

Anti-Hist Society

THE WAGWORKER



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Among the Live Ones Here and Hereabouts

In just about another week we'll have to quit referring to the Labor Temple association under this head—unless there are renewed signs of animation. The directors have not had a meeting for months, and several attempts to get together of late have been worse than futile. With every incentive to active effort the members of the board have been dallying along until all interest seems to have been lost. It's time to wake up and get back into the list of "Live Ones."

The plumbers are girding up their loins preparatory to doing things just as soon as the organizer appointed for this territory shows up. When here a few weeks ago International President Alpine promised the local that he would have an organizer here between January 1 and 10, and the time limit is drawing near. The union plumbers of Lincoln have been up against a hard game for the past three years, but they have never lost courage. And if ever a faithful band of unionists needed the aid and assistance of their international the union plumbers of Lincoln deserve it. They have not heard directly from President Alpine since he was here, but they are assured that the organizer will show up on schedule time.

The Bricklayers and Masons are enjoying a holiday now, for with the thermometer showing "steep degrees below zero, there is nothing doing in the brick work line. But the men are not doing much complaining. The unprecedented weather conditions prevailing up until the first of the year kept them all busy as nailers.

The Bricklayer and Mason, official organ of the craft, announces a change of form. Hereafter it will appear with smaller pages and more of them, and will contain more information of especial interest to the craft. As a craft paper the Bricklayer and Mason is already one of the best.

Once more The Wageworker would call attention to the fact that it will gladly give publicity to the annual balls of the various trades unions of Lincoln and Havelock, provided the managers of the balls will send in the facts in due time. The editor is not a mind reader, and can not, therefore, tell when these annual balls are to be held unless first notified.

Here is a story that may or may not be true, but it bears truth on its face:

The story goes that just before Judge Wright announced his decision in the contempt case President Roosevelt got advance information as to what the decision would be. Then he sent for John Mitchell and told him that of course Gompers and Morrison would appeal, but that if he (Mitchell) would accept the sentence without appeal he would be immediately pardoned, and that Gompers and Morrison would be left to serve out their sentence in case the superior court affirmed the decision. Mitchell refused and said he would stand by Gompers and Mitchell. The president is "sore" at Gompers for his attitude during the campaign, and those who know the strenuous one know that he would stretch a point a long ways to get even with anybody who offends him. This is what gives the appearance of truth to the above story.

Here is a little one from the Omaha Western Laborer that is given The Wageworker's official O. K. without recourse:

"We suggest that organized labor of America dig up a trifling testimonial to be presented to Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell when they are released from jail and that the testimonial be something like a \$12,000 home for the grand old man, a \$9,000 one for John Mitchell and a little \$6,000 bungalow for Frank Morrison and his bride."

The Toledo Union Leader printed this editorial last week: "Some have criticized Gompers for not openly refusing to obey the injunction when it was first issued. These men predict results. Later developments, however, show that Gompers knows the timidity of many international officers, and the danger of having some-

leader denounce this act, thus dividing a solid front and discredit him with the press of the country baying like a pack of hounds. This timidity was shown at the Denver convention when the committee on president's report endorsed Gompers' plan to ignore injunctions and take the consequences. The report was toned down, despite the vigorous protests of old-time conservatives like Pete McArdle of the steel workers and Andy Furse of the sailors. The well-fed, emerald-vest-wearing boys didn't like the prospects that Gompers held out, and lest they be charged with a contempt that every honest man has difficulty in concealing, the suggestions were sand-papery. These 'bosses' will now be forced to act, for they may as well be 'hung for a sheep as a lamb.'"

Gripe Nuts Post's chief complaint is that a lot of daily newspapers are too cowardly to print his diatribes against organized labor, and he is forever yelling that the printers have the newspaper proprietors "buffaloed" in a lot of instances. Of course Post is a liar. If there is anything that tickles a union printer it is to get a "take" of one of Post's effusions. He knows that Post is paying a stiff rate to get it inserted, and what goes into the paper's counting room comes back to the composing room in the pay envelope. Every time Post throws a fit of a column or two he puts hundreds of dollars into the pockets of the union printers of the country. Recently Post claimed that the printers of Chicago forced the Daily News and the Record-Herald to refuse to insert one of his fierce attacks on unionism. This was at a banquet in New York. Immediately Business Manager Noyes of the News called him down. Post offered his dirty diatribe just when the teamsters' strike was at its worst, and it was calculated to stir up passion and cause greater trouble. That was his intent—for Post doesn't care how much suffering he causes others, just so he can parade his own jackass personality. The News and Record-Herald refused to be a party to the crime, and Post got awfully sore about it. Some of these days Post will bite himself when he is having one of his anti-union fits, and then he will die of hydrophobia. And then the fluffy-haired ex-stenographer will enjoy the money without having to put up with his company.

The Painters and Decorators of the District of Columbia got a handsome New Year's gift, and it was as unexpected as it was handsome. For a year or two the union has been up against a stiff fight with the "boss painters" of the District. On New Year's day sixty-six "boss painters" announced their withdrawal from the open shop bunch, and immediately signed contracts with the union.

The United Garment Workers of North America are getting wiser every day. Recently they voted to increase the per capita one cent a week for the purpose of having their official journal put into the hands of every member of the organization. This means that more interest will be taken in the organization, and that the unions will be greatly strengthened. This is the course that should be adopted by every organization. The policy of sending the secretary of a local a bunch of papers to be distributed by him to the membership is unwise. The men who are most in need of the inspiration furnished by a live journal are the very one who do not get it.

We wish we knew just what's what in the controversy between the W. L. Douglas Shoe company and the Boot and Shoe Workers. Things seem to be badly mixed. The Boot and Shoe Workers say they are right, and an official of the American Federation of Labor says they are wrong. Douglas says he left it to arbitration and won, and that the Boot and Shoe Workers refused to stand by the arbitration agreement. This the Boot and Shoe Workers deny. Then it is claimed that the arbitration board found for the Boot and Shoe Workers and awarded them several thousand dollars back pay. Now what'n thunder is a fellow 2,000 miles from the

cat of controversy to believe? It seems to be badly mixed. The Wageworker is getting enough circulars about the controversy to litter up the office.

We'd like mighty well to write something about the Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union of Lincoln under the head of "Live Ones," but a due regard for the truth prevents. It's about time this bunch of craftsmen got back into the game. Just because they got the eight-hour day as a result of the fight put up by the printers is no reason why they should lay down. Wake up!

"What'n thunder is a 'ranakaboo'?" queried a union man who read about the annual "ranakaboo" of the union Painters and Decorators of Lincoln. Why, that's an easy one! A "ranakaboo" is just like a "mulligan," only it is different. And a "mulligan" is exactly the same thing as a "burgoo," except that a "burgoo" is no more like a "mulligan" than a "mulligan" is like a "hand-out" at the back door. Now if you don't know what a "ranakaboo" is, just ask one of the painters and decorators. If he can keep his mouth from watering like a sprinkling cart he'll give you the official definition.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

Since my appointment by Governor Shallenberger to be deputy commissioner of the bureau of labor and industrial statistics I have been repeatedly asked "Will you continue The Wageworker?"

I have no intention of either abandoning, selling or leasing The Wageworker. I will continue its publication, will edit it, and continue to make it, as nearly as I can, a representative of organized labor. I have met with so many expressions of satisfaction when personally answering the above question as it is answered here, that I feel encouraged to work harder to make The Wageworker of real service to the cause of unionism. The expressions of friendship and good will that have come to me during the last month are appreciated more than I can tell. The support that has been accorded The Wageworker during the nearly five years of its existence has been gratifying, and to the loyal unions and union men who have stood by it through thick and thin, giving it their financial and moral support, I extend my grateful thanks. With their continued support I hope to make this humble little paper of more real service to the cause.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

OUR LOVING FRIENDS.

Ross Hammond, "Scab" Employer, Pays Respects to Maupin.

Ross L. Hammond, who once thought he would like to be a United States senator, and wound up by crawling on his hands and knees all the way from Fremont to Washington to get an appointive job, does not like The Wageworker or its editor. This is because The Wageworker unflinchingly exposed some of the Hammond pretenses during the fight the Typographical Union made against the notorious labor-hating Fremont Tribune, of which Ross L. Hammond is editor. Concerning the appointment of The Wageworker's editor to the position of deputy commissioner of labor Hammond has the following to say through the columns of the Fremont Tribune: "Will M. Maupin has been appointed labor commissioner—labor commissioner, mind you. It's a superb appointment and he needs the money. It doesn't mean he'll have to work—not on your life; only that he'll 'work' the state. Maupin will do great things as head of the labor bureau. A broad conception of the industrial magnitude and possibilities of Nebraska; a long identification with great undertakings in this state; a transcendent genius for minute and painstaking detail—if he possessed any one of these in the slightest degree it would seriously disfigure him. Wait for the Maupin bulls and bulletins. They will be what the people have sought and mourned because they found 'em not."

Some of these days, perhaps, The Wageworker's editor may have a brother who will develop financial genius and enable the editor to accumulate enough money to pose and strut. If that time ever comes then The Wageworker's editor may hope to get into the Ross Hammond class—if he is ever so foolish. In the meanwhile, with those who know Ross every knock for him is a boost for the knoockee. Hence we take great pleasure in printing his comment.

MINING ACCIDENTS.

In the anthracite mines of Pennsylv-

ania the state inspectors have found that during ten years there have averaged annually 3.18 fatal accidents for every 1,000 men employed, and the rate is even higher than this for certain specific occupations in the mines. This is excessive in comparison with the death rate from accident of 1.29 per 1,000 in the British coal mines.

THE LEATHERWORKERS.

Are Enthused by Having President Baker Meet With Them.

The Leatherworkers on Horse Goods of Lincoln had the pleasure of entertaining their international president, Edward J. Baker, this week. President Baker, whose headquarters are in Kansas City, came to Lincoln to look over the local situation and acquaint himself with conditions. A meeting of union and non-union was held at the city hall Thursday evening and it was not only largely attended but was undoubtedly productive of good results.

President Baker made an address (that was full of practical advice and it was listened to with every evidence of approval. The non-union men present were given a lot of reasons why they should join the union, and the union men were given some

GOOD FOR TOLEDO!

Unionists Have Driven the Buck Product From the Market.

There is not a Buck stove sold in the Toledo market. For over two years Mr. VanCleave's product has been missing from this city as a result of the publicity given the non-union tactics of the St. Louis man. Toledo can boast of a first-class union made stove, manufactured by the Toledo Stove & Range company. Its manager, B. G. Taylor, is an ex-union molder, and takes pride in his union shop, and the absence of trouble. During the Pope strike, Mr. Taylor was the only business man in this city who came out boldly for the workers and against the policy of the Metal Trades and the Citizens' Alliance, and this at a time when public sentiment was almost unanimous against the unionists because of the labor crushers' systematic campaign of misrepresentation.

Workers are buying the Toledo stove, and have succeeded in driving the "scab" Bucks out of this market. —Toledo Union Leader.

GETTING SCARED.

Fearing that the publication of the Chicago Federation of Labor proceedings may get him into danger of damage suits that may wipe out his business, George Hodge, of the Union Labor Advocate, has consulted an attorney as to his rights. Secretary Homer D. Gail, of the Butcher Workmen, has decided to discontinue that official journal for fear of getting into trouble.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 will meet Wednesday, January 13, at 2:30 p. m. with Mrs. E. A. King, 2135 South Tenth street.

The Wierd Reasoning Followed by Judge Wright

From the foregoing it ought to seem apparent to thoughtful men that the defendants to the bill, each and all of them, have combined together for the purpose of—

"First—Bringing about the breach of plaintiff's existing contracts with others.

"Second—Depriving plaintiff of property (the value of the good will of its business) without due process of law.

"Third—Restraining trade among the several states.

"Fourth—Restraining commerce among the several states."

The above is taken from Justice Wright's decision, in sentencing Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell. It can fairly be stated that these views, stripped of his honor's abuse and thrash, constitute the real offense.

To better understand the workers' position, let us become acquainted with the views of our opponents, for don't forget that it is not Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell who stand convicted, but the entire trade union movement of America that is hit over the shoulders of three men.

Special attention is called to the court's second reason, viz: "Depriving plaintiff (Bucks Stove company) of property—the value of the good will of its business—without due process of law."

This is the milk in the cocoanut—for if workers were not charged with this offense, there would be no breach of contract, no restraining trade and no restraining commerce, alleged in the other reasons.

The court clearly says, in reason No. Two, that a business man has a monopoly on your good will, and he is entitled to protection of the court.

Around this theory wages the entire battle of dollars versus men, and property rights versus human rights.

This idea of classing good will as property could be extended to merchants, who strive to capture each other's customers, but just remember that this is "good business, and therefore legal." Only when workers exercise the right, does the court get busy. When the Bucks Stove company's metal polishers were wronged they told their fellows throughout the country. Men were asked to not buy the stove.

What was the result?

Naturally, less stoves were sold. This meant a lessening of trade (reason No. 3), and "restraining commerce among the several states" (reason No. 4). Merchants could not sell Bucks stoves, and they were returned (reason No. 1).

Now the court holds that the metal polishers had no right to ask workers to refrain from patronizing business men who handled the scab stove. Because that patronage belonged to that business man.

The court says you can't withdraw your trade in a body, even if your fellows are injured.

Do you realize what this means?

The court says the metal polishers must suffer in silence, for if they make public their wrongs, their associates will cease buying the Bucks stove.

This injures business, which the court insists is illegal, and to stop this "illegal" action, the court orders workers, under penalty of fines and imprisonment, not to mention the Bucks stove in their official journal, or to "write, print, in any manner whatsoever, or to even mention" the non-union product.

Does this filter through your dull brain, and have you awakened to its significance?

Remember, please, that it is perfectly legal for John Smith, grocer, to attack John Doe, his competitor, in any manner this side of violence. That's business—both are scrambling for customers—for trade. There is no property right in "good will" then.

No one ever dreams of enjoining a fraternal society or a religious sect from withdrawing their business from a firm because of a real or fancied wrong, but when workers exercise this right, a howl is heard about "property rights," "restraining trade," etc., etc. It will do no good to abuse Justice Wright.

His views are accepted by the gov-

erning class in America today—a class as cruel and as ruthless as ever despoiled an ancient empire.

We must either accept the court's dictum, and acknowledge we have no right to withdraw our patronage from a firm, no matter how grievous our complaint, because it hurts business, or we must boldly announce to the world that when workers are wronged we will rush to their aid, regardless of dollars and gold.

Only one of these principles can prevail.

They can't be mixed by any fine spun reasoning or law-school logic of corporation side shows called federal or district judges.

They are the oil and water of our industrial life—one represents dividends, no matter how acquired, and the other represents the widest liberty we are now supposed to enjoy.—Toledo Union Leader.

SOME PRINTERMEN.

Men Who Know the Trade in Evidence at Nebraska's State House.

You'll find a lot of men in office at the state house these days who know the printer game. The secretary to Governor Shallenberger, Harry J. Furse, is a printer by trade and is an ex-member of the Typographical Union. He formerly held membership in Denver No. 49. He has not worked at the trade for a number of years. He has been a court reporter for several years, and prior to that was the proprietor of a newspaper at Alma. Secretary of the Senate Smith is another printer, although he has never carried a card. He learned the trade in a country shop and for years has been running a country newspaper, the Seward Independent-Democrat. First Assistant Secretary of the Senate Davis is another country newspaper man who knows the printer's trade, and Second Assistant Secretary Warrath is another newspaper man who has served his time at the case. J. G. P. Hildebrand, clerk of the senate committee of the whole, is an ex-newspaper man, and in the old days could print with the best of them.

Over in the house Speaker Charley Pool is a country newspaper man who knows the printer's trade from the ground up, having worked at it for a quarter of a century. The secretary of the state printing board is, and will be, a printer. There are a half-dozen or more senators and representatives who are printers, among them Senator John M. Tanner of South Omaha, who is an ex-member of the union. The newly appointed deputy commissioner of labor is a printer by trade, and has carried a card more than two decades.

The printer men and newspapermen have little reason to complain of the recognition accorded them of late.

ADAMS IS MANAGER.

Benjamin C. Adams has been made manager of the Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co., succeeding Homer Honeywell, resigned. Mr. Adams, who is a graduate of the Nebraska State University and an electrical engineer of more than local reputation, has been in the employ of the company for the past two years, and is in every way qualified for his new position. The best that The Wageworker can wish Mr. Adams is that he will be as successful as the man whom he succeeds.

CARPENTERS CHANGE NIGHT.

The Carpenters' Union, after meeting on Tuesday nights for several years, have made a change and in future will meet every Monday night. They have also changed meeting place, and in future will meet at Bohannon's hall, Tenth and M streets. The new hall is a much more pleasant meeting place than the former hall.

HAROLD GEORGE BACK.

Harold George, one of the best known printers in this section of the country, is now connected with the Commoner. Mr. George will have charge of the advertising department of the paper and will superintend the mechanical work.