

# THE WAGWORKER



State Historical Society

## Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

There are two exhibits at the "Made in Lincoln" exposition that look mighty good to The Wageworker man. Of course all the exhibits look good, but the two referred to look especially good.

We have reference to the exhibit of the Deputy-Spangler Hat and Glove Co., and the exhibit of the Cigarmakers' Union. The Deputy-Spangler Co. is showing a splendid line of gloves made right here in Lincoln, and every glove bears the label of the Gloveworkers' Union. The Union Cigarmakers have an exhibit of cigars made in Lincoln, and every cigar on exhibition was made by union men.

These are industries that The Wageworker loves to boost—industries that employ men and women at good wages, work reasonable hours and provide sanitary conditions; industries that recognize that the toiler has some voice in the disposition of his toil.

We have the word of the Deputy-Spangler Co. that it is realizing the benefits of unionism. The "little joker" in the glove is being recognized everywhere, and as a result the demand for the "Hardy Glove" is growing by leaps and bounds. Hundreds of Lincoln union men wear gloves while at work, and every one of them ought to be wearing a "Hardy Glove," union made and Lincoln made. If your favorite dealer does not handle them, change dealers.

If you are a smoker, just pause for a while in front of the exhibit of cigars that are made right here in Lincoln by well paid union cigarmakers. No tenement house or Chinese coolie made cigars in that case. No germs of consumption—or worse—in the tips of those cigars. Never a human hope or ambition blighted by oppression has been wrapped into those cigars. They are clean, well made, and in quality are the equals of any cigars put upon the market. Every time you smoke a Lincoln-made cigar you are doing two good things—boosting Lincoln's industries and helping honest men earn honest livelihoods. Can you afford to do otherwise?

Shortly before the opening of the "Made in Lincoln" exposition the editor of The Wageworker received a printed letter from a local manufacturing firm, boasting for the exposition and boosting for "home patronage." It was a well written letter, and it complimented "ye editor" by appointing him a committee of one to "boost for Lincoln and Lincoln institutions." It sounded awfully good—for a minute. But the editor of The Wageworker happens to be a printer by trade, and he is always anxious to know a few things when he sees a job of printing, so he always "rubbers." He proceeded to "rubber" in this instance and to his astonishment he discovered that the letter, asking him to boost for Lincoln industries, was printed in St. Louis, Missouri.

Wouldn't that jar you? Now, how'n thunder does that Lincoln manufacturer expect to get the money of Lincoln printers when he sends the money for his printing to St. Louis printers? So far as this individual printer is concerned, that particular Lincoln manufacturer can go to St. Louis—or elsewhere—for his patronage, at least until he gets enough sense in his head to buy his printing in Lincoln before asking Lincoln printers for support.

There was a strike against the State of Nebraska last week. It lasted but a couple of days, and the strikers went back to work, having gained considerably. The strike was indulged in by the clerks in the house bill room, who objected to so much work and such little time allowance. After being out twenty-four hours they went back to work with a definite agreement as to overtime. They lost one day and gained two days' overtime.

John J. Ryder, formerly deputy commissioner of labor, is now a candidate for the republican nomination for councilman in the Ninth ward of Omaha. "Jack" knows quite a few things about the political game, and if he don't show his competitors a merry pace we miss our guess. We do not

know who "Jack's" republican competitors are, nor do we know who his democratic opponent will be in case "Jack" gets the republican nomination. Neither do we care a continental. We are hollerin' for Ryder and hoping he will win. And he will if the voters of the Ninth ward want a "live one" representing them in the city council.

Deputy Commissioner of Labor Maupin announces that some time during the early summer he will call a meeting at Lincoln for the purpose of organizing, if possible, a State Federation of Labor. His idea is to have each local organization in the state send one delegate, and that this delegate convention draft the plans for the future government and organization of the Federation. He is assured of the assistance of the American Federation of Labor, and feels that he should have the hearty cooperation of the local organizations throughout the state.

The state of Kansas appropriates \$500 annually to defray the expenses of a State Federation of Labor meeting, but Nebraska declines. However, Nebraska appropriates \$1,000 for a chicken show and \$20,000 for farmers' institutes.

Three or four directors of the Labor Temple Association happened to get together Monday evening and they decided that it was up to the directors to get busy and either proceed with the work entrusted to them or take legal steps looking to the dissolution of the association. With this in view they decided to meet next Monday evening at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Labor, at 8 o'clock sharp. The commissioner's office is the first door on the right as one enters the east entrance of the state house. Every director should make it a point to be present, no matter what previous engagement may have been made. A great deal is at stake.

George H. Moore, the Burlington engineer who was injured in a wreck near Plattsmouth a couple of weeks ago, is able to be about again, but he is not yet quite ready to resume his place in the cab.

The first annual ball of the local Barber's Union was such a success that it will doubtless be followed by similar functions every year. The attendance was quite large, and those who were present enjoyed themselves hugely. The barbers have reason to be proud of their first effort in the annual ball line.

The managers of the "Made-in-Lincoln" exposition decided against the Lee Broom and Duster Co., making an exhibit.

Of course the decision was not based on the fact that the Lee Brooms are prison-made.

Certainly not! The decision was made on the simple fact that the Lee brooms are not made in Lincoln. They are made in Lancaster, Nebraska. That is a separate postoffice.

The union bakeries of Lincoln announce that they will put the union stamp on their bread just as there is a demand for the aforesaid stamp. If that isn't pointer enough for the union bread buyers of Lincoln then there is no use giving them pointers.

Tuesday evening a big bunch of union men went from the Central Labor Union meeting to the "Made-in-Lincoln" exposition. Immediately they surrounded the two exhibits of union made goods and coldly passed up two or three other exhibits that would have been equally interesting had they not been composed of non-union goods. For instance, there was an exhibit installed by a local shirt factory. The union label on those shirts would not deter a single non-union man from buying. The absence of the union label keeps thousands of Nebraska unionists from buying them. Not being a "thorough business man" we are unable to fathom the intelligence of the business man who refuses to make a shirt that every man can buy instead of making a shirt that good union men simply will not

buy. If the shirt company in question will put the label on its goods The Wageworker will do its best to convey to 2,000 Lincoln unionists the glad news that they can buy Lincoln-made shirts that are also union made.

By the way, William Howard Taft, another "advance agent of prosperity," is now president of the United States. Since his inauguration have you noticed in the newspapers any announcements of increases in wages? We haven't, and we see something like a dozen daily newspapers every day. But we've seen plenty of notices of wage reductions.

"The same old story in the same old way."

Labor Day, 1909, falls, as usual, on the first day of the state fair. Here a suggestion for Secretary Mellor and the State Board of Agriculture:

Hustle out and secure Samuel Gompers, or John Mitchell or Raymond Robins, or some other noted labor leader, for an address, on that day. Have him speak in the afternoon at the state fair auditorium, then offer the Central Labor Union a percentage of the gate receipts.

If the receipts for the day are not from 50 to 100 per cent larger than any other Monday's receipts in the fair's history, The Wageworker will humbly admit that it don't know a darned thing about state fairs.

The union printers of Lincoln are getting 3 cents an hour more for their work than ever before.

The former employes of the Citizens' Railway Co. are getting a cent an hour less than they formerly received.

The street railway men are not organized.

The printers are.

That's the reason.

At Wilkesbarre, Pa., the superintendent and foreman of a Lehigh Coal Co. mine were found responsible for the death of eighteen miners, who lost their lives because the superintendent and foreman had neglected and refused to provide the safeguards required by law. Were the superintendent and foreman sentenced to jail? Not much. The court decided that although the two men were guilty, the finding was a sufficient sentence and the pricking of their conscience would be adequate punishment.

Now let that soak in a little bit. Men guilty of the death of eighteen men "sufficiently punished by the pricks of their conscience." But Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison must be given a jail sentence for having interfered with the "vested rights of capital."

But what's a human life when weighed in the balance with an almighty dollar?

Will we ever wake up.

For the 'steenth consecutive time Sam DeNedry has been elected secretary of the Washington D. C., Trades and Labor Council. Those of us who know Samuel can understand why he is retained in that important position. He is a "live one" in union circles, and as a printer is as well known as the head officials of the International. Samuel isn't a whole lot for pulchritude and sartorial display, but what he lacks in those respects he more than makes up for by hustling to beat the hand in the interests of his fellow wage-earners.

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Breaks Another Record By Holding Two Meetings in One Day.

The Typographical Union was unusually busy last Sunday. It held two meetings in one day. The first was an adjourned special meeting, at which time the work of revising the constitution and by-laws was completed.

Then it proceeded to hold its regular monthly meeting for the transaction of regular business. Outside of routine business about the only matter considered was that of taking part in the employment of an "educational secretary" along lines previously discussed in these columns. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter and make report to the union. The ball committee reported all expenses paid and a neat sum left over. Just what the proceeds will be is not yet known, owing to the fact that not all who sold tickets have made report.

Is there any fire behind all this smoke about a new daily paper in

Lincoln? That is a question agitating the minds of Lincoln printers. First we hear that a contract has been made with a weekly newspaper having a big plant to do the mechanical work. Then we hear that an order has been placed for the machines and the presses. Then we hear that an order is about to be placed. Then we hear that this or that building has been selected as an office. Then we hear that a new office building is to be erected at the corner of Goose and Spruce, or somewhere else. What is there to all this talk about a new democratic daily paper in Lincoln? We inquire to know.

Another linotype has been set up in Lincoln. It is in the office of the Wood Printing Co., and F. H. Hebbard is one of its owners. It will engage largely in commercial work.

The printing for the "Made-in-Lincoln" exposition bears the union label.

### CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Preparing to Give the Monument Fund a Goodly Boost.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209, will help swell the fund that is being raised to erect a monument over the graves of the union printers who have been buried from the Home at Colorado Springs. In order to do this the Auxiliary will give a social dance at Bohanan's hall, 209 South Tenth street, on March 25. The admission will be 50 cents. The Auxiliary wants to raise a neat sum, and as the object is a most worthy one, every friend of unionism ought to help.

The Auxiliary met with Mrs. O. C. Jones Wednesday afternoon, and the attendance was good. All the sick members were reported convalescent. Mrs. Righter rejoiced her friends by attending the meeting after several weeks of illness.

Mrs. O. F. Young is in charge of the work of selling tickets for the social on March 25. Refreshments will be served during the evening.

A committee has been appointed to arrange for an April social, the purpose being to raise money to send a delegate to the St. Joseph convention next August. The committee has not decided upon the form of entertainment, but a "country store" is in mind.

### CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Short Meeting Well Attended and Full of Interesting Detail.

The Central Labor Union met Tuesday evening and proceeded to transact its business in ship-shape style. One interesting feature was the semi-annual report of Secretary Kates. This was the best report submitted by a secretary of the Lincoln central body.

It gave the average attendance of every meeting, the amount of money received and paid out, and every other detail of interest to the body. The report showed the central body to be growing slowly in point of attendance, and those who are attending already know that it is growing in interest and usefulness. The report of Secretary Kates was highly complimented.

Treasurer Evans made his usual brief report, and it was found to be correct by the auditing committee.

A communication was read from Des Moines telling how the unionists of that city secured the election of two men to the board of commissioners. The matter was discussed at some length and one or two plans decided upon.

The newly elected officers were installed, with the exception of President-elect Hannan, who was absent.

At the conclusion of the meeting the delegates visited the "Made-in-Lincoln" exposition at the auditorium and spent most of their time around the booths displaying union made products.

At Orange, N. J., last Monday a summons was served on John A. Moffitt, president of the United Hatters of North America, in a suit for libel brought against him by Robert N. Drew, head of the firm of Austin, Drew & Co., non-union hat manufacturers, of whom Moffitt is alleged to have said on Lincoln's birthday that he was a deserter from the Union army in the Civil war and owed his life to a pardon granted at that time by President Lincoln.

The Bakers and Confectioners' International Union made a gain of \$16,516.62 in 1908 over 1907. This proves the growth of the organization, which is now actively engaged in bringing its membership to the 50,000 mark.

## Not a Fair Division For the City Toilers

SENATOR KING SAYS IT'S UNFAIR.

Senator King of Polk county was the speaker at the Commercial Club's Saturday noonday luncheon last week. "The Trend of Legislation" was the general topic of Senator King's remarks, and they were full of interest to wage earners, even if not particularly pleasing to some others.

He gave facts and figures to show that the trend of legislation was constantly toward the protection of special interests, and constantly away from sentiment and from the interests of those who were needing protection.

"We are listing too many things as crimes when we should be devoting our energies towards making conditions such that men will not be impelled to become criminals in order to secure the necessities of life," said Senator King. "We have forgotten sentiment in our mad rush for commercial supremacy."

The exemption law was cited by Senator King as an instance of this trend. It was an effort to make men honest by law, to make men pay their debts, when justice and right demanded that men should be paid enough wages to make it possible for them to pay their debts and remain honest. He instanced that farmers' herds are exempt up to \$2,000 and so is a man's personality up to \$500, but a working man's wages are exempt only to sixty days and lately a law has been passed releasing ten per cent of that. A bill is now pending to lop off still more of his exemption.

The senator said that every page of the statute books contains some law that might better be cured by bettering conditions that would do away with all such offenses.

Another instance of where the laborer, the man who works for wages, was discriminated against, was to be found in the appropriation bills. These contained \$28,000 for the game warden's office to enforce the "snowbird law," while but \$8,200 was appropriated for the labor bureau—and all but a few hundreds of this was expended in gathering farm statistics. The state spends \$25,000 for farmers' institutes, where the farmer is shown what he may do to improve himself, but not a dollar is spent for labor meetings, where workmen may find out what is good for them. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent to teach farmers in our agricultural schools how they may better their conditions in life, but nothing at all is appropriated to teach the workers how they may find more in life.

"Property is held in too high esteem," declared Senator King. "We pay more attention to protecting the dollar than we do to protecting the man. We ought to get back nearer to sentiment, for it is sentiment, not dollars, that sustains the government in the crises of war, and it is the mainspring of the great and good actions of the nations."

Senator King endeavored to secure a repeal of the ten per cent garnishee law, but was defeated. He has attacked the appropriation for game and fish and declared that the money ought to be given to the department of labor to be expended in looking after the welfare of the toilers instead of providing recreation and pleasure for the already well-to-do.

The address, which was delivered on short notice, held the close attention of the business and professional men present, and was freely complimented by them.

The Wageworker makes bold to suggest to the Central Labor Union that it secure Senator King for an address before the legislature adjourns.

### PROSPERITY NOTES.

How the Wave is Benefitting the Men Who Work for Wages.

READING, Pa., March 6.—F. C. Smink, president of the Reading Iron Company, issued a statement in which he said that there has been a great decline in the price of the various products manufactured by the company. Owing to this condition he announced a reduction in wages in the different departments of from 7 1/2 to 15 per cent. The puddling basis will be at the rate of \$3.75 a ton. The former rate was \$4.50 a ton.

YOUNGSTON, O., March 6.—Wage reductions are predicted among the iron and steel workers within a week.

It was announced here today that both the so-called trust and independent plants would likely be forced to cut wages ten per cent following the wage reduction announced by the Lackawanna Steel company. President James A. Campbell of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube company, the largest independent works in this section, today said:

"Here in this section we can not reduce the wages of puddlers. Our agreement with them does not terminate until July 1. However, if we can not sell our product on the new basis established by eastern producers we will be compelled to shut down our mills."

The Lincoln Daily Journal says editorially: "Reductions in wages are predicted in the steel industry following the recent cut in steel prices. One company, the Lackawanna Steel company, has in fact already reduced the wages ten per cent. Paradoxically, this promises better times instead of worse. High wages and prices have been keeping down steel orders, so that jobs have been few. Lower prices, made possible partly by lowered wages, should increase the demand for steel and call for the services of many men now unemployed."

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—Crying piteously and begging for mercy, Mrs. Eva Jefferies, a young matron of 32 years, was arranged before Magistrate Toughill this morning charged with stealing a bottle of milk from a doorstep at Third and Wilder streets.

Just before daybreak this morning Policeman Barker saw a poorly dressed woman, shivering from the intense cold, pick up a bottle of milk and endeavor to hide it in an old tattered shawl. He placed the woman under arrest.

When asked by the magistrate to tell her story the woman broke down completely. She told the court of a new baby at home which only arrived three days ago, and three other children, the oldest of whom was but four years, who were crying for something to eat.

"O, judge, I did not like to do this," said the broken-hearted woman, "but I could not stand the cry of my children for food much longer. My husband is a machinist in the navy yard, but has not had a stroke of work for six weeks. He was too ill this morning to go out, or he would not have let me do this."

"We have had to pawn every piece of clothing we possessed to feed our children, and now that we have nothing left, I was forced to steal. Please won't you forgive me, just this time."

Tears were in the eyes of the magistrate by this time. He wasted no time in taking from his wallet something which looked very much like a five dollar bill and passed it to Mrs. Jefferies. By this time the court attendants were passing the hat, and when it was brought back it contained much more money than the poor woman had seen in many days.

### THANKS AWFULLY.

The Annual Home-Patronage Edition of The Wageworker, of Lincoln, Neb., for February 20, is a handsome number. It has 12 pages, is worked in two colors, and is illustrated. It has many columns of write-ups of the merchants and business men of the city of Lincoln, and shows that they are wide-awake and up-to-date, and best of all, friendly to the cause of the worker. We congratulate Mr. W. M. Maupin, the editor, upon his deserved success.—Greensboro (N. C.) Labor News.

### STRIKE IN SHOE FACTORIES.

Lynn, Mass., March 6.—A general strike of McKay machine stitchers in Lynn shoe factories is threatened unless an increase of one cent on every dozen pairs of shoes is adopted by Monday next. The stitchers in fourteen factories went out today.

### ACTIONS, NOT WORDS, COUNT.

Typographical Union No. 103 of Newark, N. J., at its regular meeting Sunday, donated \$300 to the striking hatters and \$100 to the defense fund of the American Federation of Labor to be used in appeal of decision of Judge Wright.