

THE WAGEWORKER

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Rev. Mr. Batten Writes a Bit

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of the Wageworker: As one whose convictions and sympathies are with the working men, permit me to offer a few reflections with reference to the present municipal situation. I see that a few men styling themselves the Working Men's Club are engaged in the business of endorsing candidates for the excise board. No one will deny the right of any man or of any number of men to meet and endorse whom they please for any office in the gift of the people. But when this is done in the name of the working man, it wears a different aspect. And this conduct is all the more questionable when the particular men do not possess the required qualifications for the office.

I shall not enter upon a discussion at this time of the fitness of any of the men named for the office of excise-men in the city of Lincoln. Two at least of these men have held office in the city, and their administration has not been such a shining success that any man is warranted in endorsing them for a second term. The mayor has lacked backbone; he has been blown hot and blown cold; he has not done anything to make the people believe that he favors a fair and impartial administration of the law; he has allowed law breaking to continue in the city without any real effort to stop it; his course has not commanded him to the confidence of the better mind of the people. The second member of the excise board has shown more backbone, though not always on the right side. The third name proposed I shall not here discuss.

There are two considerations which are worthy of notice. Do the members of this so-called Workmen's Club represent the real working men of the city? Or is this some self-constituted and self-appointed cabal created by a few self-seeking men who are trying to use the workmen to further their interests? Let anyone examine this thing to the bottom and I think he will find that some three or four men who have axes to grind are trying to persuade the working men to turn the grindstone. The people of this country have seen a lot of this sort of work lately; some self-seeking man comes along and uses the workmen to promote his schemes; when once he is in office and gets his share of power, he cares nothing for the workmen. The working men of this city two years ago allowed themselves to be used in the furthering of some scheme if the political managers, and one of their "representatives" was elected to office. But are the working men of Lincoln proud of the record of their "representative"? I know not. Has he not proved to be a mis-representative of the workingman? I am satisfied that these men who use the workmen to further their own interests are the real enemies of the working people. And are the working men willing to appear before the people as caring only for offices and spoils and places at the pie counter? I know not. Then let them rebuke all such self-appointed representatives as are now in the field.

The men who are endorsed for the office of excise commissioners stand more or less for an open town, for a go-as-you-please enforcement of law, for carte blanche to the reservation people; they have taken no vigorous action against prostitution in the blocks; they have not done all in their power to minimize the dangers of the liquor traffic. Suppose prostitution in the blocks is allowed to go on; who are the people most likely to be affected by it? The people who live in the blocks; and many of these are working men and their families. I believe that the working man's child is entitled to as fair and pure conditions as any other man's child in the community. Suppose that nothing is done to make prostitution hazardous in our city? Who are the persons most likely to be affected by the evil? The children of the working men; their daughters are the ones who will be sought by the human fiends and led astray.

In addition to all this, the interests of the working man are the interests of all the people. The working people of this country have complained, and rightly, of the moneyed interests who have sought to use the machinery of government to promote their own gains. How can the working men rebuke the moneyed men when they themselves are engaged in a class struggle? The interests of all the people are the interests of any part of the

men. The working men should be the best people in the world to rise above class interests and to consider the interests of all of the people; then they can rebuke and oppose the conduct of any other men with a brave heart and a clear conscience.

As one whose convictions and sympathies are with the working men, I see that the most unwise thing possible is to seek his own class interests without any regard for the interests of the people at large. We demand, and we are right in the demand, that working men and capitalists shall cease to construe political action in the terms of class interest and shall begin to construe their action in the light of the public good.

In conclusion, this is what we ask:

Working men and of business men, of rich and poor, of employers and employees, that we all ask: What is best for the welfare of the city?

What are the lines of action that will promote the highest interests of the largest number? Who are the men that will make their public office a public service? What kind of men are most likely to rise above narrow class interests and to consider the interests of all of the people? The working men should be the last to set an example of self-seeking in public life; they must rebuke the men of other walks who have done this nefarious thing; they can not rebuke it so long as they allow themselves to be used by any self-seekers.

The working men should be the first men in the world to set an example of large minded and public spirit action; they should be most insistent in demanding the very best men in public office and should reluctantly refuse to support any other kind of

engaged the same hall. An effort is being made to have a reading room fitted up at this hall and make it headquarters for the printing trades.

The Allied Trades Label has been granted to the Wood Printing Co.

The Council decided to endorse whatever person the Typographical Union may choose for clerk of the State Printing Board.

DIGEST THIS, IF YOU CAN.

Some Thoughts for Workmen to Ponder Over These Winter Nights.

Capitalists use tools they do not own. Laborers produce wealth they do not own.

Capitalists own tools they do not produce.

Laborers toil and make capitalists rich.

Capitalists remain idle and make laborers poor.

Labor is exploited and capitalists are the exploiters.

Laborers are numerous and capitalists are few.

Laborers form a political party for which the capitalists will not vote.

But capitalists form a political party for which laborers always vote.

Laborers are controlled by governments that are always controlled by capitalists.—*Railway Journal*.

AN OPEN MEETING.

The Painters and Decorators are preparing for a gala time on the evening of January 13, on which occasion they will have an open meeting to which they invite all good unionists. Sidney J. Kent will make a short address, and other speakers will add their mite to the feast of good things for the mind. The social features will not be overlooked and all who attend are assured a good time.

The Central Labor Union met in regular session last Tuesday night, and despite the bitter cold a good meeting was held. An interesting feature of the proceedings was a short address by Professor Parker of the State University, who spoke on some of the problems now confronting the industrial world and invited laboring men to attend the meetings of the College Settlement society.

Professor Parker has some well defined ideas along labor lines, and his sentiments found a ready response in the minds of his hearers. One thing especially appealed to them, and that was his remark concerning the matter of education. Professor Parker favors cutting a lot of fol-de-rol out of the high school course and making it serviceable to everybody. He would then make it obligatory upon every child to finish the high school course, and compel the state to pay the expense in case the parents were unable to do so. He also favored raising the standard required for admission to this country, pointing out that the work of elevating the standard of labor in this country was constantly being negated by the admission of horses of ignorant foreigners who were constantly reducing the average. He would not close the gates against foreigners, but he would make entrance a bit more difficult. In conclusion Professor Parker advised laboring men to think more, to act more intelligently, and have higher thoughts than the mere satisfying of bodily needs. His remarks were interesting and calculated to arouse his hearers to a more intelligent participation in the duties of citizenship.

It was decided to give an oyster supper on the last meeting night in January for the purpose of replenishing the treasury, and a committee is now actively at work along that line. The occasion will be an interesting one and every union man and woman in the city should strive to make it a huge success.

STRONG RESOLUTIONS.

The Central Labor Union Joins the Crusade Against Sweatshop Printeries.

RESOLUTIONS ?

At the last meeting of the Central Labor Union a committee was appointed to draft resolutions in the shape of a memorial for presentation to the state printing board. The memorial follows:

Whereas, A living wage scale means a better citizenship and a more prosperous condition of affairs, and

Whereas, It is the common aim of all trades unions to better the condition of the toiling masses, giving them opportunity for mental and moral development, and

Whereas, The state of Nebraska is a large patron of the printing trades, having a large amount of work done in this line during the course of the year, and

Whereas, The employers of union labor because of their willingness to pay fair wages find themselves handicapped in bidding for this class of work by the competition of employers who employ cheap labor in the shape of women and half-fledged apprentices and

Whereas, Every dollar's worth of work thus given to inferior and unfair printing offices deprives skilled labor and fair employers of business, thus lowering the wage average and entailing severe loss upon employers and employees, to say nothing of its being a rank discrimination against friends of organized labor, therefore be it

Resolved, That this body, representing all skilled trades in Lincoln and all workmen organized for mutual help and protection, do petition the state board of printing to appoint as secretary of said honorable board a skilled, trustworthy and reliable union printer of unquestioned knowledge of what the state should get for its money, and who will do all in his power to prevent the degradation of labor by making it impossible for the state to be defrauded by inferior sweatshop work of cheap printing offices maintained largely by political pull and the ability to cut prices because of their ability to pay starvation wages.

This body respectfully points out to the said honorable board that the petitioners are taxpayers who are interested in economy and by experience have learned that there is no saving in the purchase of cheap and inferior goods, and who have also learned that the competition of incompetent and unskilled labor is detrimental to every interest of the state. Employers who pay living wage should be encouraged, and employers who pay a starvation wage should be discouraged, to the end that the standard of living may be elevated and the welfare of the people be protected. To this end the petitioners pray that the honorable state board of printing aid them in abolishing the sweatshop printing and advancing the interests of fair employers who ask only that they be given a fair price for good work done by skilled workmen who are paid a living wage.

T. C. KELSEY, Pres.

IRA DeLONG, Sec.

(Seal.)

Too Expensive

"Hello, Billson! Is it true that you are going to get married?"

"Not much! I can't afford it."

"But you draw a good salary?"

"Yes. But women spend so much these days, couldn't stand the pace it costs too much to clothe them in the latest fashion."

With which remark Billson lit a 10-cent cigar, paid for two rounds of drinks and proceeded to lose seven straight games of billiards.

Hard Luck

"Our postal service is becoming absolutely terrible."

"Why, I thought it was all right."

"Well, it isn't. I swore off smoking New Year's day, and the next day I received a fine meerschaum pipe from a friend down east. He had sent it by mail and it went astray and was gone more than a week."

THE DICK MILITARY LAW

A number of Wageworker readers have asked for information concerning the "Dick Militia Law." So many have requested information on this point that while considerable space is necessary to print the law, it is believed that the best way to comply with the many requests is to print it in full.

This bill was introduced in the 57th Congress by Charles Dick, then a congressman from Ohio, and United States Senator. It was approved by the president January 21, 1903. The bill was entitled "An Act to Promote the Efficiency of the Militia and Other Purposes," and was as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the militia shall consist of every able-bodied male citizen of the respective states, territories and the District of Columbia, and every able-bodied male of foreign birth who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is more than eighteen and less than forty-five years of age, and shall be divided into two classes—the organized militia, to be known as the national guard of the state, territory, or District of Columbia, or by such other designation as may be given them by the laws of the respective states or territories, and the remainder to be known as the reserve militia.

Section 2. That the vice-president of the United States, the officers, judicial and executive, of the government of the United States, the members and officers of each house of congress, persons in the military or naval service of the United States, all custom-house officers, with their clerks, postmasters and persons employed by the United States in the transmission of mail, ferrymen employed at any ferry on a post road, artificers and workmen employed in the armories and arsenals of the United States, pilots, mariners actually employed in the sea service of any citizen or merchant within the United States, and all persons who are exempt from militia duty, without regard to age: Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed to require or compel any member of any well-recognized religious sect or organization at present organized and existing whose creed forbids its members to participate in war in any form; and whose religious convictions are against war or participation therein, in accordance with the creed of said religious organization, to serve in the militia or any other armed or volunteer force under the jurisdiction and authority of the United States.

Section 3. That the regularly enlisted, organized, and uniformed active militia in the several states and territories and the District of Columbia who have heretofore participated or shall hereafter participate in the apportionment of the annual appropriation provided by section sixteen hundred and sixty-one of the revised statutes of the United States as amended, whether known and designated as national guard, militia, or otherwise, shall constitute the organized militia. The organization, armament, and discipline of the organized militia in the

several states and territories and in the District of Columbia shall be the same as that which is now or may hereafter be prescribed for the regular and volunteer armies of the United States, within five years from the date of the approval of this act: Provided, that the president of the United States in time of peace, may by order fix the minimum number of enlisted men in each company, troop, battery, signal corps, engineer corps, and hospital corps; And Provided Further, that any corps of artillery, cavalry and infantry existing in any of the states at the passage of the act of May eight, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, which by the laws, customs, or usages of the said states have been in continuous existence since the passage of said act under its provisions and under the provisions of section two hundred and thirty-two and sections sixteen hundred and twenty-five, to sixteen hundred and sixty, both inclusive, of title sixteen of the revised statutes of the United States relating to the militia, shall be allowed to retain their accustomed privileges, subject nevertheless, to all other duties required by law in like manner as the other militia.

Section 4. That whenever the United States is invaded, or in danger of invasion from any foreign nation, or of rebellion against the authority of the government of the United States or the president is unable, with the other forces at his command, to execute the laws of the union in any part thereof, it shall be lawful for the president to call forth, for a period not exceeding nine months, such number of the militia of the state or of the states or territories or of the District of Columbia as may be deemed necessary for the defense of the union, suppression of rebellion, or to enable him to execute such laws and to issue his orders for that purpose to such officers of the militia as he may think proper.

Section 5. That whenever the president calls forth the militia of any state or territory or of the District of Columbia, to be employed in the service of the United States, he may specify in his call the period for which such service is required, not exceeding nine months, and the militia so called shall continue to serve during the term so specified, unless sooner discharged by order of the president.

Section 6. That when the militia of more than one state is called into the actual service of the United States by the president he may, in his discretion, apportion them among such states or territories or to the District of Columbia, with such observations thereon as he may deem necessary for the information of congress.

Section 13. That the secretary of war is hereby authorized to issue, on the requisitions of the governors of the several states and territories, or of the commanding general of the militia of the District of Columbia, such number of the United States standard service magazine arms, with bayonets, bayonet scabbards, gun slings, belts, and such other necessary accoutrements and equipments as are required for the army of the United States for arming all of the organized militia in said states and territories and the District of Columbia, without charging the cost or value thereof, or any of which have been issued since December first, nineteen hundred and one, or any expense connected therewith, against the allotment of said state, territory or District of Columbia, out of the annual appropriation provided by section sixteen hundred and sixty-one of the revised statutes, as amended, or requiring payment therefor, and to exchange, without receiving any money credit therefor, ammunition, or parts thereof, suitable to the new arms round for round, for corresponding arms

munition suitable to the old arms therefor issued to said state, territory or District of Columbia by the United States. Provided, that said rifles and carbines and other property shall be received for and shall remain the property of the United States and be annually accounted for by the governors of the states and territories as now required by law, and that each state, territory and district shall on receipt of new arms, turn in to the ordnance department of the United States army, without receiving any money credit therefor, and without expense for transportation, all United States arms and carbines now in its possession.

To provide means to carry into effect the provisions of this section the necessary money to cover the cost of exchange or issuing the new arms, accoutrements, equipments, and ammunition to be exchanged or issued hereunder, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Section 14. That whenever it shall appear by the report of inspection which it shall be the duty of the secretary of war to be made at least once in each year by officers detailed by him for that purpose, that the organized militia of a state or territory or the District of Columbia, is sufficiently armed, uniformed and equipped for active service in the field, the secretary of war is authorized, on the requisition of the governor of such state or territory to pay to the quartermaster general thereof, or to such other officer of the militia of said state as the said governor may designate and appoint for the purpose, so much of its allotment out of the said annual appropriation under section sixteen hundred and sixty-one of the revised statutes as amended as shall be necessary for the payment of such amount to the quartermaster general for the disbursement of the same.

Section 15. That the secretary of war is hereby authorized to issue, on the request of the governor thereof in the encampments, maneuvers and field instruction of any part of the regular army at or near any military post or camp or lake or seacoast defenses of the United States. In such case the organized militia so participating shall receive the same pay, subsistence, and transportation as is provided by law

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