

Nebr. Historical Society

# THE WAGWORKER

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## Why Union Men Should Vote For Watson and Tibbles.....

By Laurie J. Quinby Associate Editor Nebraska Independent

The first reason why members of organized labor should support the people's party candidates for president and vice president is because all electors should at all times vote for their own personal interests. This is the only sure and correct guide to an intelligent ballot at all times and in all places.

The first reason why members of organized labor should not vote for either Farmer or Roosevelt is because those elements in our political life against whom organized labor is forced to go to battle are in favor of these two candidates—either one of them will do. I would not appeal for a vote from organized labor upon the low ground of class consciousness, but merely from a recognition that economically speaking we are at war. And just so long as we are forced into war, just so long will it be both unwise and criminal for us to vote for those who are arrayed on the other side of the line of battle.

Nor would I appeal to members of organized labor as well as all other laborers to vote as I shall take pleasure in voting because of this ill-advised and ignorant condemnation of so-called "capitalism." Capital is and always must be the handmaiden of labor. Capital is itself labor in concrete form. It is stored-up labor. It is the accumulated wealth of past labor used for the purpose of producing more wealth. Under a free society capital and labor would recognize their "heavenly twinning," and discord between them would forever cease.

Our complaint today is not against capital. Our complaint is against monopoly. It is because monopoly has secured its death-grip upon the natural resources of this earth that both capital and labor are denied the opportunity to join hands for the further production of wealth. Until we discover the source and destructive power of this monopoly of natural resources, we shall continue to be engaged in struggles, trials and tribulations between ourselves and those whose capital joins with us in the production of the world's needs.

I might just as well clear the ground right here and assert that the strength of monopoly does not lie in "machinery," as the socialist asserts; it does not lie in the establishment of the "gold standard," as the free-silverite asserts; it does not lie in the tariff, as the free trader asserts, nor does it lie in the "general cussedness of human nature," as the pessimist asserts.

To assert that machinery is the source of monopoly is as absurd as to assert that the man in the moon is, for labor could again reproduce every machine in the world, if given an opportunity. To assert that the gold standard is the source of monopoly is as absurd as to say that without money men could not live, for men could, without the gold standard or with it, find a thousand ways to exchange the products of labor, if they only had an opportunity to labor. To assert that it lies in the tariff is also absurd, for if we admitted all products from foreign shores, it would still be possible for monopoly to tighten its grip upon the sources of all supply—the land. And to assert that it is the general cussedness of human nature is to assert that the great Author either had not saved His apprenticeship in the universal college of life, or if He had, He made a bad job of His work or had retired from the overseeing of things and allowed His works to go to the devil. I am so thoroughly satisfied of the truth of this, that I declare that had the divine power to alter human nature, I would not change one attribute of it. As I view it, human nature is possessed of just exactly the right qualities to insure peace and happiness and prosperity for all mankind, if monopoly, or the attempt to interfere with divine decrees, would just step aside, and afford natural law free scope.

Old mythology had it that the world rested upon the shoulders of Atlas, who was supposed to be a giant. Let us imagine this to be true, and that for some reason or other Atlas takes his load and scoops from the surface of the earth all the people. In one hand he holds the people; in the other the earth, Universal distress of the people here can be easily imagined. The people would appeal to Atlas. Would they say, "Let us have common ownership of the machines of production and distribution? Would they say, 'What we need is bi-metalism or greenbacks? Would they say, 'The thing we need is free trade? Or would they say, 'The trouble is, human nature is selfish—what we need is a re-generated man? Hardly any of these things would they

say, but it can easily be imagined that they would rise up as one man and say, 'Oh, Atlas, give us back the earth.

Now, this, I assert is typical of this earth and its institutions today. Land monopoly has capital and labor by the throat. It is this institution of land monopoly that lies at the bottom of every human curse. It is this system that affords opportunity to a few to hold the many in subjection. It is this crime that makes necessary the wars between capital and labor as well as between nations. It is this crime of crimes that establishes contests between starving men for a chance to toil, pulling down wages to the very bottom point. It is the recognition of this helplessness of laborers to relieve themselves in any other way that forces them into labor unions and the like. Every time you pay rent to any private person for the mere use of any spot of this earth, your wealth is being confiscated, and you are paying tribute to land monopoly. And every time you pay taxes upon the products of your toil, either directly, as when you step up to the public treasurer, or when you are forced to pay the same tax with interest when you buy a suit of clothes or eat a mouthful of food, you are paying further tribute to land monopoly.

So at bottom it is land monopoly against which we are really at war, whether we realize it or not. And I desire to ask any intelligent thinking man whether he seriously believes that the powerful interests of this land, whose base is in land monopoly, would be contributing hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars to the election of both Roosevelt and Parker, if they thought that either of these candidates would jeopardize their graft? Have these interests ever in any age of the world honestly endeavored in any way to establish a system of society that would afford all men an equal opportunity for the pursuits of life, of liberty or happiness? The Rockefeller and Morgans, the Belmonts and money sharks are not contributing to the election of Mr. Watson. That is a very fair reason why you should.

Mr. Watson is the only candidate in the field in this campaign who really espouses Jeffersonian democracy. And what is Jeffersonian democracy? It is just that which I have been endeavoring to illustrate in this article. It is the sovereignty of the people. It is the proposition that "all men are born equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And this means that every living thing, by the very fact of its existence, has an equal right with every other living thing to enjoy an opportunity to get at nature's storehouse and produce its quota of the world's wealth, that it may enjoy liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These are the principles for which Mr. Watson has waged the manliest campaign for the people that has been waged since the days of Jackson, with but one possible exception.

Mr. Watson, as well as his running mate, is a son of poverty. He has known the trials and sufferings of those who toil. He has "toiled and sweated in the sun, according to the curse." His life, his entire life, has been one long, ceaseless struggle with adversity, and these facts make it possible for him to understand and be affected by the struggles of those who are forced to wring from monopoly every little consideration, as though they were very slaves. There is no monopolist backing his campaign. For him there is no hope of office or other reward. In his great speech a few days ago before the labor unions of New York, he stated what he hoped to gain by his campaign in these noble words:

"Talk to me of reward? What more do I need than that having unfurled the standard of Jeffersonian democracy in its darkest hour, when those who had promised to die for it had deserted? It is an honor to champion a great cause, no matter how heavy the task may be. There is glory in defending the right, no matter how goes the tide of success. There is inspiration in working for the plain people when they cheer you on as they are cheering me."

I have no quarrel with those, whoever they may vote for, who are ready and willing to "throw their votes away" for any candidate other than Roosevelt or Parker. Whether they vote for Watson or Debs or Swallow, they are casting a vote against present iniquities. They are registering their mighty protests against wrongs. They

are using the best weapons they have to be free. Like men they are adding their mite to the advancement of the world.

It is not so with those who consciously vote for a wrong. And if they vote at all they ought to understand truly for what they are voting. No man has a right to be ignorant of the principles involved in his cast ballot, when he knows that whether for weal or woe that vote will affect the happiness of every other human being. The responsibility rests upon him, and him alone, for the righteousness of his act. Can he afford to be ignorant? Can he be careless in this? Can he allow himself to be influenced by threats, intimidation or violence of any kind? If he would be a man—an upright man—he will assert that manhood, and intelligently seek to understand fully the result of his vote, and having so understood its effect he will cast it with a courageous heart, though the heavens fall.

And to those who fear to vote a protest against present wrongs, because their "vote would be thrown away," I wish to impress upon them, if possible, the fact that the only vote that was ever thrown away was that which did not represent the best thought of the voter. It is a prostitution of the ballot when it is cast without regard either to the principles involved or to the interests at stake. Every voter should fear to vote any other way than he feels; for every act he performs not only represents the general character of the man, but every act re-acts upon the doer until his very character is affected for good or ill by his performance.

Every time any man casts a vote he ought to think of his home and fire-side; of the companion of his bosom there, and the little blossoms that add so much to the sweetness of his life. He ought to remember their welfare and happiness. He ought to consider whether the vote he is about to cast will enlarge the scope of life for those he loves. He ought to make it his supreme test, whether the vote he is about to cast will contribute to the joy and peace of the loved ones at home and the prosperity of those who come after him. If he fully considers these things and forms an intelligent estimate of them, he will not cast a vote for those whose grip upon this earth is choking the life and peace and joy out of those he loves.

## OVER ONE THOUSAND.

The Wageworker guarantees to advertisers over 1,000 actual, bona fide, paid-in-advance subscribers, nine-tenths of whom reside in Lincoln, University Place, Havelock, College View and Bethany. The subscription books are open to inspection by anyone who can show cause—and advertisers come under that head.

### SO YOU MAY KNOW.

A List of Fair and Unfair Makers of Shirts and Collars.

It is often difficult for union men to keep track of fair and unfair goods. This is especially true of all articles of wearing apparel save clothing. The label of the United Garment Workers of America is always sewn in the inside breast pocket of the coat. But labels on shirts, collars, cuffs, etc., are not so easily found or recognized.

The Shirt, Waist and Laundry Workers' International Union has issued a card giving both fair and unfair makes of shirts, collars and cuffs, and every man should get one of the cards and carry it in his pocket for reference. In the meantime the following may be clipped from The Wageworker and used as a guide. The lists follow:

Unfair: "Monarch" shirts, made by Cluett, Peabody & Co. Arrow Brand collars and cuffs. Oriental collars and cuffs. Ivy brand. Twentieth Century. Double Triangle. "Lion Brand" shirts, collars and cuffs, and other goods made by the United Shirt and Collar Co.  
Fair: Union Collar Co., Troy, N. Y. Thread City Collar Co., Williamette, Conn. Elgin Shirt Co., Elgin, and Chicago, Ill. Lesser, Levi & Co., Chicago. A. Livingston & Co., Chicago. J. E. Teehan & Co., Chicago. J. A. Brewster, Camden, Me. Steppacher & Stern, Baltimore. Fitchburg Shirt Co., Fitchburg, Mass. H. A. Swain Shirt Co., Lynn, Mass. Boulevard Shirt Co., St. Louis, Mo. Peter A. Casey, St. Louis, Mo. J. H. & S. Ballin, "Herald Shirt," New York. Weinstein Bros., New York. A. Schuller & Co., New York. S. Werbin & Sons, New York.

Nirenberg & Silver, New York. Reiser Brothers, New York City. W. G. Fischer, Albany, N. Y. Victor Shirt Co., Cincinnati (also Shirt Waists). National Shirt Co., Cincinnati (also Shirt Waists). Enterprise Shirt Co., Philadelphia. Pilot Shirt Co., Philadelphia (also Boys' Waists). Myerhoff, Sons & Co., Philadelphia. Gross & Raab, Philadelphia. Ferguson, Ferguson & Co., Pittsburg, Pa.

### UNION LAUNDRY WORK.

Plans All Made and the Scheme Is Ready to Work.

By next week The Wageworker will be ready to announce something definite concerning the union laundry scheme it proposed several weeks ago. It takes time to work up a scheme like that. But inside of ten days union men and women of Lincoln will be enabled to give their laundry work to a union laundry.

There will be a wagon out collecting the laundry, and it will be driven by a union man. The laundry will be done by union men and women and delivered by a union driver. The wagon will be ornamented by the label of the Shirt, Waist and Laundry Workers' International Union.

Now wake up and get into the union game. If you want your laundry work done in a union laundry, send a postal card with your name and address to The Wageworker, 1216 G street.

It will cost you no more to have your laundry done in a union laundry than it does now to have it done in laundries owned by the trust and managed by men unfriendly to organized labor. The collection and delivery will be just as prompt.

If you are really in earnest, now is the time to prove it.

### GRAFTERS MUST GO.

Union Men Should Stand Firmly for Honest Methods.

The labor grafter must go. We mean the union man who uses his unionism or his leadership to extort money from employers. The man who sells his influence with union men is worse than the professional lobbyist or the treacherous public official.

Phil Weisenheimer, former president of the building trades alliance of New York city has been convicted of extortion. He was charged with having extorted \$2,700 from George Essig under threat not to permit work to con-

tinue on some apartment houses where in Essig had the plumbing contract. He had a fair trial and was found guilty. The amount of money involved is not large. The principle involved is stupendous. While Weisenheimer was making a paltry amount of money he was sacrificing principles which every true man would die rather than betray. Weisenheimer took a little money, and in return for it he betrayed his fellows and perpetrated an injury that will take years of toil and a mint of money to retrieve.

It is union labor's shame that it has not long since rid itself of the Parks and Weisenheimers. It will be union labor's eternal damnation if it does not rid itself of such cattle now.

### THE LEGISLATIVE TICKET.

Think for Yourselves and Vote for Your Own Interests.

Wage-earners are peculiarly interested in the legislative election this fall. A United States senator is to be elected, and the man elected will sooner or later be called upon to vote for or against the 8-hour law and the anti-injunction law. Every workman who owns his own home is interested, because the legislature elected on November 8 will revise the revenue law. Considerably more than partisan success is at stake. Investigate the candidates. Throw aside partisan prejudice and vote for your own interests. The Wageworker will have something to say about candidates next week.

The Central Labor Union meets next Tuesday evening, and every delegate should be present. Some very important business is to be transacted.

## Union Men--For Tags Only

The unionism of some union men can be measured by the tags.

In other words, they are willing to sacrifice their unionism for the sake of the dinky little tag that may come with a chunk of "scab" chewing tobacco or a sack of "scab" smoking tobacco.

"I can't chew that union tobacco," says one union man. "I got ter chew 'Horsehoof' or 'Bootleg' or 'Str.' I just can't chew none of them union tobacco."

And then he calls for a "scab" tobacco and digs off the tag and chucks it away in his pocket with infinitely more care than he pockets his week's wages.

That kind of a union man thinks more of the cheap tag on his "scab" tobacco than he does of his unionism.

It is the same way with the smoker. There are plenty of good union smoking tobaccos made. But there is a cheap little tag that goes with most of the tobacco put out by the "scab" employing tobacco trust, and the union man thinks more of that dinky little tag than he does of standing by his fellow unionists who happen to be employed in tobacco factories and are striving to better their condition.

The unionism with a tag on it isn't worth a tinker's dam. Neither is the union man who has that kind of unionism.

Just think of an alleged union man sacrificing his unionism for a tobacco tag. When he gets seven million of the tin tags he can trade 'em off for a pair of cotton socks, or a buggy whip

or a box of toothpicks. And yet there are thousands of union men in the country—some of them in Lincoln, Nebraska, U. S. A.—who betray their unionism every day for that sort of a bribe.

Just walk into anyone of the leading cigar stores of the city and take a look through the showcase. For every box bearing the union cigar-makers' label you'll see ten without it. Seventy-five per cent of the cigars retailed in Lincoln are made by the tobacco trust, and the tobacco trust is notoriously the enemy of organized labor. Seventy-five per cent—yes, more than that—of the smoking and chewing tobacco sold in Lincoln is made by this union hating, "scab" employing tobacco trust.

And men who claim to be union men go right ahead ignoring the labeled goods and buying the product of the trust that is doing its best to destroy unionism.

Is it any wonder that the Parry gang is bowling over the unions one by one? Is it any wonder that the wage-earning classes are up against it every day in the year?

The union man who buys a "scab" cigar is an enemy to unionism. The union man who buys "scab" chewing tobacco is giving aid and comfort to the enemies of union labor. The union man who sells his unionism for a miserable little tag or coupon isn't worth hellroom from a union standpoint.

For God's sake, for your children's sake and for your own sake, Mr. Union Man, put a higher price on your unionism than a dinky little tag.

## Study Both Sides of the Case

There are two sides to every labor controversy—your side and the employer's side.

Don't forget this important fact. It may save you a lot of trouble, as well as prevent considerable suffering on the part of your family.

Whenever your union has a misunderstanding with your employer, don't begin to cuss the bosses. Stop and think it all over. It is barely possible that the right is not wholly on your side.

Go to the boss and talk it over. Present your side of the case and listen to his side. Then invite him to view it from your standpoint while you get over and view it from his standpoint. It won't hurt anything to do this, and it may do both of you a world of good.

There is scarcely a brakeman on the railroad but what thinks he could give the general manager cards and spades

on managing the property. Same way in the print shop—the men nearly always imagine they could make the business pay better than the manager does. Same way in the newspaper office. The night police reporter always has plans that would make the paper known from ocean to ocean, but the pinheaded managing editor is too narrow to give the plans a trial.

The average employe thinks he isn't getting all that is coming to him, and is cussing the employer is making too big a profit off of the employe's work. It may be, however, that while the employe is figuring what he is going to buy with his week's salary, the boss is lying awake nights trying to figure out where'n thunder he is going to raise the money to meet the weekly payroll.

Study both sides of the situation. It will broaden your minds, even if it does not change it.

### WILL BE REPRESENTED.

Central Labor Union Will Send a Good Delegate.

At the last meeting of the Central Labor Union Mr. J. E. Mickel was elected a delegate to represent the body at the coming meeting of the American Federation of Labor at San Francisco in November. In order to defray the expenses of the delegate it was decided to give an entertainment and Messrs. Evans, Maupin and Bush were appointed a committee to arrange for the entertainment. The committee will be ready to report next Tuesday night, and the entertainment will be held within a few days thereafter.

A. L. Bixby, the Journal's poet-philosopher, and Mr. Sands, the well-known cartoonist and "chalk talker," have kindly tendered their services. Others will be drafted, and a program of unusual interest will be offered. The program will be just long enough, and not too long, and at its conclusion an orchestra will tune up and all who so desire may dance for an hour or two.

Every trades union in the city should take an active interest in this matter, and the proceeds should be large enough to defray Mr. Mickel's expenses and leave a neat balance for the treasury of the Central Labor Union. Mr. Mickel will not receive any large sum—he will receive only his actual expenses while in San Francisco. But he will represent the central body with ability. This section of the country has not received sufficient consideration at the hands of the national body, and it will be Mr. Mickel's mission to convince the national officers that it is high time they got busy in the middle west.

A full program and all particulars will be made public shortly.

### TO THE POINT.

Short and Crisp Advice to Union Men Everywhere.

If the members of organized labor would insist half as strongly for the

label upon the goods they purchase as they do for a reasonable day's work, the necessity for strikes would be largely diminished. The label will secure more pay and shorter hours, without a resort to the strike method.—Kansas City Labor Herald.

### A GOOD SCHEME.

The Union Pacific Gives Its Passengers the News.

The Union Pacific railroad company, in response to a genuine demand, has decided to issue a bulletin news service for the benefit of its passengers. It will be posted twice a day in typewritten form in the buffet car so that the passengers may always be kept in close touch with the progress of events. Through wireless telegraphy the same result has been reached on the ocean steamers.

It goes to show the universal hunger for news, the nearness of the people of the world to each other and the extreme interest which each one feels not only in the doing of his neighbors, but the larger movements of the government. It is that very instinct that is bringing the whole world into closer relations, that is bringing about an era of better feeling and that will ultimately tend to lessen misunderstandings which are so often based upon false or inadequate information.

It is somewhat remarkable that it has been left for a western road to introduce this innovation. There is little doubt that it will fill a "long-felt want" and that the plan will be eagerly copied by other railroads which are bidding for public favor and doing everything possible to increase the comfort of those who patronize them.—Journal, Portland, Ore.

### IN A NUTSHELL.

The union is the only instrument that the laborer has for enforcing a division of the fund given to the employer in trust and now the employers have organized to destroy the union.—William J. Bryan.