

THE WAGWORKER

A Newspaper with a Mission and without a Muzzle that is published in the interest of Wageworkers Everywhere.

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The Candidacy of John E. Miller

Wholly without partisan feeling, and apart from all political consideration, The Wageworker endorses the candidacy of John E. Miller, fusion nominee for member of the legislature from Lancaster county.

Mr. Miller as a citizen and business man needs no introduction to the people of this county. His character as a citizen is above reproach; his success as a business man is an inspiration to young men who are seeking to make a success in life.

But there is another phase of Mr. Miller's character that The Wageworker desires to discuss, and upon which it will base its advocacy of Mr. Miller's election as a legislator. The reasons impelling The Wageworker to this course are purely industrial, and have their inception in the principles espoused by labor unions the world over. It is because it believes that John E. Miller is entitled to and should have the votes of all union men and union sympathizers that The Wageworker espouses his candidacy.

No biographical sketch of Mr. Miller will be undertaken at this time, for none is needed. He was a poor boy with only the schooling that could be obtained in a country school. He began working for himself when early in his "teens," and embarked in business for himself through unforeseen circumstances. He was clerking in a store, and his employer sought to dispose of the stock to the best advantage. Mr. Miller was selected to take charge of the stock, and showed such business ability that the business was continued with himself as the managing partner. Today he is the managing partner of one of the largest retail stores in the west.

This, we believe, is sufficient upon this phase of the situation. And now to the reasons why The Wageworker urges his election through the support of union men and union sympathizers.

For years the labor unions have been advocating the shorter working day, and Retail Clerks' unions have undertaken to secure decreased hours and closed stores on Saturday.

The firm of Miller & Paine is the only retail firm in the city of Lincoln that closes its door on Saturday evenings.

"The question of profit or loss never entered into our Saturday night closing plan," said Mr. Miller to The Wageworker. "We believed that it was the right thing to do; that it was due our employees, and that it was in line with modern tendencies. We have never regretted the move, have no intention of ever abandoning the plan, and have never taken the trouble to even try to estimate whether it has been profitable or otherwise. We are satisfied."

Certainly every union man who is striving to bring about the shorter working day should entertain a kindly feeling for a business man who talks and acts like John E. Miller.

"What is your attitude toward labor unions?" asked The Wageworker's representative.

"We have never had the union problem squarely confronting us," replied Mr. Miller. "Therefore what I may say is based merely upon observation. I believe not only in labor's right to organize, but that it is labor's duty to organize for mutual help and protection. That labor organizations have made mistakes will not, I presume, be disputed by the most radical union man. But all of us make mistakes, and out of their mistakes I believe labor organizations are profiting."

"Would you oppose the organization of a Retail Clerks' Union in Lincoln?" was asked of Mr. Miller.

"No, indeed. On the contrary, I would give encouragement to the plan. Some time ago—I do not recollect how long—I understood that a national representative of that organization was in the city. I never met him, and to my knowledge he did not confer with anyone employed by this firm. But hearing that such a movement was under way I spoke to our Mr. Stickley and told him to put no obstacles in the way, and if any of our employees approached him on the subject to encourage their becoming members of the organization."

"Would you encourage the organization?" asked The Wageworker representative.

"I would," was the brief and frank reply made by Mr. Miller.

So much for Mr. Miller's position on the union question. Certainly that position appeals to every genuine union man.

The Wageworker's representative

went further in his investigations of this firm's methods of doing business insofar as they relate to the employees. It found the profit sharing plan in a modified form in operation in the big store. Employees who show a disposition to work earnestly for the firm's interests, and evince frugality, are encouraged to become financially interested. They are allowed to invest in the stock of the corporation, and in addition to the dividends upon their stock have a share in the profits over and above the dividends. Some score or more of the employees are stockholders, several of them having already acquired stock enough to insure them against want in case of sickness or disability.

It was further found that the average of wages is higher in this house than in any other similar retail house in the entire west with the possible exception of two or three of the mountain cities. There are saleswomen employed by Miller & Paine who draw from \$18 to \$20 a week without any further responsibility than their ability to secure and hold trade. There are department managers whose earnings as wages and dividends exceed the salary of any Nebraska state officer. The state laws regarding sanitary conditions are more than observed by Miller & Paine.

"What is your position upon the child labor question?" Mr. Miller was asked.

"I am opposed to child labor," was the emphatic response. "We do not employ any young women under eighteen years of age except in vacation season, and then only because of peculiarly strong reasons. Even then we draw the line at sixteen years. We will not employ small boys and girls as 'cash.' Sometimes we have to appear heartless and cold and refuse employment to children whose parents are in need. But we prefer to help in another way than by forcing children to work indoors at a time when they need all the out-door life and pleasure they can secure. But this firm will not employ small children under any circumstances, and sixteen is the limit below which we will not go."

"Have you any regular systems of promotion?" asked The Wageworker's representative.

"Promotion in this store is by merit. The employee who shows ability, industry and industry is given the preference, of course. Our greatest difficulty is in securing permanency. So many young women seek employment as clerks for the sole purpose of tiding themselves over for a season, or pending an opportunity to secure something else. But the employee who shows promise of permanency, combined with other qualities necessary, is given every opportunity for advancement. We play no favorites and endeavor to reward merit."

Briefly summed up, Mr. Miller as a business man, and as an employer of labor believes in the following:

- Shorter working hours.
- Better wages.
- Promotion by merit.
- Unionism in its true sense.
- Complete observation of the labor laws.
- Profit sharing.

The employer of labor who believes in and advocates these things is good enough material to represent wage-earners in the legislature. The Wageworker doesn't care the snap of its finger for Mr. Miller's politics. Ostensibly he is a democrat, in reality he is a liberal. While affiliated with the democratic party he refuses to wear a party collar, and has perhaps voted for as many republicans as democrats in the past twenty years.

But his political affiliations cut no figure with The Wageworker at this time. His position upon the labor question does.

In view of all of these facts—facts that should be known to all who care to read in the sweat of their faces—The Wageworker presents to the wage-earners of Lancaster county as its sole and only candidate for the legislature, Mr. John E. Miller, of the firm of Miller & Paine.

AUXILIARY NOTES.

An Interesting Communication From Capital Auxiliary No. 11.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 met with Mrs. Charles Simmons on October 21. Most of the members were present and an interesting meeting was enjoyed. Mesdames Bustard and Bowers, the present label committee, reported that our label pictures have been placed, one in a window of the Armstrong

Clothing Co. and the other at the New Century printing office.

The ladies decided to have a Hallowe'en party and the following committee was appointed: Mrs. C. H. Bowers, Mrs. C. B. Righter, Mrs. Frank O'Dell, Mrs. W. H. Creal and Mrs. Erstine King.

Arrangements are being made to celebrate that eventful day on October 31. All members of the Auxiliary with their husbands, are expected to bring a sheet and pillow-case and assemble at an early hour, say 7:30 p. m., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Righter. A good time is assured and the committee has many surprises in store for the guests.

Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Sayer are the visiting committee for the coming month. If there are any printers' wives who are not members of this Auxiliary and should receive a visit from these ladies, it is earnestly hoped that they will consider "now, the accepted time," and avail themselves of the opportunity to belong to one of the best and most useful organizations in existence. Until you have joined us, you may never realize the assistance you will be able to give, not only to your husband, but to the craft at large.

It is a blessed privilege to be able to belong to an organization which is auxiliary to the International Typographical Union. The men need encouragement and because we are the wives of laboring men we should be proud to realize that their brain and brawn is the most useful capital and must be protected most carefully.

The time is not far off when an auxiliary to all trades will be found to be a necessary accessory. Are you asking for union-made goods on every side? Have you studied the label pictures? Until the time comes when there will be a universal label, which we hope will be so distinct in character and construction that there will be no mistaking it at any time, and that it will be stamped indelibly in our very minds, we must study these various labels which mean so much.

What woman is sweeping her home with a non-union broom, a Lee broom for instance? If you do not know, ask your husband why we should not use the convict-made brooms.

When you buy your boy a suit of clothes or your girl a coat or shoes, do you insist on seeing the label? Do not allow a peak-headed clerk to lambspoon you. Educate yourself so that if

Trees, The age of these colossi is from 1,500 to 2,000 years. The Mariposa Grove, which can be visited while en route to the Yosemite, contains some of the largest. In the Calaveras Grove are from ninety to one hundred of huge size. Near Santa Cruz is a beautiful grove of redwood Big Trees which will well employ a day's visit. These can be best reached by the Union Pacific whose fast trains from Missouri river reach California 16 hours ahead of all competitors.

Pamphlets and maps describing the wonders of California, and full information about the most comfortable and direct route to the Pacific Coast, can be obtained of

E. B. SLOSSON,
Gen. Agent.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Two Burlington Men Killed in a Unique Road Disaster.

Engineer John E. Parkinson and Fireman Charles E. Lasher of the Burlington are dead as the result of a horrible and unique accident that befell them Thursday between Aurora and Phillips. In the thick of a heavy fog the engine struck an oil wagon, and the heat of the engine exploded a large quantity of gasoline. The blazing fluid was thrown in torrents all over the train, and especially upon the engine. Engineer Parkinson saw the wagon in time to reverse the engine, but not in time to avoid hitting it. The train stopped a short distance from the scene of the collision, and the frightened passengers poured from the train. The predicament of the engineer and fireman was not noticed for several moments, and by that time Lasher was dead. Parkinson was removed to Aurora, but died later in the day.

IS THE EXCUSE GOOD?

Why the Wageworker Comes Out Slim at This Particular Time.

If The Wageworker is not up to the standard this week it is because the editor and the business manager were gallivanting around St. Louis early in the week. They left Monday evening as the guests of Governor Mickey and party, who went to St. Louis to participate in the Nebraska Day festivities, and returned Thursday evening. If any of The Wageworker's readers have undergone a season of festivity under similar circumstances they will understand why The Wageworker's staff is feeling unable to do any par-

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.

they do not know what the label looks like, you may be able to describe it. There are several stores in town handling a union-made starch, Monarch. Insist on having it or ask your grocer to send for it.

Another good reason for joining the auxiliary is this: Like the printers, their wives should have a common bond of sympathy and a peculiar interest in each other. Nothing brings this result like a companionship brought on through this medium. Personally, we had lived in Lincoln more than twelve years and had never known nor even met to exceed five or six printers' wives or mothers, until Capital Auxiliary was organized. Now, nothing but death could rob us of the sweet affections formed and the pleasures enjoyed through associations so liberal and congenial.

Capital Auxiliary meets every first and third Friday in the month. The initiation fee is fifty cents and dues per quarter, twenty-five cents. We were pleased to have Mrs. Erstine King with us again after an absence of nearly two months, visiting in Missouri. Twenty-five of the ladies had their pictures "took" for Mr. Leaden's labor directory and most of the ladies will buy one or more of the pictures for keepsakes. The Auxiliary bought a couple to be sent to our international president and secretary. Come and "jine" us.

MRS. C. E. BARGROVER.

THE BIG TREES.

A Wondrous and Awe-Inspiring Product of Nature, Found Only in California. California's attractions are mostly of its own kind, peculiar to the state, and of none is this so emphatically true as that unique product the Big

ular amount of hustling. Banquets, tally-ho rides, invitations to visit concessions, an attempt to cover 1,200 acres of exhibits and about 1,200 miles of travel, all crowded into three days and three nights is enough to take the starch out of any but the most seasoned veterans—and The Wageworker staff is yet young and unaccustomed to so much gaiety. Is the excuse good?

NEW ADVERTISER.

The Herpolsheimer Store Secures the Services of An Expert.

Robert Herpolsheimer has taken charge of the advertising department of the firm of H. Herpolsheimer & Co., succeeding Mr. Lee, who has gone to Kansas City. Mr. Herpolsheimer has made an especial study of the science of advertising, and already his work is attracting attention throughout this section of the country. He believes in systematic and thorough advertising, and is following well devised plans that are sure to increase the trade of the popular store with which he is connected.

TROUBLE IN BEATRICE.

Cigarmakers Strike Against a Reduction in Already Low Wages.

Union cigarmakers employed by Underwood Bros. at Beatrice went on strike last week against a reduction in wages. Underwood Bros. announced that they could not pay the scale and that hereafter they would conduct an "open shop." A committee from the Lincoln union, under which jurisdiction the Beatrice members work, went down to see if the matter could be amicably adjusted. No agreement was reached, however. One man returned to work and was promptly fined \$75 by the union.

Some General Labor Notes

The meeting of the Central Labor Union last Tuesday evening was unusually interesting, several matters of importance calling out all the fighting qualities of the members.

After a fiery discussion J. E. Mickel was elected delegate to the national convention of the American Federation of Labor without instructions. T. C. Kelsey was elected alternate. The committee on public entertainment submitted a report which was accepted, and the matter of making complete arrangements referred to the committee. The plan is to give a public entertainment for the purpose of raising money to defray the expenses of the national delegate. The Wageworker will contain full details next week, together with the program, and promises that the entertainment will be worth the patronage of every union man and woman in the city.

The matter of holding the labor fair is still "in the air," owing to the difficulty in securing adequate quarters. The rooms first selected can not be secured, and there is some hitch about the Auditorium. The committee will make final report at the next meeting.

GET INTO THE GAME.

Have Your Laundry Work Done by Union Laundry Workers.

If union men and women in Lincoln want their laundry work done by union laundry workers, they now have that opportunity and should lose no time getting into the union game.

Pending the establishment of a union laundry in Lincoln, the Lincoln Union Laundry company will have its work done by union laundry workers in Omaha. This, however, will be temporary, for it is the intention of the company to put in a plant of its own at an early date. Mr. J. W. Lower is the manager of the new company, and an office has been opened at 1234 O street, where laundry orders should be left. Good work and complete satisfaction is guaranteed.

The Lincoln Union Laundry company has already one wagon in the field, and the patronage shows such signs of growth that arrangements have been made for another the first of the month.

As a reason why union men and union sympathizers should encourage this new enterprise a little history is cited.

Less than two months ago Labor Day was observed in this city. On that day the non-union laundries of this city—and they are all non-union—ran at full blast the usual hours, not even closing down to permit the employees to participate in or watch the parade.

The laundry managers have opposed the organization of the laundry workers, and there is evidence to support the statement that certain of the employers were primarily responsible for the early collapse of the union organization some years ago.

Hundreds of Lincoln people have reason to believe that there is a laundry trust in the city.

Wages paid by Lincoln laundries are ridiculously low. A case in point will illustrate this. One girl employed in a Lincoln laundry recently worked more than 70 hours in one week. For this she received the munificent wage of \$7. The laundry collected upwards of \$80 for the work this girl performed.

The laundry workers who will do the laundry collected by the Lincoln Union Laundry company work a 9-hour day and receive 33 1-3 per cent for overtime. They average over \$8 a week for their nine hours a day. They are all members of the International Union of Shirt, Waist and Laundry Workers. Every laundry list sent out by the Lincoln Union Laundry company will bear the union's label. Every member of the new company is a union man.

These are some of the reasons why union men should give their patronage to the new company.

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.

WISELY WILL SPEAK.

Socialist Leader Arranges For An Open Meeting Sunday Evening.

On Sunday evening next Mr. J. C. L. Wisely will conduct an open meeting at C. L. U. hall, and invites all workingmen to be present and join in a free and full discussion of the issues of the day. Mr. Wisely will address the gathering, and stands ready to

answer any questions that may be propounded in good faith. An invitation is extended to every workingman and working woman in the city to be present, and to bring their friends.

COOKS AND WAITERS.

The New Union Will Hold Its First Meeting in November.

The Cooks and Waiters have organized again, and will hold the first meeting under the new charter on the first Wednesday in November. The union starts off with a good membership, and with the experience of the past as a guide will doubtless develop into one of the strong and conservative locals of the city.

BUILDING LABORERS.

Special Meeting Called to Discuss Several Questions of Moment.

A special meeting of the Hod Carriers and Building Laborers on the evening of November 1. The meeting will be held at the regular meeting place, Marshall's hall, 829 O street. Every member is urged to be present and take part in the discussion of the important questions that will be presented at that time.

GENERAL MENTION

Lincoln Union Laundry Co., 1234 O street.

For Union Made Shoes go to Rogers & Perkins.

Have your work done by the Lincoln Union Laundry company.

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

Get ready for the C. L. U. entertainment. Full particulars next week.

Mrs. F. C. Greenley has been quite ill for some time, but is reported much better.

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

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

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

Bert Fredericks is visiting in town. He is employed on the New Orleans Item, and has a "stiddy job."

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

Union engineers in the Illinois coal mines have been locked out and as a result a general strike may take place.

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

H. W. McQuittie is raising a mustache. This is a news item. You'd never know it by looking at "Mac's" upper lip.

Ted O'Shea is back after an extended tour of the west and has decided that henceforth Lincoln will be his domicile.

Fresh Eureka (Ark.) Hard Coal for base burners, \$9. Lasts as long as Pennsylvania hard coal and is just as hot. Ed F. Reddish.

Fred Schmidt & Bro. have a new advertisement in this issue. It will pay you to read it and then take advantage of some of the bargains offered.

Peabody carries an armed guard with him on his stumping tours. He need not be afraid. It's his crowd that does all the woman beating, and Peabody is not a man.

It's a cinch this time—Jess Mickel has found his cocker spaniel, "Nigger." This is the fourth time he has been found, but the other three times it wasn't "Nigger."

Charley Bowen's patrons declare that since he came back from Louisville he talks with a southern accent and insists on quoting speed records and blue grass statistics.

A Wisconsin farmer relates that he was attacked by eighteen rattlesnakes and that he killed them all with a small can. He ought to drink union-made liquor and cut out the "dope."

Sam Best, secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters, says that his union has taken in more new members in the past sixty days than any other union in the city. And Sam was on the water wagon when he said it.