The Wageworker

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126 NORTH FOURTEENTH ST.

Merchants who advertise in the labor papers show that they care for the union man's trade. Patronize those who are willing to help you. Read the advertisements in THE WAGEWORKER, and if you need of anything in their line, visit their stores and make your purchases, and tell them why you came there. We desire to particularly impress this matter upon the wives and daughters of the union men, as they do most of the purchasing.

WHAT UNIONISM HAS DONE.

Before labor unions became strong the hours of labor were long—from twelve to fourteen hours a day. There were no sanitary laws regulating factory conditions. There were no child labor laws, and thousands of children under seven years of age were working in mills and mines. The pluckme stores robbed the laborer on the one side, and greedy employers robbed them on the other side. The laborer crawled from his cheerless bed in the morning and went to work, and at the close of day threw himself upon his cheerless couch to sleep the sleep of the physically exhausted and the mentally hopeless.

Before the advent of labor unions the only labor laws on the books were those directed against labor and in the interest of employers. Men were jailed for refusing to work for a pittance. Men were jailed for even asking an increase of wages. A tailor was jailed for refusing to work at his trade and accepting work as a laborer because he could make a penny a day more wages. A mechanic who quit his job at one place and started across country to seek better wages was jailed as a vagrant and sent back to his former employer to work at whatever wage that employer saw fit to pay.

Then labor organized in self-protection. Public sentiment was educated. The cry of helpless and hopeless children was heard and heeded. The rights of humanity were given some attention. The hours of labor were reduced. Wages were increased. Sanitary betterments were secured. Safety appliances were demanded by law. Child labor was regulated, reduced and forbidden in moral communities. Sweatshops were driven out. Equal pay for equal work was secured.

And every one of these things was secured by the efforts of labor despite the opposition of employers. There is not a law upon the statute books demanding safety appliances that was not put there by organized capital. Every law forbidding or regulating child labor was secured by organized labor in the face of organized capital's opposition. Every sanitary law relating to mills and mines and factories was brought about by organized labor's efforts and despite the opposition of organized capital. Capitalistic greed kept the child in the mill and the mine. Organized labor took the child from mill and mine and put him in the school to be fitted for good citizenship. Organized capital whipped the laborer from bed to work, and from work to bed. Organized labor rent the clouds of despair and let the sunshine of hope beam upon the laborer's head. Organized greed operated the noisome and deadly sweatshop and waxed fat on the tears and blood of widows and orphans. Organized labor exposed the sweatshop's methods and secured the enactment of sanitary laws that are driving the sweatshop out of existence.

Organized labor has not only had to educate public sentiment, but has had to overcome the bribes of organized greed. Organized labor has founded homes for disabled and indigent craftsmen, while organized greed has traveled in private cars and sailed the ocean in private yachts. Organized labor has fed the hungry, clothed the naked and visited the sick, while organized greed has sat in cushioned pews and lifted its voice in thankful prayer that it is not as other men are. Organized labor has buried its dead in holy ground, while greed has consigned its millions of victims to pauper graves.

Organized labor has made mistakes, but those mistakes are only as the cloud which Elijah's watcher saw compared to the tornado of ruin and desolation let loose by greed.

Organized labor is the only bulwark that stands between the wage-earner and industrial serfdom worse than that endured by the black man before the emancipation proclamation.

But despite the tremendous work already performed by organized labor, a greater work confronts it. Organized greed was never so greedy, never so rampant, never so firmly entrenched, never so strong in legislative halls and courts of justice. Organized labor never had a greater work to do than it has today. It never had more determined enemies to face. It never had greater need of standing together shoulder to shoulder in defense of the rights of humanity.

BOTH SIDES.

Merchants organize to protect themselves against deadbeats. That's business.

Workingmen organize to protect themselves against oppression. That's business.

Some merchants thus organized oppose the organization of workingmen. That's foolishness.

Some workingmen thus organized oppose the organization of employers. That's foolishness.

Some employers have organized to crush the unions in order to have workingmen at their mercy. That's criminal.

Some workingmen think their organizations were formed for the sole purpose of exacting higher wages without giving increased service. That's criminal.

Some employers and some workingmen believe in organizations that will be mutually helpful and beneficial. That's wisdom.

The employer who would use his power of money to grind the faces of his employes is a criminal in the sight of God and unworthy to associate with decent men and women.

The labor union that would prostitute its strength to the base end of forcing the payment of unjust wages is a shame and reproach to unionism.

Capital is stored up labor. Labor is unstored capital. One can not exist without the other. They are mutually dependent. Each has its rights, and those rights must be respected. True unionism seeks to secure its rights and

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always respects the rights of others.

There is but one solution to the problem of capital and labor. The problem is easy when approached rightly. The solution lies in wholesome respect for the rights of others and an unselfish observance of the golden rule. It will never be settled any other way.

LOOKS BETTER.

A week ago—or perhaps it was two weeks ago—The Wageworker predicted the re-election of Peabody in Colorado. We take it back. It now looks like Adams. The populist candidate for governor has withdrawn in favor of Adams, the democratic nominee. The Miners' Magazine has declared for Adams, and the Miners' Magazine is a socialist publication. Its declaration is not the official action of the socialist party, but it portends the casting of almost the solid socialist vote for Adams.

It is not a question of politics in Colorado—it is a question of beating Peabody and his crowd of union busters, citizen deporting, women assaulting, children starving and home destroying thugs When Peabody, Bell & Co. are licked out of their boots and decency, order, free speech, free press and free government are restored in Colorado, then it will be time enough to talk politics.

Are you sure that the man you are going to vote for to represent you in congress is pledged to vote for the 8-hour and anti-injunction bills? Or are you just content to vote for any old candidate put up by your party's bosses?

"We must trust Roosevelt!" shouts one esteemed labor exchange. "We must trust Parker!" shouts another. The Wageworker moves to amend. "Do your own thinking, and trust to your own intelligence!"

The Pullman company celebrated its "open shop" policy by lengthening the working hours and reducing the wages. Yet there are a lot of union men who can not see anything dangerous in the Parry game.

The Parry crowd is putting unions out of business every day. But the Parry crowd stands together.

The indications are that Colorado is about to be de-Russianized.

LOOK OUT.

Don't Take This Counterfeit Hundred Dollar Bill in Change.

A new $100 counterfeit bill has been found in circulation at the Delmar race track. It is described as "wonderfully like the genuine," but in some respects crude and defective. This drawback is so perfectly characteristic of counterfeits in general as to suggest some reflections. One who finds pleasure or profit in speculating upon the reasons for things might employ a little time to advantage in considering why it is that the makers of counterfeit bills always fail in some important detail to imitate correctly what they seek to reproduce.

The making of a counterfeit which will deceive the least wary is a work of great labor and one which calls for high skill. The average of the work needs to be fully up to the standard of the original, which means that the engraver must be nearly if not quite as skillful as the men employed in the making of plates for good notes. He does not have to originate anything. Every detail has been carefully worked out for his guidance, and all that devolves upon him is to imitate what he is copying. That he can do this in most respects shows that he is equal to doing it in all respects. Why is it, then, that no counterfeiter has yet succeeded in making a bill which in some important and easily recognized detail is not so different from the one imitated that the expert can detect it as soon as he submits it to crucial examination?

The answer is probably that men willing to employ their skill in criminal practices are temperamentally incapable of thoroughness. It would seem as if the financial backers of counterfeiting enterprises, in view of risks involved, would be critical of the work on the plates they are asked to approve and pay for. So far as the records show, however, the undetectable counterfeit bill has never been made. Probably it never will be. This must be explained on the assumption that counterfeiters, like other criminals, are clever only up to a certain point. They resent the requirement of patient industry. With this they can make honest and safe livings, and if the conditions of earning the dishonest dollar are the same as those of earning the honest dollar the former loses its attractions. The remarkable skill of the counterfeiter is shown in his ability to do part of his work so well that it is as good as that which he imitates, and sometimes better. The qualities which make him a criminal appear in his willingness to be careless with other parts, which stamp the whole with the proof of fraud. Whoever will take a counterfeit bill and compare it with an original of the issue imitated will have no difficulty in discovering the occasional slip of the burin, the occasional evidence of carelessness in drawing, of willingness to pass as 'good enough" what is not good enough, or recklessness and indifference which show that the cleverest of counterfeiters is not a good mechanic.

The normal man can not understand carelessness of this sort, especially in matters which render futile the labor of months or years in the engraving of counterfeit plates and make detection as easy as it is inevitable. The conclusion would seem to be irresistible that the counterfeiter is not sons for believing that criminals are born, not made, and that those who deliberately elect to follow crime for gain do so in obedience to a natural instinct, the result of a mental warp which unfits them for the self-restraint and patient industry of an honest career. Criminals often show evidences of astonishing cleverness, and it seems to the average man that their talents, if employed in honest labor, would make them conspicuously successful. The error of this assumption is that in any monotonous and reputable employment the man thus gifted could not, or would not, employ his talent, which is not of the kind which qualifies for honorable success. The police tell us that the habitual criminal is never thorough.—New York Times.

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.

The 25,000 textile workers of Fall River who are to be shut out of the mills until they consent to a reduction of a flat eighth of their former low wages have voted unanimously to stay shut out rather than accept a decrease of earnings the average of which would be less than six dollars a week. One high protection organ in its review of the Fall River situation says that "the union seem to recognize little but a blind passion for strife when things don't go to suit them." That is one view to take of the matter, and it may be the correct one, yet it does seem a bit human for men who have wives and children to shelter, feed and clothe to get angry, even blindly so, when it is demanded of them that they shall work for an average wage too low to support not only the "American standard of living," but to supply the actual necessaries of life.

It is true that there has now and again appeared a lady or a gentleman of more or less distinction who has presented irrefutable testimony to the fact that she or he has lived quite sumptuously on ten, or even five, cents a day. Far be it from us to doubt the veracity of such authorities, or so much as to suggest that they might be the living skeletons of some freak show; but, all things considered, including rent, food, light, fuel and clothing, it does seem rather hard to realize in these days of soaring prices a state of comfortable living on a wage of a dollar a day. The prodigal son, it will be remembered, lived on the husks of the corn that the swine rejected, but it will also be recalled that he did not like that kind of diet and hied him to where the fatted calf awaited him. A fair presumption is that a man can no more support himself and family properly on six dollars a week and enjoy it than the prodigal son could live upon and enjoy permanently a menu composed exclusively of corn husks.

The Fall River mill owners contend that the proposed reduction was necessary because of the high price of cotton and the low price of cloth, but until they closed their plants they still continued to declare generous dividends, and we have not heard of any of them going into bankruptcy or living on a dollar, much less ten or five cents, a day.

It may be true that the members of the unions of the Fall River mills recognized "little but a blind passion for strife" when from an already too small wage it was demanded by their employers that they should accept a 12½ per cent reduction; but even nonunionists might be reasonably excused if they got mad about such a thing as that and declined to accept a reduction so drastic.—Philadelphia Ledger.

GENERAL MENTION

For Union Made Shoes go to Rogers & Perkins.

Mrs. R. C. Mallory is visiting with friends and relatives in Iowa.

Street and Pattern Hats, from $1 up. Sadie Puckett, 124 South 12th.

When you have any news that will interest union men and women, call autophone 2277 and tell it.

Ladies' own material made over on new shapes. Reasonable prices. Sadie Puckett, 124 South 12th.

The Woman's Label League will be represented in the labor directory by a handsome group photograph.

Fresh Monarch from Sheridan, Wyo. Lump and nut. Clean as wood. Ed F. Reddish, 122 South Twelfth.

If you think best to buy a suit this fall, visit Paine's Clothing House—"A good place to buy good clothes."

We have a large stock of Union Made Shoes and we want your trade. Rogers & Perkins Co.

Have you noted the Lincoln Star's "Presidential Dot Contest?" If not, get next to it. There's money in it for you.

The Woman's Label League meets next Monday evening at C. L. U. hall. Every member should make it a point to be present.

Bear in mind that all Washburn-Crosby Milling Co. flour is unfair. And do not forget that the Lee brooms are convict made.

Capital Auxiliary had a group picture taken last week for insertion in the new labor directory. Twenty-two members were present.

Col. Will Stack is again in the city, after traveling abroad in the land for many moons. He is jerking the hot metal through the linotypes.

Late word from Sam Hoon conveys the news that he is not as well as usual. Mrs. Hoon will be with him before this issue is in the hands of its readers.

Miss Steele, advertising manager for the Miller & Paine company, has been ill for more than a week and unable to attend to her duties. She is recovering and expects to return to work in a few days.

Charles W. Bryan, business manager of the Commoner, spent several days this week chasing prairie chickens through the short grass in the northwestern part of the state.

Albion, Neb., is not a large city, but it seems to be union to the core. A special to the Lincoln Star says that a number of new buildings are being erected in Albion, and that all the workmen employed are union men.

Mr. Lee, who had charge of the advertising for H. Herpolsheimer & Co., for a long time, has severed his connection with that firm and is now employed by one of the largest retail dry goods firm in Kansas City. Mr. Lee is a thorough advertising man and his new employers will find him a valuable acquisition.

A PICTURE.

Socialists Adopt a Uniquie Method of Making a Campaign.

Elsewhere The Wageworker prints a cartoon. It is an interesting one, and it deserves the careful consideration of every man who works for wages. This cartoon is printed as an advertisement. The space is paid for by the socialist organization. The Wageworker is not a socialist organ, but its editor believes that the socialist policy is deserving of investigation. He is narrow, indeed, who will denounce without first investigating. Study the picture. Investigate the argument of the socialists. Study existing conditions. Vote intelligently.

A gentleman who had been dining at a restaurant, and who often ordered a dozen oysters, counted them one day, and found but eleven.

Still another day he counted them, with the same result. Then he said to the waiter:

"Why do you only give me eleven oysters when I order a dozen?"

"Oh, sir," answered the waiter, "I didn't think you'd want to be sittin' thirteen at table, sir. —Spare Moments.

"Is my husband's case serious, doctor?" "It is very grave, madam. I have left an opiate." "How often shall I give it to him?" "He needs absolute rest and quiet. Don't give it to him. Take it yourself."

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