

THE WAGGEWORKER



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Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

Unless the unforeseen happens the meeting to organize a State Federation of Labor, which will be held in Lincoln, June 21-22, will be a rousing success. Already the election of delegates from fifty locals has been reported, and other locals have written that they will elect later. A pleasing feature is that every trade represented by an organization in Nebraska, with one exception, has already elected at least one delegate.

As yet no program has been completed for the meeting. Before June 1 each local and its delegate will be informed as to meeting place, hotel rates, program, etc. If nothing happens to prevent Raymond Robins of Chicago will be one of the speakers. If Mr. Robins comes he will speak in the First Christian church, which has been kindly placed at the disposal of the Federation for that occasion.

Permission will be asked to hold the regular meeting of the Federation in either the house or senate chamber at the state house. As these chambers have been put at the disposal of other meetings it is believed that no objection will be made to letting the wage earners hold their meetings there.

There are those—not trades unionists, however—who are seeking to

make it appear that there is a political scheme in calling for the organization of a State Federation of Labor. The charge is nothing less than an insult to the intelligent union men of the state. The intimation that any man, or set of men, can organize a body of representative union men of all political beliefs into a Federation and then manipulate it for political ends is so silly that the newspaper that makes it merely writes itself down an ass.

Nebraska is the only state west of the Allegheny mountains that has no State Federation of Labor made up of accredited delegates from the organized trades of the state. The Kansas State Federation of Labor is recognized by statute, the state appropriating \$500 a year towards the expenses of the annual Federation meeting, and the Federation elects the state labor commissioner.

Some politicians complain that only union men will be allowed to hold seats in the convention. Well, what of it? The state recognizes the Doctors' Union to the extent of appropriating a neat sum yearly for a "state board of health," and only doctors carrying union cards are allowed to sit on that board. More than that, only doctors carrying union cards are al-

lowed to work at their trade for pay in Nebraska. You let a doctor who hasn't a union card in the shape of a certificate from the state board of health try to practice his profession, or butt in on a state meeting of the doctors, and then wait and see the aforesaid non-union doctor go over the transom. They even send non-union doctors to jail in this state for trying to work at their trade. And a doctor's certificate merely shows that he is a competent workman, just as a mechanic's union card shows that he is a competent workman.

Speaking about iron-bound unions—ever investigate the lawyers' union? If you don't believe they have a union you just try to practice law before the district court of Lancaster county or the supreme court of the state. If you can not show by your union-card in the shape of a certificate that you are a competent workman at the legal business you'll be thrown down the court house or the state house steps. And the doctors' union and the lawyers' unions are recognized by statute, too. Yet there are those who protest against the trades unionists organizing a state society along the lines of the State Medical Society, or the Bar Association, and when the trades unionists insist some pinheaded newspaper reporter working under an equally pinheaded editorial superior intimates that somebody is going to manipulate that bunch of level-headed mechanics for political purposes.

It is to laugh.

The Omaha and South Omaha Central Labor Unions are the only central bodies that have elected delegates. Louis V. Guye will represent the Omaha Central and Frank Hart will represent the South Omaha body. The Lincoln central body will elect a delegate next Tuesday evening. A letter from Fremont says that the Fremont central will surely have a delegate present.

Emmet Flood, organizer for the American Federation of Labor, who is now working in Omaha and south Omaha and South Omaha, will be "among those present" at the meeting.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin officially announces that his connection with the State Federation of Labor will consist of calling the first session to order and asking for the election of a temporary presiding officer.

The president of the Kansas Federation of Labor announces that the Federation's legislative committee secured the enactment of eleven laws in the interests of the wage earners, and the defeat of three bills that were inimical to labor. This may give Nebraska workers some idea of the necessity of a live, working organization.

AND OTHER PLACES.

The terrible sleeping sickness is also prevalent outside of Africa. It has been known to attack public officials in New York.—New York Call.

Are the Hatters Paying Too Much for the Label?

Are the United Hatters of North America warranted in making such an awful sacrifice for their label? The history of unionism does not reveal such a magnificent fight nor such willing sacrifices as the hatters are showing every day in their struggle to keep their label. The question is, are they warranted in sacrificing so much when other unions and union men ignore the label? Eighteen thousand hatters have been on strike for three months, and for two or three weeks they have had to be content with a dollar each in the way of strike benefit. But they are keeping a solid front. It is a burning shame and disgrace that a body of unionists like the hatters—always ready to fight for other unions—are allowed to be put off with a paltry benefit of a dollar a week. Every last one of them ought to be drawing full time—and would be in every union that has been assisted by the hatters would come back with the right spirit.

There are hundreds of men in Lincoln who carry union cards and spout about their "unionism" who are wearing "scab" hats while those magnificent fighters for the union label are living on a dollar a week. How many unions in Lincoln have sent a dollar to the hatters? How many union men

have sent individual contributions to their fighting fund. Every union in Lincoln ought to be assessing its members at least ten cents a week for the benefit of the hatters.

There is this much about it, if the hatters lose out, good-by to any future force behind the union label movement. The unions with labels ought to bear this fact in mind.

The Wageworker will start a subscription fund for the benefit of the United Hatters, and head it with \$5. What will you give? Send your contributions to W. M. Maupin, 249 North Thirty-third street. Every contribution to the "Hatters' Fund" will be acknowledged in these columns.

TRINITY WAKING UP.

Trinity church is at last beginning to tear down its unspeakable tenements and promises to make "far-reaching improvements." Heaven knows they were needed, and I don't see how a single prayer of Trinity could have reached the Throne of Grace with those plague-spots standing between the Pharisees and the judgment seat. And this tearing down of the lung blocks brings to mind the valorous fight waged against them in The Call by Charles Edward Russell. Congratulations!—New York Call.

HOW COURTS HELP CORPORATIONS OUT OF A HOLE

Of course it would be rank treason to charge that the courts make fish of the workmen and flesh of the big corporations.

It would be contempt of court, of course, to charge that judges render decisions from a biased standpoint. And to charge that the courts favor the rich and powerful, and make horrible examples of the weak and poor, would be attacking the integrity of the courts and bringing them into disrepute with the unthinking and the unreasoning. To even intimate that the courts are not wholly free from bias and favoritism would be anarchy, treason, mayhem, arson, burglary, incendiarism, fratricide, homicide, trespass and larceny.

But is there anything wrong about calling attention to a few facts as they relate to some of the courts?

For instance, suppose we contrast that decision in the Gompers-Mitchell-Morrison case, with the decision in the commodity clause case.

You will remember that Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison were sentenced to jail, not for violating any law, but for ignoring the order of a judge. A burglar, or a highwayman, or a horse thief, would have been given a trial by jury if they had been charged with a crime. But Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison were such horrible criminals that they were deprived of a trial by jury. They are said to have violated a court order, hence they were not entitled to a jury trial, but were sentenced off hand by the judge issuing the order. Their sentences might have been longer if the judge's digestion had been a bit worse.

Wasn't any trouble to sentence some ordinary workmen to jail, was it? Not even when they were not charged with any crime against the laws.

Now just notice how the court will juggle around to give the trust magnates, the big rich, the best of it. Never heard of a man

being sent to jail for violating the anti-trust laws, did you? Nor for violating an injunction, like the beef packers did?

The commodity clause of the Hepburn rate law forbids any railroad to own and operate a coal mine. The coal carrying rail-

roads said the law was unconstitutional and attacked it in the supreme court. But the supreme court said the commodity clause was constitutional.

Great rejoicing among the trust busters! Going to put the coal trust off watch right away. All over but the shouting!

The railroad may not own a coal mine, but the railroad may own stock in a coal mine. It may own enough to elect all the mining officials, direct the policy of the coal company, tell when to mine and when not to mine coal, put the dividends in the treasury of the railroad—or such part thereof as may not be diverted to official pockets—but the railroad can not own the mine.

See how easy it is for the courts to cinch the workingman and then turn around and judicially provide a way for the trust magnate to evade the law?

The railroad does not own the mine; it merely owns the stock in the mining company that owns the mine! Thus it is not the owner, therefore it is not a violator of the law.

So simple! The railroad companies may own and control all the coal mine companies they want to, just so they do not own the coal mines.

If you do not understand it fully it is because you are one of those ignorant, unlawful, anarchistic trades unionists.

It is all very clear to the trained legal minds composing the honorable supreme court of the United States—and don't you dare intimate that the honorable justices of the supreme court might possibly be mistaken.

When is a door not a door? When you have answered that puzzling conundrum we'll invite you to answer this one:

When is the owner of a coal mine not the owner of the coal mine he owns?

State Federation Meeting

Has your local a delegate to represent it at the meeting called for the purpose of organizing a State Federation of Labor? If not, why not? It is entitled to one—and it should elect one. You need the Federation; the Federation needs you. Every local union, every central labor union, every Federal labor union—all are entitled to one delegate each at the initial meeting.

Lincoln, June 21, 22--Do Not Forget

Those are the dates, that's the place. Now is the time to get busy and get in line with the progressive workers of other states. The meeting will be a success without you, but it will be a bigger success if you are on hand in the person of a duly accredited delegate. Lots of things that need to be done that cannot be done without organization. It will be a meeting of business—not a "joust."

AGH, LOUIE!

One Man Who "Stuck" Back in Lincoln, Still Sticking.

Louis F. Taylor, one of the Associated Press operators of Lincoln who struck—and "stuck"—a couple of years ago, is back in Lincoln. Taylor is again taking press report, but not for the Associated Press. When he struck he meant it. He refused to go back when others did, and went out and took a job as operator at about half the wage he could have pulled down at the A. P. key. He'd be there yet if it was a case of going back to the Associated Press.

But Taylor is again taking the press report, but it is for the Scripps-McRae League, now being used by the Evening News. He's the kind of a union man that counts. Also, Taylor is the kind of a union man that likes to keep the labor paper's wheels greased. May his tribe increase!

WAGES PAID WOMEN.

The wages paid women average \$6.00 per week. The following is a schedule of the wages as earned by women: Cotton goods, \$6.08; hosiery, \$6.01; silk goods, \$6.1; shoes, \$7.60; men's clothing, \$6.97; women's clothing, \$6.85; shirts, \$5.69; and glass goods, \$5.08; these are the earnings of the women per week. There are 23,435, 359 women in the United States and of this number there are 4,833,639 who are bread winners; one woman out of five on an average being compelled to earn their own living.

The Labor Movement in Europe

By Rev. Charles Stelzle

WORKINGMEN IN POLITICS.

There is more interest and greater activity in politics in England among working people than there is in any other country that I visited,—and they are making good. Already the Labor Party in Great Britain has in the House of Commons 31 members; but in addition to these, the Miners' Union has elected twenty members. These labor members co-operate in all legislation which affects the interests of the masses of the people. The appointment of John Burns to the Cabinet was a recognition of the Labor Wing in Parliament. Even though they are in the minority in the House of Commons, the labor members are often in a position to dictate legislation favorable to labor, because they frequently hold the balance of power. It was due to the entrance of workingmen into the political life of the nation that the Taff-Vale decision was reversed.

While probably two-thirds of the labor members are Socialists, only one member of Parliament was elected on the Socialist ticket. The labor unions were elected upon a bona fide trades union ticket. They are not dreamers, these men of labor. They are not working for the passage of a resolution which will sweep out of existence all the prevailing ills of human society, meanwhile spending their time simply in agitation,—but they are opportunists, accepting the next thing. It is in this way that they are making very decided progress. The budget presented by the Prime Minister of England and passed, last week, by Parliament, which provides for Old Age Pensions, Out of Employment Benefits, and many other reforms, is largely the result of the political agitation of the workingmen in Great Britain. The liberal policy adopted by the Socialist trades unionists in Parliament of seeking to obtain these reforms, one by one, has aroused considerable antagonism on the part of the ex-

trime Socialists who are led by Victor Grayson, the representative of the Socialist party in Parliament. These expected the representatives of the Labor party who are Socialists, to fight exclusively for Socialist measures and they resented the friendly relations which have been maintained with non-Socialist Labor M. P.'s and with the Liberal Party generally. As a result of this lack of confidence in the policy of the Socialist Trades unionists, the ablest leaders of the party, Mr. J. Ramsey MacDonald, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Philip Snowden and Mr. Bruce Glasier, within a month, resigned from the Council of the Independent Labor Party, which is the Socialist wing of the Labor party and represents about 15 per cent of the trades unionists actively engaged in the political propaganda.

In Germany the political movement among the workingmen is distinctly Socialistic, although I was told by the leaders of the trades union movement that only about 15 per cent of the organized workingmen are members of the Social-Democrat party. This is about the same percentage of Socialists, therefore, that is found among the trades unionists, although the difference in the situation is that the Germans elect socialists as such to represent them in the Reichstag, while in England the representatives of the workingmen are bona fide trades unionists and the question as to their being Socialists or not being Socialists is not insisted upon. The matter of the Englishmen's socialism is purely personal, as is the question of his religion.

Belgium contains one of the most effective political organizations among the working people in any part of Europe. Laboring under many disadvantages, on account of the previous strength of the opponents of labor, the Belgium Trades Unionists, the Co-operatives and the Mutual Insurance Societies are organized into a Labor party which, however, is practically a Socialist movement.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Will Elect a State Delegate at Tuesday Night's Meeting.

The Central Labor Union will meet next Tuesday evening, and one of the important items of business slated for transaction is, the election of a delegate to the State Federation of Labor. This is really a most important matter, and every delegate should be there to assist in picking out the very best man possible for the position.

The label and home industry committees will have something important to report—something that means money in the pockets of every workingman in the city.

And the Central Labor Union owes it to itself and to its sister bodies in the state to get busy and frame up something in the way of entertainment for the delegates who will attend the State Federation meeting.

Next Tuesday's meeting of the central body will—ought to—be one of the really important meetings of the year.

ARRESTED FOR PARADING.

Fourteen striking brickyard employes at Kingston, N. Y., were arrested last week for no other reason than daring to indulge in a quiet street parade, for the purpose of gaining the sympathy of the citizens. Plans to submit the grievances between employers and the strikers to a board of arbitration have been without avail.