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CURRENT COMMENT

The strike of the Lincoln Telephone Co.'s employes is to be deplored for many reasons. Strikes are always bad things, never justifiable until every other recourse fails, but often the only weapon which workers can wield in their own behalf. The telephone using public is interested in this matter because it is the chief sufferer at present. Later the striking employes may suffer most. But always somebody suffers, and usually needlessly, for the reason that a little commonsense and a little justice on both sides would have removed all trouble. Will Maupin's Weekly holds no brief for the strikers; neither does it have any interest in the controversy save as a telephone user. But it is of the candid opinion that the Telephone Co. is in such position that it can ill afford to court public condemnation. This newspaper suggests to the company and the strikers that they submit their differences to arbitration with a view to speedy settlement. If the chief obstacle in the way of settlement is in the shape of the "scabs" who have taken the places of the strikers, that ought easily to be overcome. The worker who will betray his fellow workers, or take advantage of their necessities, isn't worthy of very much consideration.

This community is entitled to the best possible telephone service. The workers who have helped to build this community, and who are rearing their families here, are entitled to a bit more consideration than mere pack animals. We have not gone deeply into the merits of this case, and are not prepared to say which party there-to has the most justice on its side. But we are inclined to believe that if the company had treated the old employes as well as it is treating the new ones, banqueting them, paying them top wages and riding them around in autos, there would have been no strike. The company is entitled to consideration, too. It is entitled to a fair return on the money invested, to the protection of the law, and to a chance to increase its business. But the public is entitled to something—and it is for the public that this newspaper is pleading.

Congratulations to Omaha upon her acquirement of the water works plant. It was a long and bitter fight, but Omaha won against long odds. This puts Omaha further in line with progressive cities. Omaha citizens have been so busy building a big and busy city that they haven't had much time to devote to municipal problems, but Omaha is finding herself. She is not less busy than of yore—indeed, is more so—but she has systematized her business activities and now has time to devote to making the city something more than a mere trading mart. She is paying attention to men and women, as well as to money and merchandise. She is building parks and boulevards, beautifying the streets, erecting more and better school buildings, and in many other ways building for a better citizenship in future. We are mighty proud of Omaha and her progress. She is a credit to Nebraska and to the country.

We congratulate the gentlemen at the head of the Lincoln Monument Association upon their decision to have the unveiling on "Labor Day." A more fitting date could not have been selected than that set apart by law to pay honors to the dignity of labor and tributes to the group of toil. Lincoln was essentially a man of the people. The men who eat their bread in the sweat of their faces had in him a friend and a champion. He loved them and suffered with and for them. He recognized their right to organize for their own protection, and clearly proved that labor had more rights than mere dollars. The organized laborers of Lincoln and of Nebraska should be even now preparing to take a very prominent part in the ceremonies attendant upon the unveiling of the Lincoln statue.

Business men are now beginning to understand the true inwardness of Postmaster General Hitchcock's "reforms" in the postal service. The mail deliveries are late and things are getting pretty badly balled up. Under the old methods substitute carriers were put on the routes when regular carriers took their annual vacations. Now the carriers regularly on duty must "double up" and cover the territory of their absent mates. And they must do it without working overtime, and heaven knows they have hard work covering their regular territory under ordinary circumstances. Mr. Hitchcock has reduced expenses, it is true, but it has been at the expense of the service and to the detriment of the men who do the real work of the postal department.

Some of these days when we have nothing else to do, we are going to sit down and read the democratic national platform. But it must be a cool and pleasant day, when trouble is absent and everything is conducive to happy thoughts. We know in a general way what the platform contains, and we are just a bit interested in learning how any man or set of men could assemble so many words together to represent the ideas contained therein.

Speaker Clark will not get anywhere in the estimation of right thinking people by denouncing Mr. Bryan. The speaker would do far better to chide the managers of his campaign who fooled their putt. If Champ Clark's managers had done like Wilson's manager, and opposed the nomination and election of Parker to the chairmanship of the convention, Champ Clark would today be the democratic candidate for president.

Instead of those Bowling Green, Mo., democrats sending scurrilous telegrams to Bryan, they would better be sending them to Dave Francis and Bill Stone, the old-school politicians who tied the Clark boom up with the Tammany crowd and thus damned that boom in the eyes of a majority of democrats. We still think Champ Clark is all that Bryan said he was in that Vandalia speech, and we think that Bryan thinks so. But when Clark's managers tied up with the Tammany-Ryan-Belmont-Morgan bunch to put Parker over, they spelled defeat for the great Missourian. And in the editorial sanctum of this little newspaper we are regretting the result as only those who have gone down to defeat with a personal friend and a political leader.

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