

THE WAGWORKER



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Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

The Union Teamsters of Chicago always have their intestines with them. This is the polite version. In elegant English, the Union Teamsters of Chicago are always there with the goods when union matters are touched upon. Recently the Employers' Association, made up of the owners of the big department stores, issued an order that their drivers should not wear their union buttons when on duty. The next day the boys showed up with the buttons still there. A few were discharged, and immediately 1,800 men quit. There was no dispute as to wages or hours—merely a firm stand for the right to wear the button. The men were out just one day—and then the employers backtracked. The men are again guiding their big teams through the crowded streets, and the good old union button is shining proudly from every shirt front.

The striking street railway men of Philadelphia have won out. The company refused point blank to arbitrate—and then arbitrated. It found out that the employees not only had public sympathy, but had control of the situation. The men get an increase of one cent an hour, recognition of their grievance board, reinstatement of all strikers and the discharge of the imported "Ellot heroes." Every time a man is called for duty he gets nine hours' pay, and is not required to work over ten hours a day. The company said it would never recognize the union, but it has signed a contract with the organization, just the same.

The stereotypers employed on the Chicago daily papers are in luck. They have been saving 25 cents each a day for exactly two years, and didn't know it. A little over two years ago they asked for an increase from \$3.75 a day to \$4.00. The request was refused, and a strike was ordered. But the stereotypers, like other members of the allied printing trades, have an arbitration contract with the Newspaper Publishers' Association, and the trouble was sent to arbitration. The matter has been delayed for two years, but recently the arbitration board submitted its findings. By the findings the stereotypers are given what they asked for, and the daily newspapers ordered to give them the increase, dating back to June 1, 1907. This means that about \$25,000 back pay will be distributed among a few more than 100 stereotypers.

Yet there are those who insist that unions are always looking for a chance to raise hades by striking. Arbitration—when honestly conducted, as is always is between the allied printing trades and the Newspaper Publishers' Association—beats striking all hollow.

The street railway employees of Evansville, Indiana, are on strike for better pay. Of course the company is importing strikebreakers, but the public is with the strikers and practically everybody is walking. Last Monday several teachers in the Centennial school rode on a car manned by strikebreakers. Immediately 70 Centennial school boys struck in sympathy with the striking street car men. The school was closed in the afternoon and the pupils paraded the streets and defied the police to disband their procession.

The Omaha brewers and the unions in their employ settled their scale question in a very satisfactory manner the other day, the unions getting practically every concession asked for, including increases in pay and a contract signed for three years. There never was any danger of a strike, except in one of the newspapers. That's the way to do business.—Western Laborer.

The American courts in the Philippines have let out another reef in labor injunctions. A strike of street car employes being in progress in Manila, the strikers called a series of mass meetings to assemble on the 30th. But the mass meetings were prohibited by a labor injunction. First we had injunctions against violence in strikes; these destroyed the American right of jury trial for crime in connection with the labor

movement. Then we had injunctions against boycott publications; these invaded the American principle of a free press in connection with the labor movement. And now we have an injunction against mass meetings; which assails the American principle of free speech. It was a big blaze that Mr. Taft and a few other federal judges kindled when they introduced the labor injunction into American jurisprudence.—Chicago Public.

The Woodmen of the World will build a sanitarium at Colorado Springs. This organization holds a record for friendliness to organized labor. Its printing is done in a fair shop, and in the terms of the contract for the Colorado Springs building it is specified that the work shall all be performed by union labor. That's the sort of a fraternal organization that union men ought to boast.

The Union Labor party in San Francisco has selected P. H. McCarthy, president of the Building Trades Council, for mayor; Thomas F. Finn for sheriff, and H. L. Mulcrevy for county clerk, as candidates for the three principal offices at the coming municipal election. The question is: Will McCarthy be required to carry the Schmitz-Reuf load through the campaign? If so, then farewell, Mack. There will be nothing doing at the city hall this year.—Western Laborer.

The following from the Omaha Western Laborer will be of interest to the union printers of Lincoln: "Last Sunday the most disastrous

and expensive administration Omaha Typographical Union No. 190 ever had in all its history, went out of office. What a remarkable coincidence it was that the burial took place on Memorial Day! No speeches are needed to remind the members of the last four years—their due cards tell the story in dollars and cents. Perhaps we ought to console ourselves with the thought that it might be worse, for, you know, we still have the charter."

The hat manufacturers have played a good joke on themselves. They decided to discontinue the use of the label, and the hatters quit. Then the manufacturers decided they wouldn't recognize the union any more, and said they would close permanently rather than resign. Then came the joke. The manufacturers gave notice that the closed shop would no longer obtain and posted "open shop" notices. But the shops remain closed, just the same, for the strikers will not return and the manufacturers can not find "scabs" to man the works.

John Lang, a seventeen-year-old Detroit boy, has been sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary for breaking into a grocery store and stealing 42 cents. What a fool John is, to be sure. Why didn't he wait a few years, organize a bank and then loot it of hundreds of thousands? Charley Mosher did that, and got away with a five-year sentence after stealing half a million. Statistics will show that defaulting bank officials get one year in the pen for every \$75,000 they steal. But the poor cuss who steals a sack of flour or a ham to feed his hungry wife and children—gee, but they soak him good and plenty. A Nebraska boy was once sentenced to the federal prison for life for robbing a mail

carrier and securing the munificent sum of 2 cents.

Has your union elected a delegate to the State Federation convention in Lincoln next month? A union that fails to get in line with the state organization can't have much life in it; for that reason the "live ones" will be among the gathering at the state capital.—Western Laborer.

HERALD SHOP SQUARE.

Some time ago The Wagworker printed a list of printing offices in Lincoln that had signed an agreement with Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209. The list was furnished by the proper committee from the union, and of course The Wagworker had no authority to add any to the list. However, in the publication of the list an injustice was unintentionally done the Lincoln Herald and its job department by omitting it. This was the fault of the committee, not of The Wagworker. The Herald shop was among the first to sign up, and the negotiations were marked by good feeling. The junior member of the Herald firm is an active member of Lincoln Typographical Union. Not only is the Herald shop using the union label of the Allied Printing Trades, but it is using it to adorn a neat line of job printing. The Wagworker apologizes for its omission, but pleads that it was wholly the fault of the committee.

THE DAILY STAR'S CONTEST.

It's getting interesting—the Lincoln Daily Star's subscription contest. If you haven't been solicited to subscribe to help out some aspiring contestant—well, if you haven't you will be. There is an army of workers in the field, and every member is hustling for subscriptions. The Star is worth the price, too. It's a union made newspaper.

Hatters Break the Big Combine Against Them

The strike of the United Hatters of North America was practically settled last Tuesday. A lot of small details are yet to be worked out, but one thing is sure—the National Association of Hat Manufacturers is a busted community. By the terms of the settlement seventeen of the twenty-one firms making up the association file notices of their withdrawal from that organization, and Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey are rid of this menace to fair labor.

The seventeen manufacturing hatters signed a bill of settlement with the executive board of the United Hatters, thus officially recognizing the union which they once declared they would never do. For five months the strike has been waged with determination by the Hatters, and although their funds have been tied up in litigation and the strikers on short rations they never wavered. They offered to arbitrate, but the employers said, "We have nothing to arbitrate." The manufacturers stood on the ground that their agreement as an association forbade them from negotiating with the strikers. Then Rev. Father Kennedy, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic church, Danbury, Conn., stepped in and declared that he would open negotiations on behalf of the general public. The result is a substantial victory for the strikers, although they yield in many points. But their union is recognized, and they are willing to leave other matters to arbitration.

The bill provides that in matters which it shall be mutually agreed to arbitrate, a judge of the state superior court shall be final referee when representatives of both sides fail to agree; the manufacturers agree to file

notice of their withdrawal from the manufacturers' association, the employees are to return to work under a declaration that there is no strike against the firm involved; the bill of prices is to remain the same as paid at the time of the strike; the manufacturers are to be allowed to install trimming machines, the machines to be given a fair trial; the price for such machine work not being included in the existing bill of prices, a committee shall determine a fair scale for such work and the union label is not to be a subject of arbitration under the present agreement to return to work.

The settlement is considered a compromise, each side making concessions. The union label and union recognition issues are waived for the present by the employees, while on the other hand, the agreement of the manufacturers' association is considered an important concession. The settlement provides a way for the resumption of work, considered generally the most important thing. Points contended for by each side will be left to arbitrators to attempt to settle.

The strike started when the employees formed an association and agreed not to recognize the union and refused to allow the union label to be used. Under the bill of settlement the label question is left open, but the unionists of this country have a ready way of settling that matter. If every union worker will absolutely refuse to purchase a hat minus the union label, the label opponents will soon come to time.

The United Hatters of North America have made a gallant fight against awful odds. For years their union funds, their private bank accounts and even their little homes have been tied up in litigation. A member of the union could not check out his little bank balance; he could neither sell nor mortgage his little home; his union could not use its bank balance. Despite these things they went out to a man in defense of their union and their label, and they fought it out on that line for five weary months.

Rev. Father Kennedy has showed his interest in the welfare of his fellows by stepping in and making a settlement possible. That sort of interest in the workingman is more appreciated than a lot of things that other members of the clergy we know try to do "for the workingman."

GLOVEWORKERS ENTERTAINED.

Employer Shows Members of Union a Good Social Time.

Mr. R. E. Deputy, of the Deputy-Spangler Hat Co., entertained the members of the local Glovemakers' Union at his home last Monday evening. Incidentally it might be remarked that the Deputy-Spangler Co. is the only firm of glovemakers in Nebraska employing union workers of that craft. Mr. Spangler, the other member of the firm, was present and helped entertain the employees.

The evening was spent in social games and conversation, with music and song to lend variety. Refreshments were served. Needless to say that all present enjoyed the evening immensely.

The glovemakers report business on their line very dull. This is not as it should be. Local unionists should not only demand union-made gloves, but they should give the preference to the "Hardy" brand. These gloves are not only union made but they are Lincoln made. If you favorite merchant does not handle them—change merchants.

THE PRINTING TRADES.

The Allied Printing Trades Council is busy making arrangements for a "smoker" to be held at Fraternity hall on the evening of June 29. All members of the allied printing trades are cordially invited to attend and participate in a discussion of ways and means looking toward boosting the label.

EVER OCCUR TO YOU?

Did it ever make you sore to walk into a dago fruit store and have a snip of a boy, anywhere from 5 to 8 years of age, say, "Whad'g want," and then throw the change at you?—Cedar Rapids Tribune.

Raymond Robins

OF CHICAGO

The most eloquent champion of Organized Labor on the American platform will speak on

Tuesday Evening, June 22, 1909

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This address will be free, and the general public is cordially invited.

Under the auspices of the

Nebraska State Federation of Labor

Music by band made up of Union Musicians of Lincoln. All who are genuinely interested in the social uplift should hear this eloquent champion of the workers. Those who heard Mr. Robins during his former visit to Lincoln will want to hear him again.

PARADE AND CONCERT BEFORE THE SPEAKING

The sessions of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor, June 21 and 22, are open to the general public. There is nothing to conceal, and you are invited.