

THE WAGWORKER

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

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A Few Words With Rev. Mr. Marshall

The Wageworker desires to pay its respects to the Rev. John Marshall of Lincoln. The respects may not please the reverend gentleman, but that in no wise deters this newspaper.

At a meeting of the Ministerial Union a few days ago Rev. John Marshall, acting upon the presumption, possibly, that the less a man knows about a subject the more prone he is to discuss it, paid some attention to labor unions. Now the Rev. Mr. Marshall is perfectly within his rights when he criticizes the labor unions, for God knows they are subject to criticism. But after reading what the reverend gentleman says we unhesitatingly declare that we would rather spend ten thousand years in a hell peopled by average union labor men, than to spend thirty minutes in a heaven peopled by preachers of the narrow stripe of the Rev. John Marshall. If that is not plain enough we will take pleasure in making it plainer to him if he will call at our office.

"Labor unions," declares Rev. John Marshall, "should be kept from the church and not allowed to have a chance to influence the work for Jesus Christ."

This is a sufficient yardstick by which to measure the mental calibre of the gospel expounder who made it. Bless his narrow and creed-bound little heart, does he forget that Jesus of Nazareth was a mechanic? Does he object to labor unions because they have been guilty of many crimes against God? If he does, what has he to say about the crimes that the church has committed in the name of God?

The Wageworker has said before and repeats it now, that if the church of Jesus Christ had done its full duty in the years gone by, there would not now be a single labor union in existence. And here and now The Wageworker takes occasion to say, that were it not for the labor unions of today, the church would be far worse off than it is now.

Rev. John Marshall appears to be one of those ministers who talk about the salvation of souls and think about the collection of dollars.

"The practices of labor unions are not above board," declared the Rev. John Marshall, "and should not be permitted to members by the churches." Now what does the Rev. John Marshall know about labor unions, anyhow, save what he has learned from a reading of the subsidized daily press that re-echoes the sentiments of those who oppose unionism because it prevents the full operation of their greed, or the money-loving church papers who cater to the purse-proud millionaires who liquidate church debts and lift mortgages on parsonages? Will this reverend gentleman take the reverse of the proposition and say that the practices of some church members are not above board and should not be permitted in the labor unions? The Wageworker certainly will. Church members are guilty of acts which give them high place in the church, but which would cause their instant dismissal from a labor union if they happened to be members. Baptist John Rockefeller, Episcopal Pierpont Morgan and Presbyterian Andrew Carnegie have been guilty of acts that no labor union would sanction, and yet these men stand high in their respective churches. There isn't a church in the land that would refuse a donation from Carnegie, although every dollar he possesses in this world is stained with the blood of innocent women and children, dampened by the tears of widows and orphans and soiled by the sweat of unrequited labor. Rev. John Marshall would fall over his own feet in his haste to accept a contribution from Rockefeller, and yet Rockefeller's dollars are dirty dollars, smelling of bribery, corruption and thievery.

"The labor unions," further declares the Rev. John Marshall, "are one of the curses of society."

Is that true? Ask the 200 disabled and indigent union printers comfortably housed and well cared for in the Printers' Home at Colorado Springs. Ask the 30,000 men, women and children at Fall River who are eating because their fellow unionists are going down into their local treasuries and helping them in their battle for bread and justice. Ask the widow and the orphan who have a roof to cover them because the comrades of the union husband and father have exercised the

fraternity of unionism. Ask the sick unionists whose expenses are paid by their fellow unionists while church members pray with their lips.

"One of the curses of society?" Either the Rev. John Marshall is a prejudiced judge or an ignoramus who disgraces his cloth and calling by his parade of ignorance. While he was denouncing the unions as unchristian, those same unions were raising \$75,000 to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and every dollar was honestly earned by the toil and sweat of union men and women, not earned by purchased legislation secured by hypocritical Pharisees who stand in the market places parading their religion and thanking God that they are not as other men.

Why doesn't the Rev. John Marshall get acquainted with union men and unionism? Why does he not get next to them, instead of imbibing his information from prejudiced sources, if he will visit among the unions of Lincoln, talk with union men and women, and investigate the work of these local unions, he will find that they do more in the name of charity in proportion to numbers than all the churches in the city. He will find less of sham and hypocrisy. He will find that the most zealous workers in the city churches are men who belong to labor unions. He will find fraternity, brotherly love, charity, long suffering, meekness, gentleness, kindness, all these things, blossoming and ripening into golden fruit more profusely in the labor unions than in the churches of the city. The Wageworker knows, because The Wageworker is acquainted with both—something that the Rev. John Marshall can not say with equal truth.

Of course the labor unions make mistakes, and of course the labor unions do wrong. But the church is not infallible, and its history is not free from mistakes. In all the history of labor unionism the "scab" and the "striker breaker" have not been afflicted with the same cruelty that the church has visited upon the heretic. Men claiming to be Christians have gone forth with fire and sword, killing and burning for the love of God, and all in the name of the Prince of Peace. Does that argue that the church is wrong today?

The Rev. John Marshall should wake up and get into the present century. He should wipe the cobwebs from his eyes, prejudice from his brain and injustice from his heart.

ABOVE THE SCALE.

Conditions in the Local Labor Market Have Been Very Good.

The present remarkable weather has been a boon to the building tradesmen, especially to the bricklayers and the plasterers. Business has been unusually good in both these trades this season, and no member of either has been compelled to remain idle for any length of time. The bricklayers have been unusually fortunate because the weather has permitted outside work almost continuously for almost nine months. Every bricklayer in the city has been working, and all of them have been drawing fully 20 per cent above the scale. The carpenters, too, have been fortunate in the respect that their work has been interrupted very little by the weather, and the wage scale has been satisfactory.

FORGOT HIS CARD.

The Experience of an Absent Minded Teamster the Other Day.

U. S. Swisher, a member of the Team Drivers' Union and delegate from that body to the Central Labor Union, met with a little experience last Monday, that is worthy of being recorded in these columns. It revealed a spirit of unionism on the part of a woman that should be owned by every union man and woman in the city.

Last Monday was fair and warm, and Mr. Swisher shed his coat, hanging it in the yard office. He mounted his wagon and drove gaily forth to deliver a ton of coal in the neighborhood of Thirtieth and Fair streets. Arriving at the house he dismounted, walked up to the door and asked the lady of the house to sign the ticket.

"Are you a union teamster?" queried the lady.

"Yes, ma'am," replied Mr. Swisher.

"Where's your card?"

"I've got it in my pocket—no! haven't either," stammered Mr. Swisher.

er. "I left it in my coat at the yard office. But here's my button."

"Perhaps you found your button," said the lady. "I want to see your card."

"All right, ma'am; I'll get it if you say so."

"Well, if you want me to sign that ticket you'll have to show me your card, that's all," said the lady of the house.

And Mr. Swisher hitched his horses to a post, boarded a street car and went back to the yard office to get his card. Two hours later he unloaded the coal and the lady signed the ticket.

"Leaving that card at the office cost me about 75 cents," said Mr. Swisher, "but it was worth the money. I wish they'd all make the men who deliver coal show their cards. It would add about a hundred to our membership."

It's a Very Common Kind of Unionism

A friend of The Wageworker had a conversation with an alleged union man the other day.

"I wanted a hat with the label on it," said the alleged union man, "but the store where I always buy my hats did not have a labeled hat, so I took one without."

Then he was asked about the suit of clothes he had on.

"I wanted a suit with the label, but I couldn't find a labeled suit to fit me at the store where I always buy my clothes, so I took one without."

"How about your shoes?"

"My shoes? I looked at several union made shoes, but none of them struck my fancy. I liked this pair, although it did not have the label, but I took them just the same. I am always particular about my shoes."

O. MR. POST!

How This Wonderfully Kind Employer Treated His Wife.

A few months ago The Wageworker gave Mr. C. W. Post of Battle Creek, Mich., the benefit of a couple of columns of free advertising. Mr. Post wrote the advertisement himself and paid to have it inserted in a lot of newspapers, but he got it into The Wageworker for nothing. In that advertisement Mr. Post attacked the labor unions, and called unionists "anarchists," and a lot of other names equally scorching. It was a most interesting document. If The Wageworker had a little more time and a little more money it would reproduce the article in question, but a portion of it is reproduced just for the purpose of pointing a moral and adorning a tale.

Mr. Post—who, by the way, manufactures edible sawdust and sells it in pretty little packages—after cursing the labor unions until he was blue in the face because they refused to eat his "gripe guts" and "roastum squealer," declared that they were endeavoring to take away the employment of the three thousand happy and satisfied employees working for him. He made a wonderful parade of his philanthropy, as witness the following extract from his open letter:

"Our people are paid high wages. Those who have been with us one year receive 5 per cent above regular wages, and the two year and over veterans receive 10 per cent above the regular wages. . . . Most of them own their own homes. . . . The agitators of the labor unions have tried to introduce their methods of strikes, hatred, poverty and distress among our people to replace the present conditions of peace and prosperity."

Now isn't that a beautiful picture? Isn't this C. W. Post a splendid man? So kind, so thoughtful of others, so philanthropic, so gentle and so generous? Who has the heart to condemn such an elegant gentleman?

But bear in mind that Mr. Post was singing his own praises and sounding the hew-gang in honor of his own virtues.

And only last week his wife secured a divorce from him on the grounds of cruelty.

"We can not and will not discharge a single one of our faithful and tried workmen," declared Mr. Post in his "open letter." What a good man, to be sure!

And yet the wife of his bosom, the woman he had sworn to love, cherish and protect, is forced to secure a divorce from him because of his cruelty to her!

Our compliments to Mrs. Post, and congratulations upon her securing freedom from such a beautiful specimen of philanthropy.

WHERE WAS PARRY?

Touring Europe While His Friend Peabody Was Sacrificed.

Where was David M. Parry, the guardian of commercial and industrial liberty, when Governor Leabody's political fortunes were at stake? Peabody represented the quintessence of Parryism. It was Peabody who made Parryism plain and easily understood in Colorado. He acted out what Parry talked about. But when Peabody was up for re-election, where was Parry? Why was Parry absent? Instead of being on the firing line he was not est combatus, inswampus, up stumpus, or something like that. At any rate he failed to show up. We've investigated a little on our own account and found that while Peabody was getting most beautifully skinned for

"Is your shirt union made?"

"No, it isn't. I asked for a label shirt, but the store where I always buy my shirts does not carry 'em with the label on, and I didn't have time to go anywhere else."

"Of course the overalls you wear are union made."

"No, they are not. I would rather wear union overalls, of course, but I like a certain kind that I've been wearing for several years, and although I could get union overalls just as good I'd rather have the ones I wear because I'm used to them, you know."

While talking this alleged union man knocked the scab tobacco from his pipe, thrust the pipe into his pocket and took a chew of "Star" tobacco.

But he carried a union card, and thinks he is a union man. Do you know any more like him in the city?

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Preparing Another One of Its Always Successful Social Affairs.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209, is preparing for its next social, which will be in the nature of a masquerade party. Face masks will be discarded, however, and the costume confined to the dress. All printers and their wives are cordially invited to attend the social and enjoy the good things prepared by the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is prospering at a gratifying rate. New members are admitted at almost every meeting, and a growing interest is manifested in the good of the organization. The last meeting was held at the home of Mrs. H. W. Smith, and the attendance was unusually large. Mrs. Smith entertained her guests in a most hospitable manner. The Auxiliary members are beginning to think about the Typographical Union anniversary and wondering whether the printers have forgotten that it is less than three months away.

THE BARBERS.

Put the Union Card in a Couple More Shops Recently.

The Barbers' Union is going right ahead with its good work, adding new members at every meeting and putting the union cards in new shops with pleasing regularity. Last week Secretary Bowen placed shop cards in the Pioneer and Haskell shops. Recently a "scab" cigar manufacturer presented every barber shop in town with shaving papers bearing the advertisement of his cigar. A day or two later the Cigarmakers' union sent a committee out to call the attention of the union shops to the "scab" advertisement. One word was enough. The advertising disappeared with a suddenness that spoke volumes for the unionism of the barbers.

TRUE.

The labor movement is more a question of humanity than a question of the almighty dollar. It has accomplished more in that direction practically than any other society, not even excepting the church. It is the greatest movement in the championship of human rights and human liberty.—Galveston Journal.

Carpenters Hold An Open Meeting

The members of Carpenters and Joiners Union No. 1059 held open house at their hall last Tuesday evening, and the result was one of the best and most helpful union meetings ever held in Lincoln. The union carpenters invited their non-union fellow workmen to meet with them and talk over matters of interest to the craft in general, and a large number of the non-unionists accepted the invitation. Fully two hundred men were gathered in the hall, there being a scattering of other tradesmen present to give the assistance of their advice and experience.

At the national convention in Milwaukee an appropriation was made for the purpose of better organizing the work in Lincoln, and the local secured the services of Sidney J. Kent, who for several years has been working in the national field. Mr. Kent, at considerable personal sacrifice, consented to take hold of the work, and as a result the local has been enjoying a splendid revival of enthusiasm and a healthy increase in membership. Since Mr. Kent began active work in the local field the membership has been increased upwards of a score, and several members who had lapsed have been reinstated. The best of his work, however, has been in arousing greater interest in unionism.

Mr. Kent presided at the open meeting Tuesday evening and made a short talk that aroused the enthusiasm of his hearers. He explained the objects and aims of unionism, and pointed out the good that organization had done in all lines of industrial trades. His remarks to the non-union craftsmen present were kindly and put unionism to them in its best and truest light. Other members of the local made short speeches, some of them telling what advantages had accrued to them by reason of their membership in the union. Through all the remarks ran the sentiment of fraternity and helpfulness.

Representatives of other crafts were called upon and told briefly what had been done in their trades through organization and mutual helpfulness. The editor of The Wageworker was asked to make a few remarks and spoke of the need of a broader unionism that would pass the boundaries of one's craft. General Kelsey, president of the Central Labor Union, spoke briefly and urged workmen to think for themselves, to educate themselves and to stand upon their rights as American citizens while recognizing the rights of every other man.

During the entire evening there were marked evidences of interest and there is every reason to believe that the meeting will prove a great benefit to the Carpenters and Joiners, and to all other organized crafts in the city as well. So successful was the meeting that it will probably be followed by similar meetings on the part of other unions in the city. Already plans are under way for an open meeting at Central Labor Union hall to which all workmen will be invited and short talks made by men of wide experience in unionism.

LABEL LEAGUE SOCIAL.

Union Women Prepare a Good Time for Their Union Friends.

Next Monday evening the Women's Label League will give a social at Central Labor Union hall, and every union man and woman in the city is urged to be present. There are two reasons why they should be there. First, because their presence and support will contribute to the success of the work undertaken by the League, and second, because they will have a good time. The Women's Label League has worked under difficulties that would overwhelm most organizations, but the women are loyal and deeply interested, and despite discouragements and the neglect of those who should be most helpful, they have maintained the organization and accomplished good work in the interests of unionism. They are entitled to the active support of every trade unionist.

The social next Monday evening will be unique. In addition to a pleasing program of vocal and instrumental music and recitations, there will be dancing after the luncheon. The luncheon will be provided by the women, who will pack their edibles in boxes, enclosing therewith a necktie. The packer of the box will wear a tie or bow similar to the one in her lunch box,

and the man who buys the box is expected to seek her and eat lunch in her company. All kinds of good things to eat will be packed in the boxes. Good music will be provided, and a good time is assured all who attend. Let every union man and his wife make it a point to be there and give the Label League the benefit of their patronage and sympathy.

COLLEGE SETTLEMENT.

Plans for Social Science Work That Will Benefit All.

At its first meeting two weeks ago the club, after careful consideration, decided upon a general plan of procedure for the winter. For the first few weeks the general principles of wages, interest profits and rent, with some practical applications, will be discussed, then special problems relating to the various phases of labor, trade unionism, etc., will be taken up. At each meeting some one presents a short paper or talk upon some topic and a general discussion follows. Professor Parker of the state university, leads the discussions for the first few weeks, and then others will present papers on special topics. The topics for the four weeks beginning December 1, are: "Value," "The General Law of Wages," "The Rates of Wages in Different Employments," "Some Practical Applications of the Foregoing Principles." All who are interested in labor problems are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the club at the college settlement house, corner of Twentieth and N, every Thursday evening, beginning promptly at 8 o'clock. Come out and enjoy live discussions of live subjects.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

A Short Session Full of Business and Good Work.

Short, sharp and profitable sums up the work done at last Tuesday night's session of the Central Labor Union. The entertainment committee reported a profit of \$8.25 on the venture, and \$5 of it was appropriated to the Fall River strikers. Two new delegates were initiated, and the meeting adjourned. The business was rushed through in order that the delegates might visit the open meeting of the Carpenters and Joiners.

MANY CLOSED.

Most of Lincoln's retail establishments closed during a part of Thanksgiving day, and several of them closed all day. The Wageworker attempted to secure a list of those that did not open at all, but failing to get the names of all will not publish a partial list. Union men and women, however, should endeavor to learn what stores give their employees the benefit of the full holiday and show appreciation by patronizing those stores more liberally. The stores that kept open all day—and several did—do not deserve the patronage of union men and women. Let us all stand by the merchants who treat their employers most fairly.

HOW ABOUT IT?

A Lincoln daily newspaper the other day contained a notice to the effect that a local bakery had just received a carload of Washburn-Crosby flour from Minneapolis. This flour is notoriously unfair. What is the Central Labor Union's committee doing—the committee appointed to call on local bakers and ask them to not use this unfair flour? There is plenty of union made and fair flour on the market, all just as good or better than the product of the Washburn-Crosby mills. Is it not about time for that committee to give some excuse for its existence?

TAKE YOUR TIME.

To the young trades unionist: Do not be in a hurry for the millennium. Some of those who have grown old and gray in unionism were young. They learned to wait. You will learn, too. Meanwhile do something which will be of immediate benefit to you and others.—Vincennes Labor News.

BET IT HURT.

Parry, the union buster, has had to come to it at last. In establishing a new magazine to fight the unions he could not find "rat" printers to get it out, and the work is being done by union men in a closed shop.—Wilmington Labor Herald.