmen like myself. They did not do a single thing to enhance the value of the property. They either inherited it or got it on mortgage foreclosure, or got it when land was so cheap as to be practically worthless. Then they sat around on their hunkers and watched it grow into value by reason of the work of the community at large. Now that they are asked to contribute a little to the public that has made them rich, they put on a pitiful look, talk in lugubrious tones and whine about "taxation." That class of people gives me a feeling of lassitude in the lumbar region.

The workingman who fails to seize the opportunity to make these leeches on society give back a part of the unearned increment is, in my humble opinion, a sucker. Who put the value into the Tucker estate at the corner of Thirteenth and O? Who put the value into the property at Thirteenth and N, known as the Fraternity block? Not the Tuckers or the Sharps. It was you, Mr. Workingman and Mrs. Workingwoman. If it had not been for you those valuable properties wouldn't be worth any more today than they were twenty years ago. Come on, now; let's make the people who have waxed rich from our communal enterprise come back with some of it and give your children and my children splendid

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## HITTING THE POLITICAL PIPE

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

Governor Shallenberger has definitely announced that there will be no extra session of the legislature. The decision of the governor is based on existing conditions and upon the law. In the first place, those who agreed to get enough legislative pledges to insure the enactment of an initiative and referendum amendment failed, up to June 20, to get the required number of pledges. Secondly, it would have been necessary to call special elections in three or four districts to fill vacancies. Thirdly, it would have been impossible to call the session, secure action and have enough time before the primaries to secure the endorsement of political parties so as to permit the referendum amendment to be voted on a straight party ballot. All these things, taken together with the enormous expense of an extra session, influenced the governor to decide against calling it. Governor Shallenberger gives his reasons in a terse but comprehensive statement to the public.

The Wage-worker urges union men to watch Senator Burkett's vote on the Dodds bill, which prevents the postal department from discriminating

against the labor press. The bill has passed the house, but unless some friend comes to the rescue it will die in the senate. The labor press has hard sledding enough without the postal department lending its aid to the capitalists to crush the representatives of organized labor.

Numerous petitions asking W. J. Bryan to be a candidate for senator are being circulated, and thousands of signatures are being appended. Nothing would please us more than to see Bryan in the senate, fighting alongside LaFollette and Cummins and the rest of that little band who think more of the interests of the people than they do of party or class. Gosh, if we only had in the senate a Roosevelt from New York, a Bryan from Nebraska, a Folk from Missouri and a James from Kentucky, to line up with LaFollette of Wisconsin, Cummins and Dolliver of Iowa and Bristow of Kansas! Wouldn't a bunch like that raise merry hades with the champions of predatory wealth? Wouldn't it make the Aldriches and the Hales and the Penroses walk the plank?

The attempt to amend the constitution of Oklahoma and strike out a lot of safeguards provided for the works of that state was defeated by a decisive vote. Who defeated the scheme? Organized labor. Every capitalistic combine and public service corporation joined in spending money like water to secure the adoption of the amendments. The only financial support given the opposition to the amendments came from organized labor. The unions of Oklahoma put up 5 cents per capita per month for four or five months, and with the fund thus collected the expenses of the campaign were paid. And organized labor won out over the capitalists and the corporations by a majority of upwards of 40,000. That's what can be done by concerted effort on the part of the workers. The Oklahoma unionists did not charge their leaders with being "grifters" or with "working political schemes," or with "trying to deliver the labor vote" to this or that party. They are not that kind of unionists down in Oklahoma, and that's why they accomplish things. The Oklahoma incident is a mighty good object lesson for Nebraska unionists.

Speaking of Oklahoma reminds us that the labor commissioner of that state is elected by the people, not appointed as a mark of political favor. He is a state officer on an equal basis with other state officers. And he has some powers that make it possible for him to accomplish things in behalf of the workers. Charley Daugherty, a union printer, is Oklahoma's first labor commissioner. He is a candidate for re-election, and after the splendid record he has made he ought to be re-elected by a majority so decisive as to leave no room to doubt that organized labor is willing to back the man or men who do things for the cause of labor. Charley Daugherty has more than made good, and if his majority isn't upwards of 50,000 it will be an indictment of the good sense and loyalty of Oklahoma wage earners.

Of more importance to Lincoln than the success of any party or any partisan candidate this fall, is the success of the bond propositions on June 30. Let's forget all about parties and candidates for the next few days and devote our every energy to putting Lincoln in the progressive class. Let's allow the politicians to chortle all alone, and the party managers to sit and twiddle their thumbs undisturbed, while we of Lincoln get out and give the world a practical demonstration of the fact that we are determined to

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### THE CRUCIAL MOMENT.

Lincoln is facing the crucial moment. June 30 will decide whether Lincoln is to take a forward step, or whether she is going to stick in the rut and become a back number. On the result of the bond election hinges more than a park system and a modern high school. Upon that result hinges the whole industrial future of Lincoln. It means either progress or retrogression; either development or stagnation; either a better Lincoln or a dead Lincoln. There is no use mincing words. It is time to "talk turkey."

The defeat of the bond propositions means notice to all the world that Lincoln is ready to hibernate for all time to come; the success of the bond election means notice to all the world that Lincoln is determined to forge to the front. The defeat of the bonds means notice to all the world that Lincoln is content to die of civic dry rot; the success of the bonds means notice to all the world that Lincoln has side-traced the "kickers" and the "knockers" and is out on the main line headed towards industrial and civic development to the highest possible degree.

June 30, 1910 will be a day long to be remembered—either for weal or for woe. If you are interested in Lincoln's future; if you want Lincoln to be a bigger and better city; if you want to put Lincoln in the forefront of progressive communities, vote for the bonds. If you want Lincoln to remain in the ossified class; if you want civic dry rot to take the place of progressiveness; if you want to give notice to the world that Lincoln lacks enterprise, vote against the bonds.

There is no middle ground—either you are for a bigger and a better Lincoln, or you are against a bigger and better Lincoln. If you favor progressiveness and fail to vote that way, you are giving aid and comfort to the enemies of progress. You owe it to yourself, to your families, to your neighbors and to the community at large, to get out and work from now until the polls close in favor of progress, civic improvement and civic right business. Let's make it so nearly unanimous that the back cappers and the knockers will be too thoroughly discouraged to ever again try to block the onward march of Lincoln towards greatness and civic beauty.