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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."

ANNOUNCEMENT.
In order to give editor, publisher, mailing clerks, printers, pressmen and office boys a Christmas holiday in every sense of the term, The Wageworker will not be issued next week.

CHRISTMAS GREETING.
For the fifth consecutive time The Wageworker extends its hearty Christmas greetings to union men and women in particular, and to the public in general. May the season of peace and good will bring joy and happiness to every worker's home, and may the children everywhere receive a visit from Santa Claus. Some of these days, when we have solved the great social problems that confront us, none will be missed by the jolly old saint; there will be no tenements and sweat shops turning out their hopeless and helpless upon the charity of a selfish world; there will be no hunger and no despair.

We have made marked progress in civilization since the Star of Bethlehem guided the wise men of the east to the place where the young child lay, but we yet have a long way to go before we reach the goal. As long as there is a hungry child, a hopeless widow, a jobless man, a poverty-stricken home or a heart full of despair, we have not achieved social perfection. But we are progressing, and every Christmas we see more of the real spirit of love and good will.

To its loyal friends and supporters The Wageworker wants to make acknowledgements of its obligations and wish them the happiest and merriest Christmas of their lives. To its enemies it wishes only the best—including a better knowledge of unionism. To the careless and indifferent unionist it wishes a revelation of duty to be done. To the worker in the cause it wishes more zeal and more progress.

In this season of good will The Wageworker feels at peace with all the world. It has enjoyed a reasonably prosperous year—better, perhaps, than its merits warranted. It knows of no better Christmas wish than to echo the language of Tiny Tim: "God bless us, every one."

THE LOAN SHARK EVIL.
The Central Labor Union of Omaha is planning to attack the loan shark evil and has secured the services of an attorney to draw an iron-clad law that will put the "sharks" out of business. In this good work the Lincoln Central Labor Union should have a part. This evil has grown to appalling proportions all over the country, and thousands of men and women have been forced into practical slavery. The evil takes various forms, one of the worst being the "salary loan" proposition. It is worked like this: The applicant borrows \$50, assigning his wages to the lender and giving six notes for \$12.50 each, a note falling due each month. The interest thus secured approximates 130 per cent a year. The chattel mortgage evil is well understood, but comparatively few people know the hardships it entails. Once the head of a family who makes only average wages gets tangled up with the chattel loan sharks he is enslaved. Instances are known in Nebraska where on a loan of \$25 widows have paid from \$75 to \$150 in "interest" and then

lost their little chattels because they missed an interest payment.

The Nebraska usury laws are not so drawn as to catch the "sharks," but John O. Yelser of Omaha has prepared a bill that will fix them. And the legislature should lose no time in enacting it into law.

DRAWING IN THE NET.
Little by little the enemies of the trades unions are drawing the net. Attention is called to an article taken from the Chicago Public and reproduced on the first page of this issue.

If it is illegal for a trades union to discipline its own members, it certainly is illegal for a trades union to pay sick and death benefits, pay strike or out-of-work benefits, or to do any one of the score of things that trades unions do for the benefit and protection of the membership.

Certainly trades unionists have had ample warning of the fate in store for organized labor. They have seen the legal net drawn tighter day by day. And yet they have continued to look on carelessly, and to divide their forces along partisan lines instead of solidifying on union lines. They have played into the hands of professional politicians instead of playing the game in their own interests. Today they see their unions practically under a legal ban—emasculated by judicial decree.

Will we ever wake up to the gravity of the situation? Will we sleep on until every liberty is taken from us?

FRIENDLY ADVERTISERS.
Union men and women owe it to themselves to give their patronage to friendly concerns. And surely the merchants who patronize the columns of a trades union paper may be considered friendly. Our enemies are not likely to encourage a paper that antagonizes what they consider their best interests. The Wageworker advertisers are all worthy the support of union men and women. This paper has never knowingly advertised a non-union product, nor has it boosted an unfriendly business firm. We believe we have a right to ask the union men and women of Lincoln to patronize the merchants who advertise in these columns. Without their advertising The Wageworker could not exist to fight the battles of unionism.

Get into the game for fair. If you will patronize Wageworker advertisers, and let them know that one reason for your patronage is the advertising in this paper, you will strengthen the paper in many ways and make it a more potent weapon in the union armory.

You ought to devote your time between now and New Year's Day making up your mind not to let a single day of 1909 get away without your having demanded the union label. "Boost the label" would be about the best motto the union man or woman could adopt for the coming year.

It is none too early for the wage-earners of Lincoln to be getting together with a view to having some say in the selection of the commissioners who will be elected next spring to transact the business of this municipality.

The Lincoln man who wrote to the Journal that he felt like a sneak every time he passed a Salvation Army Christmas box without dropping in a coin, merely confessed that he was feeling natural.

President-elect Taft and President Campers exchanging social amenities across a banquet board reminds us that after all it's mighty seldom we have differences that can not be adjusted.

The first of the year you'll either have to come through with a subscription to the Labor Temple or make it known you are not interested in the enterprise.

Of course it would be impolite to look for the label on the Christmas present you receive, but it is your duty to look for the label on the one you buy.

Of the state for "first offenders" is the best suggestion that has been offered along prison reform lines for many days. It should be made a reality.

It costs so little to make some poor child happy, and the interest on the investment is so big, that it is a wonder that more of us do not try it.

If it is made in Lincoln by your friends, it is what you ought to spend your Lincoln made money for.

The Wageworker feels quite comfortable and thoroughly at home in its holiday dress.

Warden Beemer's suggestion of a state farm prison in the western part



BEST IN THE WORLD



Ask Good Grocers



Having decided that it is illegal for a union to discipline its members by fine, the next thing for the courts to do is to decide that it is illegal for a union to collect assessments to pay sick benefits.

A lot of non-union men will get a little Christmas hand-out from their employers in a few days, and it will make them forget all the things they missed during the year.

President Roosevelt is so heated in his denials of "crookedness" in the Panama canal deal that we are reminded of the gentleman who protested too much.

Ever think of sending The Wageworker to some non-union friend as a Christmas present? Think it over—but don't think too long.

President Roosevelt's recent utterances remind us of nothing so much as the scoldings of an irate virago across a bank yard fence.

By the way, don't forget that the coming legislature ought to be shown that it is its duty to repeal that infamous garnishee law.

Nebraska needs a new state house, and when it is built—as it will be in the not distant future—it will not be built by convicts.

If Santa Claus brings us an extra pair of suspenders—union made—we'll forgive him for numerous former failures to visit us.

A Merry Christmas to everybody. And the "everybody" includes even the husband of the ex-stenographer.

No Wageworker next week. The editor and his family are going to take a bunch of holidays.

The real Christmas joy is in the giving.
"God bless us, every one."

COPY WAS MISLAID.
The Electrical Workers recently adopted resolutions in honor of two members who recently met death by accident. A copy of the resolutions was sent to The Wageworker and would have appeared in this issue but for the fact that it was mislaid. If another copy is forwarded to the editor he will be glad to give them space.

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