

THE WAGWORKER



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Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

The reunion planned by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division No. 98, of Lincoln, has already reached the proportions of a huge success. Letters of inquiry are being daily received, some of them from such far-away points as Maine, Oregon, Texas, Minnesota and New York. The local committee is staying awake nights planning up features that will serve to make the visitors remember their Lincoln visit until time becomes eternity for them.

One of the big features of the reunion, which is to be held the last week in June, will be the presence of P. H. Morrissey, formerly grand master of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. Mr. Morrissey has accepted the invitation and will surely be present. Grand Chief Stone of the Engineers and Grand Chief Lee of the Conductors will also be present. Another feature of the reunion will be the presence of the grand officers of the Auxiliary. The literature that is being sent out by the committee is advertising Lincoln to good advantage. The national organ for the current month will contain a write-up of Lincoln and a number of half-tone views of business and public buildings. Secretary Wiggenjost is fairly swamped with inquiries from engineers who contemplate visiting Lincoln during the reunion.

The Pressmen employed upon the San Francisco Bulletin are rejoicing over a back-wage decision recently handed down in their favor by the board of arbitration of the Newspaper Publishers' Association and the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union. The Pressmen, like the Typographical Union, have an arbitration contract with the Newspaper Publishers' Association. A disagreement as to interpretation of the Bulletin wage scale came up and under the terms of the contract the matter went to the arbitration board. After careful consideration the board decided that the Bulletin owed its pressmen and assistants \$74,000 back pay. No sooner was the award announced than the Bulletin made out the pay checks and handed them over. That beats striking by a mile and a half. It also demonstrates that Jim VanCleave and his ilk are simon pure liars when they declare that union men are anarchists and undesirable citizens.

Al Kugel, a member of the Plumbers' Union of Omaha, has been nominated by the republicans as a candidate for alderman from the Tenth ward. If Kugel is not elected it will be because the union men of Omaha are false to themselves and false to a union man who has been true blue; who has made sacrifices a plenty in behalf of unionism, and who is always on the job when a booster for unionism is needed. Al Kugel is a splendid type of citizen, a trades unionist who reflects credit upon organized labor and a friend who will stick till hades boils down to a poultice. Here's hoping that Kugel will get what's coming to him—a fine large majority.

The democrats of Omaha failed to nominate a single trades unionist for city office. The republicans nominated six. The nominations for excise men—or, rather, the board of fire and police commissioners—have not yet been made. "Tony" Donahue is a candidate for a republican nomination, and he ought to win out. He will, too, if the unionists of the city are wise to their opportunity.

Governor Shallenberger signed the "8 o'clock closing law," and gave his reasons therefore. On Tuesday the editor of this little paper was called out of town—before the governor attached his signature. While away the editor heard not less than a hundred men comment on the governor's action. And not one who commented in the presence of the writer failed to commend the governor for his action. Adverse comment has been heard, especially in Lincoln and Omaha, but so far as the editor of this paper has ascertained the general sentiment seems to be overwhelming to the effect that Governor Shallenberger performed a distinct service to the state when he signed the bill.

Omaha is scared to death lest closing the saloons at 8 o'clock will "kill Omaha." Nothing to it! Seven o'clock

closing was going to kill Lincoln, too. But Lincoln is about the liveliest corpse on the Nebraska map today. The hotels that were going to be "ruined" by the ordinance are unable to accommodate their trade, and to date none of the cafes that were facing "ruin" have gone out of business.

Colonel Thomas Pratt has declined to be a candidate for re-election to the office of city clerk. He has discovered that the pay is too small for the work demanded. This ought to leave a clear field for W. L. Mayer. This is to be a non-partisan election, and Mayer is as good a man as could be selected. He affiliates with the republican party when only party questions are at stake, but sticks to the union when it is a question of unionism vs. politics. The republicans would be doing a graceful thing by endorsing him, and the democrats would be showing genuine friendship for organized labor by doing the same thing.

John Marshall, formerly a member of Lincoln Typographical Union, but who has been engaged in the country newspaper business in Colorado for the past year, returned to Lincoln last Sunday to visit friends and to enjoy the rest cure. Mr. Marshall's health has not been of the best for several months, and he found it necessary to let up and recuperate. If he gets around to shake hands with all his friends he will have to spend more than a couple of weeks in this old town.

Union men and women of Lincoln should not forget that Wednesday, May 12th, is to be "Labor Temple Day." They will be asked to pledge their wages for that day to the Labor Temple building fund—not as a gift, but as a subscription to the stock of the association. The association is actively engaged in raising the funds necessary to purchase a building site, and as soon as that is accomplished the rest will be comparatively easy. If every unionist in Lincoln will come

across with a day's wages on May 12 it will be possible to close negotiations for a building site. All that is necessary is for everybody to become boosters for "Labor Temple Day." The "knockers" are asked to take a vacation for a month or two.

The Wageworker has been asked concerning the politics of O. M. Rudy, labor candidate for water commissioner. Rudy is a union man. He is a registered republican, but he scorns to be controlled by any political machine. Other things being equal he votes the republican ticket, but when unionism is at stake he does not know what political partisanship means. His qualifications for the office can not be denied. He has lived in Lincoln for years, and holds a responsible position with the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company. His employers speak of him in the highest terms, and his fellow unionists declare that he is all wool and a yard wide. If he is not elected water commissioner it will be because the people of Lincoln don't want the best timber when it is offered for their acceptance.

The Musicians' Union has been stirring things up again. Not content with having broken all records when it closed its charter, it has gone after more members, and as a result it has added about fifteen to its roster during the last sixty days. It is now about as near a "100 per cent union" as it is possible to get.

The Douglas county delegation to the lower house at Lincoln, just adjourned, consisted of Jerry Howard—and—eight other men.—Western Laborer.

Former Secretary-Treasurer Bramwood has purchased an interest in the Cohee Printing Co. at Indianapolis. Here's hoping that he makes a barrel of money and saves it all.

Al Edmondson is a candidate for international delegate from the Omaha Typographical Union. "Ol' Al" has been a member of the union for forty years, and is a charter member of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Missouri River Pirates. He is a Mis-

sourian by birth and raising, and one of the best Injuns that ever filled a "k" box with a tallow, cussed a flickering gas jet or hammered the keyboard of a Merg.

George W. Tracey of San Francisco has been appointed first vice president of the International Typographical Union, to succeed John W. Hays, appointed secretary-treasurer. Tracey was chairman of the laws committee at the Hot Springs convention and until that memorable meeting was accounted a likely candidate for the presidency of the international.

Here's something funny. Charles Post is being supported for a political office by a labor newspaper, and that labor newspaper is edited by a former Lincoln unionist. But don't get excited. It isn't Post of sawdust dope fame. Nit, no! This Charles Post lives in Oklahoma City and is a candidate for re-nomination for sheriff on the democratic ticket. The Labor Unit, edited by H. W. Smith, is supporting him. This convinces Lincoln unionists that this particular Post will do to tie to.

The retail clerks of Columbus are wide awake. They have organized temporarily and will soon ask for a charter from the Retail Clerks' International Union. They are now asking have for a 6 o'clock closing agreement from the Columbus merchants and have secured the signatures of all but four of the city's retailers. Labor Commissioner Maupin went to Columbus Tuesday and consulted with the organization's committee with a view to assisting them in securing the shorter day. The newspapers of Columbus are backing up the demands of the clerks, and public sentiment seems to be with them. The merchants who are holding out are merely standing in the way of progress. There is a fine situation in the newspaper business at Columbus. Two of the papers are published by former union printers, the Telegram by Edgar Howard and the Journal by Mr. Strother. The Times is published by Richard Ramey, who has a fine badge and novelty business which extends to the Pacific coast, and he insists on (Continued on page 5.)

Full Train Crew Bill Signed by the Governor

What may be accomplished by intelligent, well directed and tireless effort was well instanced by the success of the efforts to secure the enactment into law of what is popularly known as the "full crew bill." The bill was House Roll No. 374, which is to become a law on July 1, having already been signed by the governor.

The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen fathered this bill and had a committee present during the entire session of the legislature to push it along. The committee consisted of Hurlless of Fairbury and Rott of South Omaha. These men were on the job all the time, and as a result they got the law they were after. If other organizations had been as active as the Trainmen, and had maintained as active a committee on the ground, more legislation in the interests of the wage earners might have been secured. The "full crew" law reads as follows:

Sec. 1. That it shall be unlawful for any railroad company doing business in the State of Nebraska, to operate or run over its road or any part thereof, or suffer or permit to be run over its road or any part thereof, outside of the yard limits, any passenger, mail or express train carrying passengers whose regular equipment consists of more than five cars, with a crew, consisting of less than one engineer, one fireman, one conductor, one brakeman and one flagman and further provided that passenger trains whose regular equipment consists of five cars or less, may be operated with a crew consisting of one engineer, one fireman, one conductor and one brakeman or flagman.

Sec. 2. That it shall be unlawful for any railroad company doing business in the State of Nebraska to operate or run over its road, or any part thereof, outside of yard limits any freight train which is not manned with a crew consisting of one engineer, one fireman, one conductor and two brakemen; provided that main line local freight trains running one

hundred miles or more and carrying passengers, local merchandise and doing station switching, shall be provided with a crew consisting of one conductor, one engineer, one fireman and three brakemen.

Sec. 3. Nothing in this act shall be held as applying to any case of disaster or disability of any member or members of the crew, arising while out on the road between division terminals, or to relief trains, or to wrecking trains, where men are not available.

Sec. 4. That the officers or agents of any railroad company doing business in the State of Nebraska who shall send out on its road, or cause or suffer to be sent out on its road or any part thereof, outside of the yard limits, any passenger or freight train which is not manned in accordance with the provisions of sections one, two and three of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), for each offense and shall stand committed until such fine and costs are paid, and any railroad company in the State of Nebraska whose officer or offices, agent or agents or any servant or servants, shall be found guilty of such misdemeanor, shall be liable for any damages caused by the violation of the provisions of this act.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the railroad commissioners of the State of Nebraska to enforce the provisions of this act, and all powers heretofore granted to said commission are hereby extended to it, for the purpose of the enforcement of this act.

Sec. 6. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

STARTED SOMETHING.

Chicago Labor Editor Makes Trouble for Labor Leaders There.

George Hodges, editor of the Chicago Labor Advocate, started something last week. He didn't mean to, but he did. He promised matinee tickets to the stenographers employed in the headquarters of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and immediately the girls asked for a Saturday half-holiday. The business agents demurred, whereupon the girls organized and made a concerted demand. Then the business agents said they would give the half-holiday on any other day than Saturday, but the girls said Saturday or a strike. Then the business agents knuckled and the girls got the matinee.

Encouraged by their success the girls demanded a 5 per cent increase, an eight-hour day and two weeks' summer vacation on full pay. The demand is under advisement, and some of the business agents are quietly coaching the girls as to how to make their demands effective. In the meantime Hodges is dodging the business agents.

Labor Temple Day, May 12. Be a Booster for the Temple.

BILKING THE CONSUMER.

When the Spanish-American war taxes were established the tobacco dealers were allowed to reduce the weight of their tobacco in sacks to an amount equal to the tax imposed. When the tax was removed the manufacturers forgot to put the weight back. As a result the two-ounce packs contain a quarter of an ounce less than two ounces, and four-ounce packs half an ounce less than four ounces. A pound sack contains but fourteen ounces. "The consumer pays it all."

KILLING THE LABEL.

If the tobacco schedule of the Payne tariff bill goes through as drawn it means the death of the Tobacco Workers' Union. The bill makes it impossible to put the union label on any package of tobacco. The tobacco trust, is of course, boasting for the paragraph as written.

SEVERELY INJURED.

J. C. Peterson, an employe of the Merchants' laundry, met with a severe accident last Tuesday. While engaged in setting up some machinery in the basement he became tangled up with a belt and pulley, resulting in a broken arm and a dislocated shoulder. Mr. Peterson was formerly a machinist's apprentice at Havelock.

THE WAGWORKER'S SIXTH YEAR

With this issue The Wageworker enters upon its sixth year. For five years it has been doing its best to advance the cause of unionism, to represent fairly and honestly the principles of trades unionism, and to be a medium of information between union men and women of all crafts. The five years of its existence have been happy ones, even though at times the clouds hung pretty low and looked pretty dark. The way has not always been easy. There have been times when the editor and publisher felt like quitting—but the feeling didn't last long. Just about the time things looked the bluest, along would come good union men with a bunch of good cheer and say things that swelled the editor all up, and then the editor would grit his teeth and go ahead.

The Wageworker is willing to rest its case upon its record. While standing for organized labor it has endeavored to be fair. In the initial issue it promised to avoid partisan politics. It declared that it would fool the republican who thought it would be a republican paper just as badly as it would fool the democrat who thought it would be a democratic paper. It has supported some republicans and some democrats, but it has never supported a republican or a democrat who was not known to be a friend to organized labor. What is more, it never will knowingly support a man for office who is not a friend to organized labor.

Politically The Wageworker does not pretend to cut much ice—but it desires at this time to call attention to a few facts. It supported Frank W. Brown for mayor twice—and he was elected twice. This, too, in face of the fact that Mayor Brown is a democrat and Lincoln a republican city by fully 1,800. It supported Bryan, and Bryan is the only democratic candidate for the presidency that ever carried Lincoln and Lancaster county. The Wageworker has not spoken concerning every candidate for office in Lincoln since its inception, but here is something to think about: No man whom it has opposed has been elected, and every man whom it has supported has been successful, with one single exception.

All this may not be due to the influence of The Wageworker, but if it is not it must, then, be due to the good political judgment of the editor.

But all this is apart from the real question. The Wageworker has spent five fairly happy years in expounding the gospel of trades unionism as it was given to its editor to see it. We cheerfully admit having made some mistakes, and we opine that we will make some more. At least we have never knowingly erred, and never have we intentionally wrought injustice to any man. Several times we have been convinced of mistake, and each time we have apologized at the earliest possible

moment. It is no hardship to apologize when convinced of error.

For five years The Wageworker has received the loyal support of loyal union men. They have boosted with their purses and with their voices. They have been liberal with their praise and stingy with their blame. In season and out of season loyal unionists have worked to make The Wageworker an influence for good. Among these loyal supporters we desire to mention the Allied Printing Trades, the Barbers, the Plumbers, the Musicians, the Bartenders and individual members of the Carpenters, Cigarmakers, Locomotive Engineers and Painters. There are several hundred union men in Lincoln and Havelock who ought to be Wageworker boosters who are not.

For five years The Wageworker has been well patronized by the business men of Lincoln. It counts many friends among them. It has had to "call down" one now and then for trying to advertise non-union goods in these columns, and it has lost more than one advertiser by absolutely refusing to allow the name of a "scab" product to appear in an advertisement. But even when things financial looked the darkest The Wageworker has never missed a dollar lost through refusal to stifle its principles. If ever in doubt, the advertisement was turned down.

And now about the future. It may be that The Wageworker will not long survive. No man can tell what a day will bring forth. But this much may be predicted with confidence: As long as The Wageworker exists under the present management it will be safe to assume that it is supporting only what it believes to be right; that it is fighting for unionism; that it is opposing everything that is calculated to injure the man or woman who toils for a daily wage; that it is trying to expose hypocrisy; that it is seeking to confer benefits upon humanity, and that it is ever striving to advance the welfare of humanity.

If The Wageworker has been of even small service to the cause of unionism, it feels that it has justified its continued existence. Its editor has not laid up any dollars as a result of his labor newspaper venture—but he has laid up something that money can not buy. He has laid up a host of pleasant memories. He has made many staunch friends who will do to tie to, and he has accumulated a small stock of enemies of whom any man might well be proud.

Having weathered the storms of five years, The Wageworker enters its sixth year with confidence, and come weal or woe it will do the very best it can to justify its continued support by loyal union men and women.