

moderate in its methods; that its members are as patient under oppression as they are?

Trades unionism is guilty of many wrong things, God knows. Its methods are not always right. It makes mistakes. But all this is due to the simple fact that trades unions are made up of fallible men; of men as much given to making mistakes as the men of other affiliations. But trades unionism has come out of great tribulation much faster than the church. It has made more progress in the last hundred years than the church made in its first eighteen hundred years. Now and then one of its votaries may hurl a cobblestone, but while that cobblestone is in the air the trades unions are taking a hundred little children from the mines and factories, emancipating them from mental, moral and physical slavery, and giving them a happy childhood and an education. Now and then some over-zealous union man may apply a torch or explode a bomb, but while the flames are raging or the smoke of the explosion is in the air, trades unions are carrying light and joy and hope into thousands of homes long darkened by the greed of rapacious taskmasters, most of whom go up daily to the temple to pray and thank God that they are not as other men.

Wherever you hear laughter of happy children within sound of the humming factory wheels you know that trades unionism has been doing its splendid work for humanity. Wherever you see cozy homes and happy wives and mothers within sight of the smoke from factory or shop, you know that trades unionism has been performing its splendid service and standing between the greed of the few on the one side and the helplessness of the many upon the other.

Trades unionism may be—and is—guilty of many wrong things. But by the millions of children it has emancipated, by the widows and orphans it has protected and maintained, by the help it has given the helpless, by the hope and joy it has carried into places befouled and darkened by greed and rapacity—by the millions it has lifted up to the higher and better things—by all these it asks to be judged.

Perhaps some union man did blow up the Los Angeles Times. If it shall be so proved, trades unions everywhere will lend every effort to bring him to justice.

Will those who oppose trades unionism be as quick to join with union men in asking for the fullest measure of justice towards those who look upon human life as the cheapest thing in the modern market, and who reap toll from the toil of helpless little children and hopeless widows and mothers?

Trades unions today are doing the practical work that Jesus of Nazareth told His followers to do—they are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting the sick. They are practicing the things that for nineteen hundred years the church has been content, in most part, merely to preach. They are daily showing forth their belief in the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

Undaunted by the opposition of those who see in its efforts the wresting of power of life and death over men from their own hands, Trades Unions are marching steadily on. Undismayed by the clamor and claque of the thoughtless, Trades Unions are standing between helpless childhood and the greed and conscienceless men. With its face set towards the light, organized labor is marching steadily on to the goal of equality before the law, of equal reward and equal responsibility.

Organized labor has nothing to fear from the fullest investigation of the Los Angeles affair. It will lend its best efforts towards finding and punishing the perpetrators of that foul crime—if crime it be, instead of the result of human carelessness, as there is reason to believe.

Mr. Thompson's Tirade.

If David E. Thompson had not himself told us that he had taken a couple of days to prepare his statement concerning Lincoln, we would be forced to believe that it was hastily written by a man suffering from an acute case of ingrowing grouch. The truth of the whole matter is, Mr. Thompson has been nursing a sore thumb for a long time, and he could not resist the opportunity to expose it to the public gaze. We confess a considerable measure of surprise that Mr. Thompson should have done this. We had counted him a much bigger man.

Sifted down this whole thing resolves itself into the old saloon and anti-saloon fight. Those who favor saloons are sure that Lincoln is headed straight for business destruction because it has wiped out the saloons. As for itself The Wageworker does not care a rap whether Lincoln has saloons or not. It opposed the saloon last spring for two reasons—first, it wanted the no-saloon policy given a fair show, which it could not have had in a single year; secondly, The Wageworker, while not opposed to either the sale or use of intoxicants, is radically opposed to the license system.

It is true that there are a number of unemployed mechanics in Lincoln. But this is no due to any falling off in business in Lincoln. It is due to the fact that opponents of trades unions have

for the past three years industriously sought to import non-union mechanics and have succeeded to such an extent that there is a surplus of labor, especially in the building trades.

It is not true that there are 1,500 empty dwelling houses in Lincoln. The man who says there is either woefully ignorant or else a constitutional prevaricator. There are many empty dwellings, it is true, but there are today more occupied dwellings in Lincoln than ever before in her history—and there are more and better dwellings. We do not say that this is in any wise due to the absence of saloons. We simply state it as a fact. We venture the assertion that more money has been taken in at the desk at the Lincoln hotel—Mr. Thompson's hotel—during the eighteen months Lincoln has been dry than was taken in at the same place during the last eighteen months of Lincoln wet.

We venture the assertion that more building has been inaugurated during the eighteen months of Lincoln dry than was inaugurated during the last eighteen months of Lincoln wet. And we further venture the assertion that more money has been taken in by Lincoln grocers and Lincoln dry goods merchants during the eighteen months of Lincoln dry than they took in during the last eighteen months of Lincoln wet. One more assertion will we venture—that there have been more happy wives and mothers during the eighteen months of Lincoln dry than there were during the last eighteen months of Lincoln wet.

Lincoln is doing fairly well, thank you. It might loosen up a bit in some directions with results beneficial to the municipality, and it might profit a bit by jarring loose the grip of a few fanatics who are never so happy as when they are making life miserable for others. But if better business is contingent upon opening the doors to those things that feed and fatten by catering to vice and passions and criminality—well, there are a lot of us who prefer to do a little less business.

Mr. Thompson should return his injured thumb to its bandages.

A Judicial View of the Senatorship.

We were very much interested in reading in Sunday's Journal the reasons a lot of Lincoln men gave for preferring the re-election of Senator Burkett. Especially were we interested in the reason advanced by William E. Stewart, judge of the district court. Judge Stewart said:

"For Senator Burkett to be defeated means that Lincoln loses a republican United States senator and Omaha gains a democratic United States senator. That is something that no citizen of Lincoln, regardless of politics, ought to be in favor of."

Mark you, that is the reason offered by a judge of the district court. We trust we will not be deemed guilty of contempt when we say that a man deemed sufficiently learned to wear the ermine ought to be ashamed to give utterance to anything quite so silly. According to Judge Stewart it does not matter whether the senator amounts to a charge of exploded powder so far as safeguarding the rights of the people are concerned, so long as he happens to come from your town. A senatorial candidate living in Omaha might be the brainiest man in the nation, but according to this judicial light it would be unwise and unpatriotic for any Lincoln man to prefer the Omaha man to any little 2x4 political accident from Lincoln who might happen to be holding the job. We wonder what basis of reasoning Judge Stewart would offer to the voter in Wahoo or Ed-ville.

We have a mighty poor opinion of the United States senate as now composed, and do not believe the senate could be made much worse. But if there is anything calculated to make that body any more of a stench in the nostrils of the people it is to select senators on the basis laid down by Judge Stewart of the Lancaster district court. The judge owes an apology to the people—or the people who elected him owe an apology to the rest of us.

The union men of Lincoln are not asking for donations to help them lift the indebtedness from their Labor Temple. They are only asking that men of means carry the load for a year or two, thus giving the union men time in which to raise the money themselves. In other words, the union men ask the loan of the money without interest, and offer the very best of security. The returns to the men who loan the money may not appear on their books in dollars and cents, but there will be big dividends just the same. They will be in the shape of better and more contented workers, a better citizenship, a high plane of morality. The good effects of the Labor Temple are already apparent. It deserves and should have the commendation of every Lincoln citizen who is building for the future.

The Wageworker wants to call the attention of union men to the candidacy of John E. Miller for the house, and in this connection wants to state a few facts within the knowledge of the editor. Mr. Miller was chairman of the senate finance committee during the last session, and he advocated and tried to secure for the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics an adequate appropriation. He fav-