

THE WAGGEWORKER



The American Federation of Labor

For the twenty-eighth time the American Federation of Labor is meeting in annual convention, this time in the city of Denver. The twenty-eighth annual session of the Federation is fraught with much interest, and upon its deliberations hinge a great many things that mean weal or woe to the organized voters of the nation. Frederick J. Haskin, the foremost writer of the day on special topics, writes as follows of matters relating to the Federation:

In the Washington headquarters of the American Federation of Labor there is a big chart posted in the vestibule. It tells the story of the federation so plainly and so succinctly that he who runs may read. There is a series of big red lines, the length of each line showing the numerical strength of the organization each year. It starts with a line that is little more than a big square dot, representing a membership of 50,000. That was in 1881. The line gradually increases each year until the one for 1893 is over five times as long as the one for 1881. Then there is a standstill until 1899, when the gain for the year is about double the number of the original membership. From that time forward the line for each year has grown longer, the annual growth being greater than the entire growth during the 18 years of its existence.

There is another chart which appeals to the eye with great force. It is a big circle which represents the national labor unions of the United States. Considerable more than three-fourths of that circle is black. The other little section is gray. The black part represents the organizations affiliated with the federation. The gray portion represents the organizations of labor not so affiliated.

The Federation's Aims.
The federation has always been an advocate of free schools, free text-books and compulsory education. It has fought for the nation-wide establishment of the eight-hour day. It has put forward labor's claim to the one day of rest in seven enjoined by the scriptures. It has fought the sweat-shop system until it is on its last legs. It has demanded and secured employers' liability legislation, which was once deemed unfair to capital, but is now regarded as but just to labor. It has opposed child labor and advocated the betterment of the condition of working women. It has lent its support to the movements for public baths in all cities, and for the compulsory incorporation of bathing facilities in all houses or compartments used for human habitation. It has striven for the securing of proper playgrounds for city children.

With such things in its platform there is little wonder that the federation has enlisted practically four-fifths of the organized labor of America under its banner. Its membership comprises more than 2,000,000 wage-earners. There are approximately 120 national and international labor unions affiliated with it, representing 27,000 local organizations. The federation spends approximately a quarter-million dollars a year in keeping up its organization and promoting the causes it advocates. Numerically and financially the American Federation of Labor has become the strongest organization of its kind in the world.

It is only since the beginning of the eighteenth century that labor has not been in a condition of serfdom. After that date began the movement of self-emancipation, which has been going on to this day. Yet it is said that there have been more strikes and lockouts within the past 30 years than in all the Christian era. The first recorded American strike occurred among the bakers of New York in 1741. There was a series of strikes among the boot and shoe-makers of Philadelphia, beginning in 1796, and again in 1798 there was a "turnout," as a strike was then called, ordered by the journey-men shoemakers of that city. Up to this time all strikes were for increased wages and were at least partially successful.

The Sailors' Strike.
The sailors' strike has been generally considered the first important strike in America. It happened in New York in 1803. It was unsuccessful, the constabulary having arrested the leaders of the strike. The next important one was in 1809, among the cordwainers. It was in this labor battle that the vocabulary of strikes had

its start. A strike itself had been known as a general "turnout." The expression "scab" was first applied to a strike-breaker in this fight. In 1817 a Massachusetts shipbuilder decided to abolish the grog privilege at his establishment, it having been customary in those days to furnish workmen with rum at certain hours. The strike was continued for some time, but the employer won.

In 1835 there were a number of strikes, most of them for shorter hours. One was for a day "from 6 to 6," which shows that progress has been made in hours of wage earners. It was "from sun to sun" against which they were striking. Taking the whole period from 1741 to 1880, the investigations of Carroll D. Wright, show that there were 1,491 strikes and lockouts, of which 1,089 related to wages. Only 316 won outright, while 154 were compromised.

Losses From Strikes.
The loss to employes and employers from strikes and lockouts from 1880 to 1900 amounted to a half billion dollars, to say nothing of the vast economic losses sustained by the public. Labor lost more than double as much as capital as a result of these struggles. There were more than 23,000 strikes and lockouts, and nearly 128,000 establishments were involved. Since 1900 there has been a decreasing percentage of strikes, but some of those which have occurred have been serious. The great coal strike of 1902 cost over \$100,000,000. The loss in the amount of coal mined reached \$46,000,000, while the wage earners lost \$25,000,000 in wages. The losses to the railroads in freight receipts, as a result of the strike, are estimated to have been \$47,000,000.

A pretty story is told of Abraham S. Hewitt in his relation to labor. He was at one time running his establishment at a loss and was forced to reduce wages ten per cent. His men went to him and protested. He replied: "Boys, it is your right to come here and make this demand; not only that, but it is your right to know the facts and to know why we cannot meet them. Therefore, if you'll send an accountant around here he shall have access to all our books and we will abide by his report."

The laborers accepted the proposition and sent their accountant to go over the books. When they received his report they waited on Mr. Hewitt again and not only withdrew their request, but asked that a further reduction of ten per cent be made until such time as the establishment got back on a paying basis again. This was not acceded to, and Mr. Hewitt always declares that it would be impossible for anyone to get up a strike in that establishment.

LABOR LEGISLATION DINNER.

President Invites Prominent Leaders to White House.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—President Roosevelt has issued invitations for a notable "labor legislation" dinner to be held at the White House, Tuesday, November 17. The guests will include many national labor organization chiefs and several prominent judges and executive officials, but it is understood that President Gompers, Secretary Morrison, Vice President O'Connell and Treasurer Lennon of the American Federation of Labor are not included. Labor legislation will be discussed.

The guests invited include John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America, now one of the vice presidents of the American Federation of Labor; President Keefe of the Longshoremen's Union, President Massey of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; Vice President Duncan of the Federation of Labor, Grand Chief Engineer Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Secretary-Treasurer Dolan of the International Association of Steam Shovel and Dredgemen, President Faulkner of the Amalgamated Window Glass Workers of America, Terrence V. Powderly, former head of the Knights of Labor, and Edward J. Gavegan, attorney for the Central Building Trades Association of New York.

ONE IN TENNESSEE.

Mr. W. H. Johnson, a member of Typographical Union No. 11, was elected

to the legislature from Shelby county last Tuesday by a good majority—in fact, he led the ticket. Mr. Johnson was a member of the last legislature, and did good service for his fellow unionists, and will do so again. He was endorsed by both tickets, and has the honor of receiving more votes than any candidate on either ticket. —Memphis Co-Operative Commonwealth.

SAME THING HERE.

This Applies to The Wageworker and to Good Old Nebraska.

The election is over and Taft, the father of injunctions, has been elected president; not we believe by the honest convictions of a majority of the intelligent wage earners of his country, but by various and divers methods

used partly along coercive lines. We have no regrets or apologies to make for our actions during this remarkable campaign. From the first, The Labor Herald declared itself in support of the policies outlined by President Gompers and the American Federation of Labor, and never wavered from them for a moment. We have cause for congratulation, however, in the fact that Kansas City and Jackson county gave Mr. Bryan a splendid majority, due, in a great measure we believe to the fact that the members of organized labor here, with but very few exceptions voted against the candidate who was so obnoxious to the officials of the A. F. of L., and for this they are to be commended. If trades unionists throughout the country had stood as loyally as they did here, there would have been another story to tell.—Kansas City Labor Herald.

Home Industries Worth Fostering
A Series of Articles Relating to Lincoln Business Enterprises that Should Command Lincoln Support

Funny, isn't it? Some Lincoln people think they must go to Omaha if they would purchase something a little extra good. And some Omaha people go to Chicago with the same idea rattling around in their heads. And some Chicago people go to New York with the same foolish idea, only to learn that some silly and senseless New Yorkers think they must go to London or Paris if they would get the very best of just what they want. A few years ago a rich Chicago man learned that he was suffering from a peculiar ailment. Being possessed of the very common notion that a foreign country would have to produce the surgeon who could attend to his case, the Chicago man rushed off to Berlin to consult a noted surgeon of that city. The German surgeon examined the man thoroughly and then said:

"I can do nothing for you, sir. Your case baffles my skill. But I know a surgeon who can perform the needed operation and who can, if anybody can, restore you to health."
"Where may I find him?" queried the Chicago man.
"In Rochester, Minnesota," was the astonishing reply. The best part of this story is that it is absolutely true, and it proves the contention of The Wageworker that the best of everything may be found right at home if it can be found anywhere in all this wide world. There is the little matter of flour—little insofar as one family's consumption may be concerned, but immense in the aggregate. Why should Lincoln people buy flour made in Minneapolis, when a flour as well made from wheat that is at good, or better, as the wheat ground by the Minneapolis mills, is made right here in Lincoln and sold under guarantee? But there are a lot of people in Lincoln who prefer buying a sack with a Minneapolis brand to buying a better flour bearing the name of a Lincoln milling concern. They are as foolish as the man who buys a cigar because of the pretty gilt band around it, or the woman who buys a silk dress pattern in Chicago because it sounds bigger to say she got it in Chicago than to say she got it in Lincoln.

"Liberty Flour," made right here in Lincoln by H. O. Barber & Son, is equal to the best flour made in Minneapolis—or anywhere else on the face of the earth. The money paid for the wheat is paid to Nebraska farmers and thus finds its way back into Nebraska business channels. The wages paid to the millmen is spent with Lincoln merchants, and thus adds to the volume of Lincoln trade. The money paid for the flour is kept in Nebraska, thus adding to the supply of money in circulation locally. And the cook who can not get results from "Liberty Flour" equal to the results from Minneapolis flour stands sorely in need of further instruction in the culinary art.

Yet, despite the manifold and readily apparent advantages that would accrue to Lincoln and Nebraska by an increased consumption of "Liberty Flour," there are merchants in Lincoln who refuse to help push its sale, and citizens who refuse to purchase it, although they spend a lot of time talking about "building up Lincoln industries" and "standing up for Nebraska."

H. O. Barber & Son have built up a big milling industry in Lincoln, and have built it up on sheer merit. But the industry is not as big as it should be, nor as big as its merits warrant. Not until every family in Lincoln is using "Liberty Flour" will Lincoln be doing the right thing towards this great and growing industry.

The Wageworker knows of the merits of "Liberty Flour" through experience. For five years no other flour has been used in the Wageworker household, nor will any other be used in future as long as "Liberty Flour" maintains its present high standard of merit or no other Lincoln milling industry is established and turns out a product equally good.

Not only because it is a Lincoln industry, but because the product is the acme of perfection, "Liberty Flour" should be found in every Lincoln household.

How Organized Labor Stood Up to the Rack

Notwithstanding the fact that the socialist and independence parties divided organized labor, the effect of the Labor vote is conclusively shown by the results in practically every state in the union. The Republican vote in every state except Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island, was materially reduced.

In New York state the fight made by Mr. Roosevelt was of inestimable value to the Republican party. His newspapers drove many thousands of independent voters away from Bryan who otherwise would have voted for him, and the fact that Taft carried Greater New York is attributable to the Hearst crusade. This also is true with respect to Massachusetts.

There are but 2,000,000 members of organized labor in the United States affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and a considerable percentage of that number are not voters. That the great majority stood loyally by labor's cause in this campaign is positively proved by the returns.

Roosevelt carried Pennsylvania four years ago by 505,000 votes. This year Taft carried the state by less than 150,000. In this state alone there was Republican loss, therefore, of at least 355,000 votes. Republican managers in Pennsylvania agree that this was due to organized labor.

When Roosevelt ran four years ago his popular plurality was 2,500,000. The indications are that Taft's plurality will be considerably less than 1,000,000. This astonishing decrease in the Republican vote can be accounted for only by the fact that the great majority of the members of organized labor stood loyally by the cause.

The following shows the tremendous reduction in the Republican vote:

Maine	9,000
Utah	25,000
Washington	43,000
California	75,000
New Hampshire	2,500
New Jersey	20,000
Arkansas	15,000
Alabama	10,000
Virginia	20,000
Kentucky	30,000
Georgia	10,000
Texas	31,000
Missouri	60,000
Pennsylvania	355,000
West Virginia	30,000
Wisconsin	96,000
Minnesota	100,000
Kansas	90,000
Nebraska	95,000
Connecticut	26,000

These are not all of the states in which there was a big falling off in the Republican vote, but they are sufficient to show the wonderful effect which the organized labor had on this election.

When it is considered that this is the first time in its history that organized labor has taken a political stand, the outcome is truly astonishing.

In the city of Buffalo, as everybody knows, the Democratic organization made a campaign for Chanler only and did not hesitate to sacrifice Bryan whenever there was a chance to gain a vote for Chanler.

Mayor Adam who was elected as a Democrat, refused even to preside at a Democratic meeting during the campaign and openly favored the election of Taft.

In Erie county the Republican organization ticket was Taft and Chanler while the Democratic organization ticket was Chanler and Taft.—Buffalo, N. Y., Republic.

The Wageworker is mighty proud of the way organized labor stood up in Nebraska for the political program of the American Federation of Labor. The vote in Douglas and Lancaster counties tell the tale. These two counties practically the only counties in the state that are organized. Bryan carried Lancaster county by upwards of 1,200, and he is the first democratic candidate for the presidency that ever came out of Lancaster with a majority. The county is normally republican by about 3,000. There is no doubt that 95 per cent of Lancaster county's 2,000 union men voted for Bryan.

Douglas county came to the front with a handsome majority for Bryan, although the county has a habit of going republican on the presidency. Roosevelt carried it four years ago by an enormous majority. This time the

majority for Bryan is as large, almost as Roosevelt's four years ago.

Four years ago Roosevelt had 86,000 plurality over Parker in Nebraska. This year Bryan had about 7,000 plurality over Taft—and that's something of a change. The 15,000 union men of the state helped to make it, too.

If organized labor had stood up in New York, Ohio, Indiana and Massachusetts like it did in good old Nebraska, the result would have been vastly more pleasing.

A MASQUE PARTY.

Capital Auxiliary Will Entertain Its Friends Next Monday Evening.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209 will inaugurate its series of winter socials with a masquerade party at A. O. U. W. hall, Tenth and O streets, next Monday evening. This will be something out of the ordinary in that it will not be confined to printers and their families, but will include all friends of the craft. There will be refreshments and dancing, and prizes for the best male and female costumes will be awarded. Of course good union made music will be provided for those who want to dance. Those who have been fortunate enough to be the guests of Capital Auxiliary at any of its socials need no encouragement to attend the one dated for next Monday night. The Auxiliary has made a reputation for properly entertaining its guests. The admission on this occasion will be 15 cents a head, children under twelve free. Children between twelve and sixteen will be admitted at the rate of "two for a quarter."

The Auxiliary met last Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Orville Young, 3226 W street, and after the business session an enjoyable time was indulged in. The local will not meet again until December 9, owing to the near approach of Thanksgiving.

It has been decided not to hold a meeting on the fourth Wednesday in November and December, as both days come so near Thanksgiving and Christmas day. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 9, with Mrs. George Freeman, 2341 Lynn street (Vine car passes the house), at which time the semi-annual election of officers for Capital Auxiliary will take place. A large attendance is requested.

Mrs. E. P. Thompson will leave Saturday for a short visit to Iowa.

Mrs. Jesse Mickel, a former member of Capital Auxiliary, visited in Lincoln a few days last week with her little son, Harold, who is being treated at the Orthopedic Hospital, and with Mrs. Fred Mickel, 2525 Vine street.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Werley have joined the ranks in Printerville by buying a home at Twenty-first and Sheldon streets.

Mrs. C. E. Barngrover arrived in Lincoln Thursday after an extended visit with relatives in Omaha and Humboldt, Nebr., and expects to visit Lincoln friends a few days before going to Colorado.

HERE'S HOPING HE COMES.

Samuel Gompers Invited to Stop in Lincoln Returning From Denver.

An invitation has been extended to Samuel Gompers to make a visit in Lincoln as he returns to Washington from Denver. If the "grand old man" of the labor movement consents, of course arrangements will be made to have an address from him. There is every reason to believe that President Gompers will accept the invitation. He has never made an address in Lincoln, nor has he ever had an opportunity to visit among the union men of Lincoln.

It is probable that if President Gompers stops in Lincoln he will be accompanied by several other leaders in the movement.

SADIE STILL LOYAL.

God hates a quitter—for president in 1912, William J. Bryan.—Western Laborer.