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WAGELABORER

WILL M. MAUPIN, EDITOR



Published Weekly at 137 No. 14th St., Lincoln, Neb. One Dollar a Year

Entered as second-class matter April 1, 1904, at the postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879.

"Printers' Ink," the recognized authority on advertising, after a thorough investigation on this subject, says: "A labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison with circulation. A labor paper, for example, having 2,000 subscribers is of more value to the business man who advertises in it than an ordinary paper with 12,000 subscribers."

THE "REPUDIATION" OF GOMPERS

The "repudiation" of Gompers, which was to have been pulled off in Denver as per schedule prepared by the Union Busters, aided and abetted by Theodore Roosevelt, was pleasing to loyal union men and exactly what Gompers deserved. The "repudiation" consisted of re-election to the presidency of the American Federation of Labor by a practically unanimous vote. There was just one vote against him—that of a socialist.

The "repudiation" of the Federation's political program was a repetition of the "repudiation" of Gompers.

Keefe, the "quitter" who is a partisan politician before he is a union man; Keefe, who agreed to the political plan and then got cold feet because his party bosses applied the ice pack; Keefe, who thought he espied a mess of political pottage as a reward for selling his industrial birthright—Keefe who went to Denver to "hand a package to Gompers," wasn't in the game for a minute. He found himself hanging on the edges with no one to do him honor. And Keefe was not even mentioned for re-election as one of the Federation's vice-presidents. On the contrary, his treachery was denounced on the floor and by resolution. That's the end of Keefe as a labor leader. His influence hereafter will be a minus quantity, and with his influence gone he will find that his party's political managers have no further use for him.

Samuel Gompers is today, as he has been for years, the beloved leader of the onward marching industrial army. His loyal supporters know his unswerving honesty and his unselfish devotion. The assaults of his enemies have served only to increase the devotion of the union men and women who make up the American Federation of Labor.

The re-election of Gompers and the reaffirmation of the Federation's political program means that organized labor is going into politics again and again, until organized labor's demands for justice for the toilers is heard and heeded. Not partisan politics, to be sure. Just politics—the political game that is played for principles, for justice.

WORKERS HAVE AN INTEREST.

The action of the Central Labor Union last Tuesday night in appointing a committee to act with the charter revision committee was timely. The Commercial Club, representing the business interests, is represented on the committee; the city council, representing the political interests, is represented on the committee—but the workingmen outnumber of the business men and the politicians ten to one. Why, then should not the workers be invited to participate in the labor of revising Lincoln's charter and preparing for the commission system of government? The Central Labor Union has appointed five men of intelligence, civic pride and undoubted loyalty to Lincoln. They are just as much interested in Lincoln's welfare as any business man. The majority of Lincoln workingmen may not pay taxes directly, but they pay the vast bulk of the taxes indirectly. Without their labor there would be no Lincoln worthy of the name.

The workers are especially interested in some of the matters that will have to be considered in the construction of a new charter, and they are

going to be represented on the revision committee by men who can intelligently present labor's claims and just as intelligently insist upon their recognition.

Of one thing The Wageworker is sure—the union men of Lincoln can furnish a dozen and a half of men who could transact the city's business just as well, and with considerable less oratory and fuss, as the eminent gentlemen who are now entrusted with that duty.

"THE WOMAN INVASION."

Every union man who wants to be more intelligent—and therefore better equipped for life's struggle—ought to be reading a series of articles now running in Everybody's Magazine under the title of "The Woman's Invasion." The series is written by William Hard, Rheta Childe Dorr, collaborator.

Nothing better concerning the industrial conditions that now prevail has been offered; nothing clearer in the way of argument in favor of trades unionism has been presented. We are not prepared to say that Everybody's Magazine is striving to upbuild trades unionism, nor that Mr. Hard is an ardent supporter of trades unionism. But the fact that his investigations lead inevitably to the trades union conclusion is proof that trades unionism is right.

Every union man who is ambitious to be fortified with argument in support of his trades unionism, and every man and woman who is interested in solving the industrial problem and applying the remedy, should read the series of articles herein mentioned.

Three or four hundred lawyers came to Lincoln this week to recommend six or eight of their number for appointment to the supreme court bench. You couldn't get that many union men together for the purpose of boosting a fellow unionist into office. Yet there are ten times as many union men as lawyers in Nebraska. Perhaps this will explain why the lawyers "get the money."

The prospects are that Lincoln will adopt the commission system of municipal government—five men to conduct the affairs of the city. Of course union men will overlook the opportunity of securing representation on the commission. They seem to dearly love being represented by lawyers and politicians.

The plumbing ordinances of the city of Lincoln are violated with impunity. The inspector may condemn, but he can not compel obedience. While those whose duty it is to enforce the laws are playing politics the health of the city is being menaced.

Every time we hear a man spouting unionism and see him pull a package of "Duke's Mixture" out of the pocket of a "scab" coat, we feel like having the Fool Killer fired for neglect of his official duty.

President Roosevelt got a 27-pound Thanksgiving turkey from Rhode Island, but it wasn't nearly so big as the lemon handed him by the Denver convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The Lancaster county democratic committee came out with a deficit and several successful candidates on its hands. There's the breaking of at least one record in that.

Every law that tends to safeguard the worker must run the gauntlet of the courts. Every law to make capital act on the level is permitted to fall away into decay.

Sioux City unionists have just dedicated "labor headquarters." Lincoln unionists continue to meet wherever they can.

This thing of voting for a "chuck steak" and kicking because you can't have turkey never will get you anything.

They keep right on "burying Bryan" because it affords them a lot of satisfaction—and it doesn't hurt Bryan a bit.

The Denver convention of the American Federation of Labor has submitted its reply to Jimmie Van Cleave.

Anyhow, a lot of us were permitted to smell the smoke arising from the singeing of the Thanksgiving turkey.

Now, honestly, wouldn't you rather be Tom Johnson "broke" than John D. Rockefeller, billionaire?

That White House dinner seems to have given rise to several cases of severe political indigestion.

The Union label should be the emblem of good work as well as of well-paid work.

The union man who wears "scab" collars deserves to get it in the neck.



THE Proper Clothing "Dope"

What you want is Distinctive Style Clothing. Something with the "tang," the "verue." You want it right as to style, color, fit, wearing qualities and "set." And with all these you want the price right. Well, this store gives you all these things, together with a price range from \$12.00 to \$40.00—and every garment worth the money.

THE UNION WORKINGMAN

who wants all the above enumerated factors will find them present in the Brock Clothing. This make bears the union label, and there is nothing better in the clothing line, everything considered. We are proud of this line of Union Clothing.

Overcoats \$10.00 to \$40.00
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Workingmen should see our line of union goods, and their wives should visit our Children's Department. Everything for the boys.

ARMSTRONG CLOTHING COMPANY
GOOD CLOTHES MERCHANTS

"LOCAL OPTION."

Rev. Charles Steizie Says it is a Trades Union Principle.

Waiving for the moment the merits of the fight that is now on with reference to the abolition of the saloon, it might be of interest to call attention to a series of resolutions which have been passed by a number of Central Bodies and a few State Federations.

In about every instance, these resolutions protest against any movement which has for its object the introduction of the principle of local option, in any community.

One of the cardinal principles of organized labor is the use of referendum. The orators who are so strenuous in their objection to local option, seem to forget that "local option" is simply another name for "the referen-

dum." It means that the question of the closing of the saloon shall be submitted to the vote of the people who are most vitally concerned—those who are either the beneficiaries or the sufferers of the institution. Why should not the people be permitted to vote on the question just as readily as they vote on any other question which affects their interests?

If organized labor objects to the principle of local option it simply stultifies itself, and nullifies its influence as an exponent of the principle of the referendum.

"SEEN OUR DUTY AND DONE IT."

The unionists of Omaha and Lincoln made a splendid record in the last campaign. They voted as they marched on September 7, and stood loyally by Gompers' political program.

Lincoln overturned a large republican majority to a democratic one of 600, while Omaha overturned a majority of 7,414 for Roosevelt to one of 1,368 for Bryan. We take off our hat to Maupin and Kennedy and the true blue union men of Omaha and Lincoln.—Sioux City Union Advocate.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Capital Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, December 9, at the home of Mrs. George Freeman, 2361 Lynn street.

OVER-ESTIMATED.

"Yes, sir! I tell you this entire country is in the absolute grasp of thirty men."
"You don't tell me! I had no idea the number was so large."—Life.