

# THE WAGWORKER



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## THE ISSUES ARE MADE

The issues of the campaign have been pretty clearly drawn, and the man who is deceived by the clap trap of politicians or deluded by a blind partisanship has only himself to blame. It is a hopeful sign of the perpetuity of the republic that men are rapidly becoming less partisan and more patriotic; are coming to look at men and principles, not at party and politicians. Once a man schools himself to political independence the better he feels.

The Wageworker in this campaign intends to support to the best of its ability the candidacy of William Jennings Bryan. Not because Mr. Bryan believes in tariff revision; not because he favors publicity of campaign contributions; not because he favors popular election of senators—not because of these things though they are of important and worth having—but because he has demonstrated by tongue, pen and action that he believes in the righteousness of the contentions of organized labor and is heart and soul in favor of the triumph of labor's cause. This little newspaper needs no "anti-injunction" plank in any platform it supports if Mr. Bryan is the chief candidate upon that platform. The editor of this little paper knows where Mr. Bryan stands on the labor question. He not only believes in the eight hour day, but he practices it by giving it to the sixty or seventy people in his employ. He not only believes in paying good wages, but he pays them. He not only believes in the Saturday half-holiday, but he gives it to his employees. He believes that a trades union differs from a trust in that it is formed for the benefit of human souls. He opposes government by injunction because he sees in the continued abuse of the injunction writ the enslavement of the industrial masses. He believes with Abraham Lincoln that labor is prior to and above capital and entitled to more consideration.

For all that is righteous and good in trades unionism Mr. Bryan stands as firmly as any trades unionist in the land. He is opposed to the vicious practice of trial without jury in contempt cases, and opposed to the un-American idea of making the injunction a weapon in the hands of organized capital for the enslavement of organized labor.

No better friend of organized labor ever presented himself for the suffrages of men who carry union cards. This is not a campaign of the usual kind. Upon its outcome rests the very future of organized labor. Step by step the lights of the workmen to organize in their own interests and act for their own interests have been taken from them. But one more step remains to be taken. The supreme court has already decided that it is a violation of the anti-trust and interstate commerce laws for union men to advise one another that the patronage of an unfair firm is injurious to the whole body of unionism. The next step, and the supreme court will decide that men are criminals if they strike against intolerable conditions in an industry doing an inter-state business. When that decision is rendered labor's enslavement is absolute.

The election of William Howard Taft—whose injunction decisions form the precedent upon which the later progressive injunctions have been based—will be taken as evidence that organized labor endorses the injunction as used in labor disputes. The election of a republican congress will be taken to mean that organized labor does not care whether we have adequate employer's liability laws, anti-injunction laws and other laws of interest to organized labor. It will be notice to the supreme court that the workers of the nation endorse its decision in the Danbury hatters' case.

The election of Bryan will be notice that organized labor is no longer the dupe of designing politicians nor the plaything of party politics. It will mean that organized labor purposes reversing the Danbury hatter's decision, by peaceful means, to be sure, but reversal just the same. And they are determined upon this because Abraham Lincoln said it was their right and their duty to do just that very thing in that way.

The Wageworker is not worrying over the tariff, the currency, the election of senators, and all that sort of thing. Its editor has decided views

upon all those things, but they are his personal views and of no particular interest here. But The Wageworker is worrying over the future of organized labor, and believing that the best interests of organized labor demand the election of a friend of labor and an enemy of the injunction as used in industrial disputes by conscienceless capital through subservient judge. The Wageworker is going to support to the full limit of its ability Nebraska's distinguished son, William Jennings Bryan.

### TOO KIT BACK.

#### Burlington Restores Wages of Section Men Under Duress.

Recently the Burlington management notified the section men that their wages would be reduced from fifteen to twelve cents an hour. It was thought that because the section men were unorganized they would accept the big reduction with nothing more than a few winward curses.

But the section men fooled 'em. It so happens that while things are as dead as Julius Caesar in the east so far as business is concerned it is fairly well up in the west. So the section men merely quit work and went into the harvest fields. Pretty soon the Burlington found itself without section hands, so it had to restore the wages to the old standard, and even now it is finding it difficult to find the men.

Some of these days the Burlington section men will get wise and join the Trackmen's Union.

### PRINTERS VISIT BRYAN.

#### Lincoln Typographical Union Journeyed Out to Fairview.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 chartered a special car last Sunday afternoon and made a pilgrimage to Fairview along with the rest of the "big guns." The union met in regular session and decided to rush business through with a whoop so as to start to Fairview at 4 o'clock. This was done and at 4 o'clock—it was really a little later—sixty-five union printers boarded a car and made the trip.

There were hundreds of visitors at Fairview, but Mr. Bryan immediately gave an audience to the printers. Not only that, but he broke over a rule just a little bit and made a short address to the boys. He said he was doubly glad to meet the union printers of Lincoln, because he had sustained only the most pleasant relations with them, in a business as well as a neighborly way, and because he appreciated the visit as a compliment. Then he invited the visitors to help themselves to the buttermilk. The printers grouped themselves on the lawn and had a picture taken, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan occupying a central position.

Typographical Union No. 209 is proud of the fact that it was the first trades union to visit Mr. Bryan in a body, and this fact was made much of by the daily press. Before the start was made Bion Cole, the designer and manufacturer of the official badge, presented each printer with a little cane bearing a pennant inscribed "Our Pennant Winner," together with the familiar picture of Mr. Bryan appearing above a couple of ears of Nebraska corn. Mr. Cole has the thanks of the union for his thoughtful kindness.

On the way back to town the printers sang "America," and in deference to Mr. Bryan's well known views refrained from cheering. But they waved their pennants enthusiastically and cheered under their breaths.

One new member was obligated at the Sunday meeting. A committee was appointed to revise the constitution and by-laws.

With three feet of water in the boiler room the gas plant went dead on Monday noon and with every mill in town dark the getting out of papers was indeed a problem. Plumbers' torches, gasoline fuses and alcohol lamps were quickly rigged up and the regular editions came out with but slight delay.

One of the most important items of business transacted was to adopt a resolution—or rather an amendment to the constitution—setting aside five per cent of the gross receipts of the union

## JOHN MITCHELL, The Distinguished President of the Miners' Union of America.



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for the purpose of establishing a "monument fund." This fund will be allowed to accumulate until it reaches the sum of \$1,000. The officers-elect were installed and immediately assumed their duties. President Ingraham wielded the gavel like a veteran, and his decisions came quickly and were direct to the point.

Several items of business were put off a month on account of the Fairview trip. Among them was the matter of a committee for Labor Day. But the Typographical Union can be counted on to do its part—and a little more—to make a Labor Day celebration successful.

### THE PRESSMEN.

#### Next Annual Convention Will Be Held in Omaha.

Fred M. Youngs returned from the pressmen's convention in Mobile on Tuesday and is spending the week visiting old friends. He has been kept on the go all week and he and Mrs. Youngs and son, Marcus, who have been visiting their daughter, Mrs. McKenzie, will return to Portland, Ore., Sunday evening. Mr. Youngs modestly admits the part he played at the convention in bringing peace and harmony to what promised to be a very damaging row in the union. When the Mobile convention adjourned President Berry had a very different organization than he had at any time since the hour of his election. The pressmen's union is stronger today than at any time in its history, and the work of at Mobile made it stronger. The peace and harmony settlements are not the fake kind. This is proven by the talk delivered at Theodore F. Galosowsky's home after his return to St. Louis, where he gave a pleasant reception to the visiting delegates. He declared

that he was sincerely glad harmony had been restored and said Fred Youngs was entitled to great credit for the Omaha convention of the I. P. P. and A. U. next year will be the greatest in its history.—Omaha Western Laborer.

### CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

#### Will Meet Tuesday Evening and Start Labor Day Doings.

The Central Labor Union will meet at Bruse's Hall Tuesday evening and the most important item of business to come up will be the preliminary preparations for a celebration of Labor Day. The Wageworker's inquiries lead it to announce that there is every evidence that the union men of Lincoln are determined to make Labor Day, 1908, something to read about in the years to come. The central body will initiate the movement and then leave it to the locals to do their best. Every delegate is expected to be present when President Rudy lets the gavel fall Tuesday evening.

The central body will be unofficially represented at Denver, and its unofficial representative is going to make a desperate effort to induce some of the big labor leaders to stop off in Lincoln as they journey back east. If the effort is successful due-notice will be given.

### RIGHT.

A union wage scale is but a minimum—or backstop—to the rear of which an employer cannot go, but there is nothing to prevent a superior workman from demanding and receiving a wage commensurate to his exceptional ability.—Toledo Union Leader.

The death is announced of Vice-Admiral Charles Regault de Presnail.

## GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION

### Opposition to It Not An Assault Upon the Judiciary.

All these efforts to make it appear that opposition to government by injunction is an assault upon legitimate functions are childish. They cannot deceive many people at all, nor any very long. There are three principal points involved in the issue. One relates to the injunctive function. Legitimate injunctions are solely for the protection of rights in property. But they have been perverted by the courts to the purpose of regulating personal conduct with reference to bargaining for the hiring of workers. Inasmuch as there has been no legal property right in workers in this country since the Thirteenth Amendment, there can be no basis for injunctions of that kind. Personal rights can neither be protected nor invaded by injunction without substituting judge-made law for the law of the land. A second point raised by this judicial novelty called "government by injunction," is the question of legislation. It is for the legislature, not for the courts, to prescribe what shall be lawful and what not. Yet labor injunctions elaborately define offenses unrecognized by the statutes, actions that no legislature would dare to prohibit in statutory form, and forbid them under penalty of punishment for contempt of court.

The third point relates to the method and the effect of the proceedings for violation of labor injunctions. Evidence of guilt is upon affidavits prepared and sworn to in the offices of the lawyers for the party obtaining the injunction. There is no opportunity accorded the persons prosecuted to confront or cross-examine the witnesses as matter of right. The hearing is before a judge without a jury. The penalty is in the discretion of the judge. The hearing, however, unjust, is no bar to a criminal prosecution. Nor does the penalty, however, harsh, prevent the imposition of a second penalty for the same offense upon a criminal conviction. The question of notice of hearing is indeed important. Injunctions without notice are not only prejudgments, but in labor cases they are practically conclusive in their effect. Yet the question of notice is comparatively a minor one. The real questions raised by labor injunctions are those noted above. All the safeguards of the law for the protection of innocence with reference to accusations of crime are violated; the judiciary not only adjudicates but legislates; and the emergent process of injunction is extended from the protection of property rights to the regulation of personal rights.—Louis F. Post in Chicago Public.

### THAT INJUNCTION PLANK.

#### It Took a Long Time to Get Out One That Don't Fit.

Of all the planks adopted at the Chicago convention, none required so much fitting and refitting as that relating to anti-injunction. This question had been thoroughly threshed out in the Congress which has just been adjourned and it was there that the anti-injunction idea was coldly turned down by the republican majority, notwithstanding it had the ardent support of the president. The Chicago convention, urged by the president, and by the presidential nominee, finally inserted a milk and water anti-injunction plank in the platform. But platforms do not legislate and there is a long and dusty road between the tepid utterance of the Chicago convention and the cold enactment of a law changing the long established procedure of the federal courts. An effort to limit the power of the courts in relation to injunctions would lead to almost endless debate in congress. There is naturally much excitement on the part of capital and labor with regard to this anti-injunction plank. But in the eyes of the republican party managers there are matters to be attended to long before congress can even look at this subject. A president is to be elected. The tariff is to be revised. By the time congress has wrestled with the tariff question to a finish, the injunction question may be made a very cold subject. It is notorious that planks in platforms are not treated seriously by politicians who have stood on them.—Iowa Unionist.

### A PLEA FOR INDEPENDENCE.

#### Big Eastern Daily Predicts That Bryan Will Get the Labor Vote.

Labor leaders everywhere throughout the union are pleading for independence at the ballot box. From all quarters comes the same slogan, "Vote for principles, not for party or man." We doubt not that this plea will be effective to a large extent throughout the United States, so far as the labor vote is concerned, in the forthcoming national campaign. Moreover, we believe Mr. Bryan is the man of all the candidates who is fated to get that vote in by far the largest measure. Mr. Bryan seems to please the laboring continent as none of his probable opponents do. Among the unions and the various organizations in which labor is interested Mr. Bryan's name is one to conjure with. Nothing has ever served to shake labor's faith in the Nebraskan. He is looked upon in such circles as one man in whom dependence may be put—even unto the uttermost.

The great Democratic leader, however, will get comparatively few labor votes simply because he chooses to call himself a Democrat. Party ties sit none too heavily on his shoulders these swiftly moving days. The crack of partisan whips does not cause so much as the flutter of an eyelash among many of those once awesome-

ly attentive to the same. Labor especially since it has fully awakened to the great possibilities latent within itself, seems determined to find men for office who will pass laws and prescribe rules along the lines labor wants, regardless of whether such men be Democrats, Republicans, or what-not. Labor wants certain specific principles upheld and embodied in our plan of government, and labor isn't fretting its soul—and isn't going to fret it—striving to differentiate between the political parties while seeking to reach the goal of its ambition.

If labor would keep itself absolutely independent, it would easily swing the balance of power in the United States and politicians would heed its righteous calls with abundant grace. It could be the master, and it may come to be—although it probably should not want to be just exactly that. It is, however, a significant sign of the times that labor leaders are pleading now with the rank and file for independence in balloting as it never pleaded before, and this agitation may result in a congress next time that will surprise some of those not now even so much cognizant of the rumbling afar off.—Washington, D. C., Daily Herald.

### LOCAL MENTION.

#### Brief Bits About the Movements of Our Own People.

Mrs. W. M. Maupin and children returned home Sunday evening after a two weeks' visit with Mrs. Maupin's parents in North Bend, Neb.

Charles B. Righter pried himself loose from his hooty shop Monday and hiked out for Denver to have a reunion with the old bunch. Young Doc is in charge.

W. M. Maupin left Monday for Denver to attend the democratic convention.

Local pressmen are rejoiced to know that the 1909 convention of the craft will be held in Omaha. Lincoln will help make it a huge success.

The Dairyman print shop is now in charge of J. E. Edgerton, and it has been squared with the printers and pressmen.

The Journal received the first of two big news presses it ordered, and the work of installing it is under way. The other one will be shipped in a short time.

Central Labor Union meets Tuesday evening. Be there and help get the Labor Day celebration started off right. O. M. Fine, of the Typographical Union, is rusticated in the country.

Ira Stevens will never make a politician. He can not distinguish the wires.

A number of "prints" who spent the Fourth out of town were unable to return on account of washouts. Will Seymour was only twenty-five miles away but could not get in until Wednesday.

John W. Riddle, the American ambassador to Russia is making slow but steady progress toward recovery.