

State Historical Society

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

The Wageworker advocates the election of Mr. John E. Miller to the legislature, and it is ready to give its reasons for so doing. Mr. Miller is the managing partner of the firm of Miller & Paine, and has been nominated for the legislature by the democrats and populists of Lancaster county. Mr. Miller's politics does not concern The Wageworker. His attitude toward laboring men and women does, however, concern this newspaper and its readers. Mr. Miller's business connections are entitled to consideration, but the mere fact that he is engaged in the mercantile business is not a reason for supporting him. But the reasons why The Wageworker is supporting Mr. Miller's candidacy are easily given, and they are reasons that should appeal to every workingman whose unionism is of the heart and mind as well as of the pocketbook and family larder. The reasons are here given:

STAND TOGETHER.

Mr. Miller not only advocates shorter hours for those who work for wages, but practices what he preaches. While other retail stores remain open until 10 or 10:30 o'clock Saturday night, the store of Miller & Paine is closed at 7 o'clock, and the employees given an opportunity for rest and recreation.

Mr. Miller is opposed to child labor and will not, under any circumstances employ children under the age of 16, and this age limit is raised during the school year to 18 years.

Mr. Miller believes it the right and the duty of working men and women to organize for mutual help and protection, and has announced his readiness to recognize a Retail Clerks' Union as soon as one is organized in this city.

Mr. Miller, as the managing partner of the firm of Miller & Paine, has planned and inaugurated a system of profit sharing in which all employees are permitted to take part if they so desire.

Mr. Miller sees to it that employees in the store of Miller & Paine are surrounded by healthy sanitary conditions. And every employee whose name has been upon the pay roll for twelve months is given two weeks' vacation on full pay each year.

Union men and women are working to secure a shorter working day. Mr. Miller has already inaugurated the shorter hour working week, which is a long step forward.

Mr. Miller's honesty and integrity are beyond question. No corrupt lobby can influence him to favor Parryism or anything of that kind. He is a business man, and as a member of the legislature he will lend his influence to secure a more thorough observance of business rules in the conduct of the state's affairs. This means much to the laboring man who owns a little home and pays taxes thereon.

Mr. Miller's candidacy offers union labor an opportunity to show not only its strength but its determination to stand by those who are friends of unionism. If that opportunity is seized by the union voters of Lancaster county it will result in some attention being paid to union requests in future campaigns and elections. It is time that union men quit knocking on each other and hammering their enemies, and do a little boosting for those who have demonstrated their friendship for the cause for which unionism stands.

A vote for John E. Miller is a vote for a "square" man, a good employer and a friend of organized labor.

What more can the earnest and unbiased union man ask?

WITH THE GHOSTS.

Novel Halloween Entertainment Given By Capital Auxiliary.

Halloween was celebrated in a most enjoyable manner by Capital Auxiliary No. 11 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Righter last Monday evening. That is, the guests were received at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Righter, and then conveyed in a ghostly automobile to the beautifully decorated barn of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Odell, where the evening festivities were enjoyed.

The guests were masked in ghostly habiliments, and the illuminated skull and crossbones upon the door of the Righter home made things look awfully "spooky." The guests were taken in pairs to the barn by means of an automobile that had lost its rubber tires. At the barn unique and ghostly ceremonies were indulged in, different ghosts participating in a program prepared for the occasion. The barn was decorated with jack-o'-lanterns, corn,

pumpkins, apples, and other agricultural and horticultural products, and "looked good" to everybody. The evening was spent in music that was anything but ghostly, conversation, etc. and at a seasonable and reasonable hour refreshments were served. Hot weinerwurst, rye bread, onions, coffee, popcorn and peanuts comprised the bill of fare. Mother Goose was present and told fortunes at so much per tell, and if any of them come true every printer in town will be rolling in riches some day.

As a ghost party the function was a huge success and reflected great credit upon the committee having it in charge.

An Opportunity For Organized Labor to Show Its Strength.

If every union man in Lancaster county, regardless of politics, will vote for John E. Miller for the state senate, he will be elected, and organized labor will have a staunch friend in that body. The election of Mr. Miller will prove that organized labor stands by its friends and votes in its own interests.

The unity of union men will be judged by the vote given to Mr. Miller. If the labor vote is practically unanimous in his favor, it will mean that in future elections organized labor has but to make reasonable and fair requests of the political parties in order to get what it wants.

John E. Miller deserves the vote of every union man because he stands for shorter working hours, fair wages, opposition to child labor, rigid observance of sanitary laws, recognition of merit, profit sharing with employees, recognition of labor's right to organize.

These facts commend him to every thorough union man. Let us show our strength and our disposition to stand by our friends, by voting for this outspoken friend of unionism.

THURBER TALKS.

But He is Sadly Mistaken as To Who Are "The People."

F. B. Thurber of New York is president of the United States Export association. Recently he made a speech at St. Louis in which he said: "The public is beginning to understand that there may be labor trusts as well as capital trusts. Only that which is reasonable can last, and the public is getting tired of the unreasonable demands of organized labor, which represents less than one-fifth of all the labor in the United States."

Mr. Thurber fondly imagines that he and men of his ilk are "the public." What he denounces as "the unreasonable demands of organized labor" are the demands for the shorter hour working day, sanitary laws, regulation of sweatshops, abolition of child labor, factory and mine inspection, safety appliances and similar things of interest to all men who labor. Organized labor may represent only one-fifth of all the labor in the United States, as Mr. Thurber claims, but the fact remains that the work of the "one-fifth" has been of incalculable benefit to the remaining four-fifths. The "labor trust" is not a trust—it is a mutual and fraternal protective society, just like the Knights of Pythias, Workmen, Woodmen and a host of similar orders. It is an organization of God-made men who have banded together to resist the greedy demands of the man-made corporations. The labor unions deal in human souls—the great industrial trusts deal in dirty dollars and ignore human souls. Mr. Thurber represents a class of men who think much more of profits than of men and women who toil.

ALL BUT ONE.

Printers Turn Down Salary Increase For Their National Officials.

It was given out from headquarters at Indianapolis last Wednesday that five of the six propositions submitted to the referendum vote of the International Typographical Union had been carried. The sixth, providing an increase in salary for the president and secretary-treasurer, was defeated. It seemed to be the general opinion that the secretary-treasurer is already getting ample pay for his work. If the proposition had been divided there is little doubt that the president's salary would have been increased.

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN COMING.

Head of the Bartenders' League Will Visit in Lincoln.

President Sullivan of the Bartenders' International League of America, will be in Lincoln next Sunday, and will meet with the local at its usual place of meeting. President Sullivan is on his way to San Francisco to attend the national convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is seizing the opportunity of visiting various locals as he proceeds slowly across the country. If possible, arrangements will be made to have Mr. Sullivan address an open meeting of union men while in the city.

THE UNION LAUNDRY.

Starts Off in Good Style And Success Already Assured.

The Lincoln Union Laundry company

starts out with a good line of business assured, and more in sight. Union men are taking hold of the idea and giving the enterprise their hearty support. If the wives of union men will do their duty success is assured. Hold your laundry until the collector for the Lincoln Union Laundry company calls around. The routes are new, and some delay will be experienced for a week or two, but despite the delay in collecting, the delivery will be much more prompt than that of the local non-union laundries.

The best possible work is guaranteed, and your collars, cuffs and shirts will not be mangled to shreds but returned well ironed and in good condition. Remember the office, 1234 O street.

Nominations for officers for the next term will be made at the Typographical Union meeting next Sunday.

ENTERTAINMENT And Dance

For the Benefit of the Central Labor Union Delegate Fund, to be held at A. O. U. W. Hall, Thursday evening, November 10, 1904.

THE PROGRAMME.

Introductory Remarks.....Gen. T. C. Kelsey
President of Central Labor Union.

MR. A. L. BIXBY.

At this stage of the game Mr. A. L. Bixby, poet-philosopher of the Daily State Journal, will dawn upon the view of the assembled multitude and deliver himself of a few lulling rhymes, mixed with a rightful amount of mirthful anecdotes and acceptable philosophy. The audience is requested to wait until after the performance before delivering to Mr. Bixby the articles of garden produce brought for him.

MR. SANDS.

Following Mr. Bixby, and before the audience has time to escape, Mr. Sands will step blithely to the front and draw a few pictures for the delectation of the multitude. While drawing the pictures Mr. Sands will insist upon saying a few things, and will be useless to try to stop him. He must be allowed to run on until he gets his conversation entirely out of his system.

MUSIC.

The Guitar and Mandolin Club, under the instruction of Mrs. Roy W. Rhone, will now occupy the stage for a little while and discourse sweet melodies.

MR. WILL M. MAUPIN.

Having had this entertainment largely in his charge, Mr. Maupin seized upon the occasion to obtrude and get a place on the program. Unless prevented by an indignant audience he will recite a few things of his own, and also indulge in a little story telling. Parties desiring to subscribe for the Wageworker may do so while Mr. Maupin is on the stage, as he will gladly pause and nip out subscription receipts.

MORE MUSIC.

By the same guitar and mandolin club, under the same efficient instructor. Terms made known on application.

THE LAST OF BIXBY.

That is, the last appearance of Mr. Bixby for the evening. He will deliver a few things he overlooked during his first appearance.

THE LAST OF SANDS.

While the tumultuous applause is subsiding Mr. Sands will hike back to the stage and limn a few more pictures, conversing in the meanwhile.

A LITTLE MORE MUSIC.

Same mandolin and guitar club; same instructor; same terms.

THE LAST OF MAUPIN.

That is to say, his last appearance for the evening. He will thank the audience for not mobbing the performers, and make an announcement or two.

TERPSICHOREAN.

Which is a Latin word meaning, "shake your feet in time to the music." It is at this juncture that the floor will be cleared while the orchestra is tuning up, and when everything is ready those who love to dance may do so until the cock crows and the sun peeps over the eastern horizon.

This entertainment is given for the purpose of raising funds to defray the expenses of a delegate to the American Federation of Labor convention at San Francisco. Mr. J. E. Mickel is the delegate. The admission, including the privilege of dancing till you drop, is only 25 cents. You can pay more if you think the entertainment is worth it.

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.

Some General Labor Notes

The Wageworker entertained a number of the members of the Label League and Capital Auxiliary last Tuesday evening, through the courtesy of the Lincoln Gas company and Mrs. Elizabeth O. Hiller. Owing to the shortness of the time for preparation invitations could not be given into the hands of all, although a strenuous effort was made to do so. The shortness of the notice operated against the attendance, but the score or more who were present enjoyed a pleasant and instructive evening.

Mrs. Hiller has been instructing a large class in domestic science in this city for the past month, and has clearly demonstrated that she stands at the head of her class in this particular line of study and investigation. The Wageworker's guests were given some valuable hints on the use of gas for fuel, and they were a unit in declaring that this one thing alone amply repaid them for being present. Mrs. Hiller's instructions in the art of measurements were also beneficial because they tend to enforce economy in the kitchen. She quoted the old saying that "A cook can carry more through the back door in a teaspoon than a man can carry in at the front door in a grain scoop," and said that it contained a great truth. Then she proceeded to make an omelet, a thin white sauce, biscuits and broil a steak, keeping up an interesting and instructive fire of comment as she proceeded. "We know we will have no failures if we follow our systems of measurements," said Mrs. Hiller, measuring out the flour and the butter and the baking powder and all those things. "There is no guesswork, consequently no failure."

When her light and fluffy omelet came from the oven her guests gave vent to their delight by hearty applause. When she broiled a tenderloin steak that was nearly three inches thick, and did it in a steel spider on top of the stove, the guests gave expression to their surprise and gratification. Then she made coffee that we often read about and so seldom taste, and baked some biscuits that would tempt the interior economy of a wooden statue.

At the close of the demonstration Mrs. Hiller answered a number of questions and gave some good advice. It was a most successful affair, and The Wageworker is only sorry that every member of the League and Auxiliary could not be present. But there will be another "party" of the same kind in the not distant future.

The Wageworker is under many obligations to the Gas company and to Mrs. Hiller for their kindness in making the function a great success.

BECAME UNFAIR.

Beatrice Cigar Firm Once Union Goes Wrong Very Suddenly.

The Underwood Bros. cigar factory at Beatrice has been placed upon the unfair list because it has decided to run on the "open shop" basis and refuses to recognize the Cigarmakers' Union. Underwood Bros. lately removed from Lincoln to Beatrice, and for a long time used the "blue label." A short time ago the firm, on the ground that it wanted the "open shop," declined to meet the union scale of wages. The men walked out, but later one man "scabbed" and returned to work. He was immediately fined \$75 by the union and suspended. The Lincoln local, having jurisdiction over the district in which Beatrice is located, sent a committee down to straighten out the tangle if possible. It was unsuccessful. The label has been ordered out of the Underwood factory, and all brands made therein are declared unfair. Following are the Underwood brands declared unfair, although heretofore entitled to and bearing the union label:

"Little Nan," "Judge Hale," "Full Leaf," "Damfino," "Open Heart," "Comet," "John B. McMasters" and "Belle of Beatrice."

UNFAIR PRODUCTS.

Housewives should look out for the Following Unfair Flours.

Organized labor and sympathizers are requested not to purchase flour bearing the following brands: Washburn-Crosby's Gold Medal, Humboldt Milling Co.'s Supreme, Minnesota Flour Mfg. Co.'s Rex brand, Crocker's Best, Washburn-Crosby's Northern Pacific, Iron Duke, French Flag, Arlington, John Aiden, Jenkin's Vienna, Royal Milling Co.'s Ben Hur,

Washburn-Crosby Co.'s Snowdrop, Queen Wilhelmina, Parisian, White River, Superlative, and all brands of the Washburn-Crosby Milling Co. This action has been endorsed by American Federation of Labor. They have refused to arbitrate.

Also the brands Golden Anchor, Straight Superior, Our Triumph, Basher's Success, products of Keisers Bros. Milling Co., Mount Olive, Ill. And all the products of the Kelley Milling Co., Kansas City, Mo.

LABOR NOTES.

Some Comment on Doings in the General Field of Labor.

International Laborers' Union held convention in Dayton last week. Officers' reports show that 191 locals are organized, who were represented by 87 delegates, about one-half being colored men. The laborers decided not to affiliate with the American Labor Union or A. F. of L. at present, although union cards of all trades will be recognized. The convention declared for industrialism. W. G. Critchlow of Dayton was re-elected president, and Z. T. Trumbo of Pontiac, Ill., secretary.

The general building trades strike in New York has taken on a new lease of life. The plasterers have issued an ultimatum that the strike would be extended all over the country, wherever the Fuller Construction Co. and other concerns are doing jobs. The bricklayers, tile layers, plumbers, carpenters and electricians have also declared that there will be no surrender under any circumstances. It is admitted that the bosses are sinking a barrel of money.

The Chicago plutes have discovered an old law, passed in 1877, prohibiting "any person from obstructing the regular operation and conduct of the business of any railroad company or other corporation, firm or individual." They say that this law makes it unnecessary to procure injunctions during strikes and engage in expensive litigation. The law is simply put up to the authorities, and they do the rest.

Despite the fact that the window glass workers accepted a reduction of ten per cent in wages, leading manufacturers say production will be curtailed and under no circumstances will there be a reduction in the price of glass. They need the money themselves.

THE STRIKEBREAKER.

A Few Facts That Union Men Should Study Over Carefully.

In the Saturday Evening Post (Philadelphia) of this week Robert Shackleton has an article on the "Strikebreaker" that should be read by every union man in the country. It is a startling revelation of the methods employed by the Parryites to defeat strikes, and shows to what depths of dishonest workingman will stoop for a few paltry dollars. There are bureaus organized for the sole purpose of breaking strikes, and they do it by keeping upon their payrolls soldiers of fortune who are ready to slug, bribe, intimidate or work under any conditions merely to prevent fellow workmen from securing justice. The Pinkertons in their palmiest days were gentlemen and scholars compared to the hordes kept under pay by the Parry outfits for the purpose of defeating strikes. Mr. Shackleton goes into the details of the organization and gives several examples of how the work is prosecuted. Union men should read the article, get next to the scheme and set about forming plans to put the professional strikebreaker out of business.

C. L. U. ENTERTAINMENT.

An Evening of Enjoyment Promised Those Who Will Attend.

Every union man in the city, together with his wife or sweetheart, as the case may be, should make it a point to attend the C. L. U. benefit performance next Thursday evening at A. O. U. W. hall. An entertaining program has been prepared and a good time is guaranteed all who attend. The proceeds will be used to defray the expenses of a delegate to the national convention of the American Federation of Labor at San Francisco, Mr. Jesse E. Mickel having been elected to that responsible position. Get your tickets early, and then speak to your friends about it.