

# THE WAGEWORKER



State Historical Society

VOL. 6

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 31, 1909

8 PAGES

NO. 17

## Among the Live Ones In This Good Town

The Labor Day committee met Friday evening at the labor commissioner's office and permanently organized by electing C. H. Chase chairman, T. W. Parker secretary and G. A. Walker treasurer.

It was decided by unanimous vote to engage Miss Mary McDowell as the orator of the day. Miss McDowell will be in Lincoln the Sunday before and arrangements will be made to have her occupy the pulpits of a couple of downtown churches. The Wageworker assures the churches that grant her the use of their pulpits that she will preach a gospel that will appeal to the hearts of men and women. There is no better speaker on pressing topics of the day than Miss McDowell, and she will tell a story of human interest that will benefit all.

The following committees were appointed:

Program—Kelsey, Clarke, Ramgo. Sports and Contests—Walker, Geller, Garrison.

Printing—Yates, Walker, Greenwood.

Arrangements—Rudy, Kelsey, Beard. C. A. Yates will have charge of the dancing arrangements and will select his own assistants.

Several new committeemen appeared at the last meeting, and it is hoped that by the first meeting in August every union in Lincoln and Havelock will be represented.

The union carpenters of Lincoln have been swelling around a bit of late, and they have a right to feel proud. Last Thursday their international dedicated a new \$100,000 headquarters building in Indianapolis. The building is four stories high, finished in the best style of workmanship and when it was dedicated it was free of encumbrance.

A special meeting of street railway men was held at the labor commissioner's office last Thursday evening at which time several new names were added to the roster and the interest of a large number of men still outside the fold was enlisted. This enterprising new union is going about its work in a systematic manner, and the indications are that long before Labor Day it will be what is commonly called, a "one hundred per cent union".

Col. Will Norton, formerly of Lincoln, but now of Humboldt, was in Lincoln one day last week renewing old acquaintances. Norton is still a member of the Typographical and Musicians' unions of this city. He is now editor, publisher and proprietor of the Humboldt Standard, and he says he is "cutting the mustard" in that progressive community. Last spring he was elected city clerk, but he soon resigned, as he found the city printing more profitable than the clerk's salary. He stopped off in Lincoln on his way back from Omaha, where he went to purchase a lot of material. "I am going to have a 'Merg' in there before long," he said. There are a lot of people in Lincoln who hope that "Billy" Norton will make a wagon load of money in the newspaper business.

Will M. Maupin, deputy labor commissioner, left last Saturday morning on what will be something of a tour. Sunday and Monday he spoke at Springfield, Neb., Tuesday he delivered an address at the "Home Coming" celebration in Oregon, Mo. From there he went to Scotts Bluffs, Neb., and from there he will visit Sidney, North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, Columbus, Spalding, Albion, Norfolk, Fremont, Omaha and then back home. Part of the time will be spent in looking after the hotel inspection law, part to fire escape inspection and part to securing material on the forthcoming bulletin, "Resources of Nebraska."

Union men who affiliate with the republican party do not want to overlook the fact that Clark Dailey is, so far as known to The Wageworker, the only union man who is a candidate for county office. By that is meant that he is the only candidate who carries a union card. Brother Dailey is a member of the Machinists' Union and he is asking his republican friends to nominate him for county commissioner. He is well fitted for this important office, and he should have the earnest support of union men at the

primaries on August 17. Dailey is the kind of a man it will do to tie to.

Tomorrow night General Thomas C. Kelsey will turn the keys of the city scales over to his successor. If the city gets as good a man as Kelsey to succeed him it will be entitled to congratulations. Kelsey took the position of city weighmaster four years ago, and brought the job out of obscurity and made it a source of goodly revenue to the city. His accounts were always in splendid shape, and the scales never run on a more business-like basis. It is to be regretted that Mayor Love did not see fit to re-appoint him, but the mutations of politics prevented. But General Kelsey retires rightfully proud of the record he made in the office.

Miller & Paine, who recently purchased the Lindell hotel, are preparing to remodel the building and make it a hotel equal to the best in the west. Halls will be straightened, new exits created and the building renovated from top to bottom. An experienced hotel man has been placed in charge, and the Lindell will doubtless soon resume its old place in the affections of the traveling public.

The work of illuminating the state house grounds is now under way, and in a few weeks that beautiful park will be one of the handsomest places in the west. The wires are being placed under ground, and handsome electric light posts will be erected in every part.

### ECHO OF ORCHARD'S LIES.

In a San Francisco court last week final judgment for \$10,800 damages against the San Francisco Gas company for the wrecking of the flat in which Fred Bradley lived, and which Harry Orchard, self-confessed assassin of Governor Steunenburg of Idaho, declared was blown up by a dynamite bomb placed by him as a trap for Bradley, was awarded to W. H. Linforth, owner of the building, by the supreme court. The gas company ofifered Orchard's confession as evi-

dence on which to found its petition for a reversal, but the supreme court refused to go behind the records of the trial court, which awarded damages on the theory of a gas explosion.

### MARGARET HALEY AGAIN.

The Chicago School Teachers' union and other trade unionists have been investigating a little, and as a consequence sixteen corporations are to be called upon by the state of Illinois to pay \$14,000,000 in taxes which they have managed to escape paying heretofore. It is a safe bet that every member of those tax-dodging corporations is an advocate of the "open" shop idea.—Detroit Advocate.

### SEVERELY SCALDED.

Lorena Maupin, the eleven-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will M. Maupin, seriously scalded her right hand last Friday evening. The injury was so serious as to require the services of a physician, and it will be some time before the little miss will be able to use the injured member.

### IN BANKRUPTCY.

The "Fashion" suit store on O street has gone into bankruptcy, with liabilities approximating \$20,000 and liabilities of about \$10,000. It may be only a coincidence, but the bankruptcy of this firm followed upon its failure and neglect to advertise in The Wageworker.

### FREE HIDES OR FIGHT.

Delegation of Shoe and Leather Workers Want Free Hides.

That New England does not stand alone in the demand for free hides has been made clear by the events of the past week at Washington. Delegations of shoe and leather manufacturers from Chicago and Milwaukee, who arrived at the capital a few days ago, stated emphatically that the west wants free hides as much as New England does. Speaking of the inevitable results of the retention of the present duty, J. Harry Seiz, one of the delegates, declared:

"The importance of the issue cannot be over-estimated. The packers are rapidly monopolizing the tanning business. Already they own or control 47 out of a total of 66 tanneries

in this country which handle heavy hides and leather. If the tariff on hides is not abolished it will be only a step further for the packers to engage in the retail shoe and leather business. The story of the American Tobacco company will be repeated. Controlling the hide market as they do and rapidly monopolizing the tanning industry, the packers will before long establish shoe factories and retail shoe and leather stores throughout the country, driving the present manufacturers and small retailers out of business."

The accusation that the shoe and leather manufacturers are unmindful of the welfare of the farmers is utterly absurd, for no one knows any better than those who employ this statement that the farmer never has received and never will receive the slightest benefit from the duty on hides. Furthermore, if those who are strongest in their protestations of friendship for the farmers are really sincere, is it likely that they would hesitate to advocate a duty on pigskins and goatskins.

The senators representing the beef trust are the backbone of the opposition to free hides. The beef packers do make money out of the duty on hides. It has created the sole leather trust as a branch of the beef trust. It promises if continued to create a shoe trust as a branch of the beef trust.

The ways and means committee of the house did its work well. It brought forth a bill which would undoubtedly have met the needs of the country for years to come. The bill submitted by the finance committee to the senate can only be described as atrocious. That it can run the gamut of congress and the white house in anything like its present form seems almost incredible. But one thing is certain. If the unmodified Aldrich bill ever becomes law the tariff question will continue as unsettled as it was before the present session of congress was convened, thereby retarding the return of business prosperity. Incidentally, if the republican party intends to break its solemn pledges to the country at the instigation of a few leaders to whom private interest is paramount over party honor, what will be the result when the country again registers its verdict at the polls?—Ex.

## Labor Unions Stand For Self Respect, Intelligence

The labor union does not make any pious pretensions and it makes no claims as a religious institution. It has been too busy to build ceremonies and creeds. Its hands have been so busy lifting up the weak and feeding the hungry and wiping away the tears from sad human eyes that it has not schooled itself in sanctimonious attitudes.

In its devotion to the busy and practical things of life it has often made mistakes. Its leaders do not have much leisure to study or weigh philosophical or theological distinctions. If religion means a selfish seeking for personal salvation—a desire to get to heaven at any cost; if sanctification means getting away from the scenes of sin and suffering—snuggling the soul in some secluded sanctuary sealed against the sighs of sorrow and want—then the labor union is the most irreligious and unsanctified institution in the world.

Carlyle says that all true work is religion. The labor union aims to make good work of them. It asks that the man who works shall have good pay for his work and a say in his work. It insists that the worker shall be intelligent and self-respecting; that he shall think and hold his head up beside his employer as a Christian and citizen. It teaches the strong to help the weak, each to contribute to the good of all. It takes the child from the factory and puts it in the school. It takes the woman from the sweatshop and puts her in the home. It places chairs behind the counters of the stores for the weary girls who are obliged to work long hours for small pay. It places vestibules on street cars for shivering motormen. It finds jobs for the idle, builds homes for the widows and orphans. Could a Holy God ask more of a human institution?—Ex.

The Amalgamated Carpenters of Great Britain by a referendum vote have decided on establishing offices in the United States, and they expect in the next two years to increase the membership to 100,000.

Twelve hundred employes of the Sharon (Pa.) Steel Hoop company, an

independent concern has received a 10 per cent increase in wages.

Prominent women's organizations of Los Angeles, Cal., are co-operating with trades unions to secure shorter hours for working women. They want stores to close at 5 p. m.

The quarterly audit of the books of the United Mine Workers of America, which was ended May 31, shows that the organization has voted an appropriation of \$4,500 for hats to be worn in the Labor day parade.

The men employed in the iron trades in San Francisco have received a reduction of 15 minutes a day. This reduces the work day under the agreement with the metal trades associations to eight and one-half hours a day.

Practically all the independent steel and iron companies that reduced their wages last February have returned to the old schedule. More than 100,000 men were affected by the reduction, and they will receive the increase.

Five thousand two hundred and thirty-seven carpenters are now affiliated with the Carpenters' District Council of Pittsburg. No strike of any character is on at the present time, and a very small percentage of the men are out of employment.

During 1908 the Boot and Shoe Workers' International union paid 155 death benefits, which aggregated \$13,300; six disability benefits, \$375, and a total of 13,783 weeks' sick benefits, aggregating \$68,917.99, making a total for benefits expended \$82,732.66.

The union working women of Boston have organized a chorus to sing the songs of labor. It has fifty members and is being constantly increased from the ranks of the women and girls who belong to the various unions of the city. Competent instructors are training the chorus.

### THEIR NEFARIOUS SCHEME.

Steel Trust Will Break Union Then Reduce Wages.

It is a bold-faced lie that the United States Steel corporation is not attempting to reduce wages by declaring war upon the organized workers in its mills. The trust magnates want to destroy the union first and enforce a general cut at the same time. Their own figures speak for themselves. Based on 30-gauge—upon which the wage scale is always based—they demand a reduction ranging from 2 1/2 per cent for rollers to over 8 per cent for heaters. On 26-gauge and heavier the reductions run from 12 1/2 per cent to over 18 per cent. Besides this the trust magnates want to eliminate footnotes and extras and deliberately steal 5 to 10 per cent in gauges after the above-mentioned reductions have been made. What do you think of that for high-toned liars and thieves? The open shop is only a mask for capitalistic cannibals and industrial highwaymen. They possess no honor or decency and are absolutely shameless.—Cleveland Citizen.

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

August Meeting Will Be Held Next Sunday Afternoon.

The Typographical Union will meet at Fraternity Hall Sunday afternoon, it being the date for the regular August meeting. So far as known the only business outside of the routine will be to give instructions to Messrs. Locker and Freeman, the delegates to the St. Joseph convention, which meets on August 9.

It is hoped by a number of the members that the local will see fit to instruct the delegates to support and work for the acceptance of the Lewis proposition. Mr. Lewis, of St. Louis, offers the International a building site in his suburb to the Missouri metropolis, conditioned upon the International erecting a headquarters building. The International is now spending \$3,600 a year for the rental of rooms in the Newton Claypool building in Indianapolis, and the quarters are restricted. This rental represents five per cent interest on \$72,000, and that amount would erect a handsome building. The site offered by Mr. Lewis is said by real estate experts to be worth not less than \$50,000. His proposition looks like a good one, and it certainly deserves thoughtful consideration.

## The Saloons and The Workers

By  
Rev. Charles  
Stelzle

The brewery worker and the men employed in the distillery are workmen. Most of the men are engaged in these industries, not because they want to be, but because they must. It is not their fault, but their misfortune. But since they are workmen, honestly trying to make a living, and since they are now affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, it is our duty, as fellow-workers, to see that they get a square deal from their employers, just as we must insist upon a square deal for all other workers. This does not mean that we must endorse their business, any more than we would endorse the rascality that is practised in connection with other enterprises, but with which some of our fellow-members are helplessly identified. However, it is our right to stamp out the rascality, and if, in order to do this, we must also stamp out the business, so much the worse for the business. If we must accept with the saloon, all of its accompanying evils, then it becomes a question as to whether the benefits which it brings to comparatively few workers, is really worth while. Organized labor cannot afford to stand for any sort of enterprise, nor for any institution, which results in the degradation of the workers or of the people as a whole. No man can successfully deny that the saloon, as an institution, is one of the greatest curses of modern times. There is scarcely room for argument on this point. Everybody knows of the suffering and hardship

which have come to many lives on account of its influence. Scarcely one of us but what has felt the grip of its slimy claws, or seen the agony of loved ones who have been helpless in its power. Can we, as men and women, remain indifferent to such an institution? Dare we, who are pledged to seek the welfare of every fellow trades unionist, declare that, as the saloon does not hurt us, therefore we shall make no effort to assist him whom it does injure? I do not argue here for prohibition. That isn't the question before us. It is a question as to whether we shall countenance—and worse still, endorse—a certain business in our midst which is doing more to unfit men for their life's work; which is doing more to bring disgrace upon the labor movement than any other enterprise known. We are our brother's keepers. Not only are we pledged to be such, but we shall be held responsible for our brothers.

But what is to become of the bartenders and the brewery workers and the men who are now benefiting from the brewing and the distillery interests. In the first place, it must not be imagined that the saloon and the liquor interests are the only consumers of the materials manufactured by the glass bottle blowers, the harness-makers, the wagon-makers, and all the other industries more or less related to a saloon. The money now spent in the saloon will be spent for other goods, or in other places, which will bring these workers at least as

much profit as they now receive for their product. As a matter of fact, the amount of money now spent in the saloon will purchase or will cause to be purchased more of the same material that these workers are producing than is the case in the liquor business. It will require more bottles, more wagons, more harness, and many more men than is now required to supply the brewery and the saloon. So far as the bartenders are concerned, it is a well-known fact that very few men have been brought up in the business. They have had other trades or occupations, but on account of their personal popularity or their natural ability as salesmen, they either opened saloons of their own or became employes of those who did. In any event, they may either go back to their trades or they may become salesmen in other enterprises. The class for whom it may be most difficult to provide are those who are directly engaged in the manufacture of beer and whisky. But after all the outside craftsmen who are affiliated with the brewery-workers are eliminated, such as engineers, firemen, carpenters, drivers, horse-shoers, grain-handlers, and many others who really have nothing to do with the manufacture of beer, it will be found that there are comparatively few workers left. Like all other industries, the brewing industry is depending less and less upon men, and more and more upon machinery. The old-fashioned brewer has gone out of existence. The chemist is the big man in

the brewery today. Therefore, the number of men who are directly involved is not as great as is generally supposed. It should be remembered, also, that these very men receive a smaller percentage of the profit than is paid the workmen in any other craft. Furthermore, if the breweries should ever be closed, this event will probably not take place for some time to come, and they will not all be closed at once. The change will no doubt come through a gradual process, which will permit those employed in the breweries and the distilleries to adjust themselves to the new conditions, just as was the case, for instance, with the members of the Typographical Union when the linotype machine was introduced. The men simply were compelled to learn a new trade, and those who learned it soonest were most greatly benefited. The brewery and distillery workers must face the fact that, for most of them, at any rate, their business is doomed. There are too many agencies at work against them. The railroads and other corporations are sounding the note of warning. Their men must not drink intoxicants. The doctors through their studies of hygienics are delivering sledge-hammer blows. The legislatures, regardless of the pleading of "cranks," are rapidly closing up the saloons—the "cranks" have little to do with it. The people—their constituents—demand it and they dare not disobey.

As to their right to do this,—we shall leave that for further discussion.