# THE WAGEWORKER

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

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**Patronize The Wageworker Advertisers**

# Douglas Pleads For the Toilers

[illi]am L. Douglas, the fa[mous] Brocton shoe manufacturer, [w]as formally inaugurated gover[n]or of Massachusetts on Friday January 5. His inaugural address was a model of brevity and sound sense, but those portions of it dealing with labor problems are of especial interest to workingmen everywhere. The Wageworker takes pleasure in reproducing what Governor Douglas said concerning labor legislation, arbitration and conciliation and industrial and trade schools. The address should be carefully read and considered by every toiler in the land:

**Labor Legislation.**

"In no commonwealth of the Union is such a large proportion of the people engaged in industrial pursuits as here in Massachusetts. Upon the intelligence, skill and willingness of the workers depends the supremacy of our manufacurers in the markets of the world, Massachusetts in many enlighten[illegible] labor measures has been the leader of the states; and while much has [illegible]en accomplished, yet there remains more to do. The fea[illegible] of c[illegible]anged or changing condi[illegible] should not turn us fro[illegible] that broad and humane [illegible]ew that the laborer is [illegible] worthy of his hire, [illegible]led to the le[illegible] opportunity and the ne[illegible]come to provide [illegible]ssities of himself [illegible] elevate himself [illegible] to an employ[illegible]become the m[illegible] the burden of [illegible] toiling

[illegible] that our in[illegible] should be sub[illegible]ntrollable co[illegible]gressive states [illegible]s. Our working[illegible]t be forced to [illegible]ions by lower[illegible]rds of li[illegible]ves this Gener[illegible]age any and all [illegible] to promote a [illegible]rade of manu[illegible]commonwealth, [illegible] skill of Massa[illegible]ans may be utilized [illegible]est extent, and not [illegible]ought into open competition [illegible]th the crude product of mills [illegible]d factories of other states [illegible]here public setiment has not [illegible]en sufficientlyaroused to pre[illegible]ent the debasement of those who [illegible]oil.

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**Conciliation and Arbitration.**

In the enactment of laws, the creation of the necessary board for their execution and the adoption of the principle by those who work and those who pay, Massachusetts leads all other states of the Union in conciliation and arbitration of industrial disputes. It is on eof the hopeful signs of the times that the demoralizing strikes is of less frequent occurance in our commonwealth. Industrial peace has reigned almost supreme in those manufacturing centers where this golden rule of commercial conduct has been adopted. Against the old method of strikes stands out this safe and sane method of conciliation and arbitration. By its adoption differences between the employer and employe have been lessened. Its practical effects are evidenced in those communities where the wheels of industry revolve steadily, and the full-pay envelope comes along regularly while differences of opinion are being settled by reason rather than by might.

The conciliation branch of the work, which includes trade agreements, the adjusting and composing of difficulties before they reach the acute stage, is as important as the board's other function of arbitration.

The benets of conciliation and arbitration to the community, the worker and the employer are not as well understood as they should be for the welfare of the commonwealth, and I trust the General Court may devise some method to educate those most vitally interested in the subject to a better understanding of the wisdom of submitting grievances to an impartial board of arbitraters; also that you, gentlemen, will favor such legislation as tends to promote the better working of the system already established in the state.

The work of the board can with advantage be extended to include the authority to appoint at its discretion persons whose duty it shall be to make examination and investigation of industrial conditions in localities within the commonwealth, as directed by the board, to the end that the board may be seasonably informed of matters which may grow into misunderstandings before such shall become controversies, and ultimately, perchance, result in strikes or lockouts, thus disturbing the industrial peace of the commonwealth.

**..Industrial and Trade Schools...**

No effort should be spared to keep Massachusetts to the front in the industrial world. Since the practical abolition of apprenticeship systems and the specialization of labor in most of our mills and factories, there is but little opportunity for learning a trade. Today most workers understand but one small part of an industry. Their opportunties for promotion are greatly lessened by this fact, and the difficulty of obtaining men qualied for foremen and superintendents is often great. A practical knowledge of an industry as a whole, and of the sciences upon which it rests, would open the doors to promotion for many bright workers now compelled to work at a machine or bench. If a considerable part of our factory employes had a more comprehensive knowledge of the industry in which they were engaged, they would be quicker to appreciate and adopt improvements, we would have better foremen and superintendents, our factories would be better conducted and our industries could make greater progress.

[illegible] my opinion the industrial [illegible]ades schools are largely [illegible]sible for the great advance[illegible] made by many industries in [illegible] England. We now [illegible] millions of dollars worth [illegible]d that could and should [illegible] produced here. Technical [illegible]wledge would not only enable [illegible]r workers to produce these [illegible]ods at home, but would greatly [illegible]increase our export trade.

In my judgment Massachusets made a good investment when it gave financial encouragement to our textile schools and our nautical training schools. I believe we should have similar schools in other industries.

I would also suggest the advisability of agricultural schools, where a practical knowledge of horticulture, forestry and of the animal industries shall be taught.

Small rural schools of this kind, scattered throughout the state and extensively conducted, would, in my opinion, not only do much to keep the country boys at home, but would cause our New England farms to become as productive and profitable as possible.

Doing Some Excellent Mission-

## TEAMSTER'S UNION.

**Doing Some Excellent Missionary Work For Unionism.**

The Teamsters' Union is busy these days, doing some excellent work in the cause of unionism. A committee is out and hard at work showing employers where it is to their interests to employ union team drivers, and several employers have already been convinced. As a result more union drivers are at work than ever before. The coal season has given a boom to the drivers and they have not been slow to take advantage of it. The committee is also visiting other unions and urging the membership to remember the Teamsters' Union when having anything hauled.

New members are being initiated at every meeting, and the indications are that the city will soon be thoroughly unionized so far as the teamsters are concerned.

## A FETCHING AD.

**You Can't Miss It, But This Calls Your Attention.**

It is impossible for any reader of the Wageworker to overlook the two-page advertisement of the Armstrong Clothing company in this issue, but just the same we stop the press long enough to insert this notice calling your attention to it.

This "after inventory" sale is one of the greatest of the great bargain offerings ever made by this popular firm, and the bargains are worth going miles to secure. The Armstrong Clothing company has always made good on its advertising, and the splendid bargains offered now will be eagerly sought for by the wise buyers of clothing It is by keeping faith with the people that this firm has been able to build up a business second to none other in the entire west, and today the store carries as fine and large a stock of gaads as any retail clothing store between the Mississippi river and the Pacific coast.

One is always assured of courteous treatment at this popular store, and the customer may always rest assured of one thing—whatever is sold, is sold strictly on its merits without misrepresentation in any way, shape or manner. Long years of business in Lincoln has enabled Manager Armstrong to accurately guage the wants of the public. and the immense stock enables the buyer to have an untrammeled selection A careful reading of the splendid two-page advertisement will pay every patron of The Wageworker.

## THE BARTENDERS.

**Organization in Healthy Shape and Improving Rapidly.**

The Local Bartenders' Union is in good shape numerically and financially, and the membership is feeling encouraged. Every bar in the city with two exceptions are "square", the exceptions being a hotel bar on West O street and another hotel bar on East O stret, where a "scab" plumber is interested. This Fast O street bar is in charge of a bar-tender who dropped out of the union in order to get the job.

Reports of defalcation of the treasurer of the Des Moines, Ia., Bartenders' Union are believed by Lincoln men to be grossly evaggerated. The Associated Press put the amount of the defalcation to upwards of $2,000, but as the Des Moines union is little if any larger than the Lincoln union, this would seem to be considerably above the real amount of defalcation. When President Sullivan was here a short time ago he said that the Des Moines union was in fair shape, but hardly up to Lincoln's standing in point of strength and effectiveness.

## CUT RED TAPE.

**Roosevelt Was There With a Good Sharp Knife.**

A day or two ago President Rosevelt seized his trusty pocketknife and slashed a bunch of red tape all to pieces. It took him about ten seconds to do it after he became acquainted with the fates.

For many years soldier's widows and orphans living near Schuylkill arsenal, Philadelphia, have been given the work of making the trousers furnished to Uncle Sam's soldiers. Last October the war department figured that it could save about $50,000 a year by awarding the contract for making the trousers to the lowest bidders. The contract was won by a sweat shop contractor, but he will not make the trousers. The widows sent a delegation to Washington and laid the mater before the president. He called up the war department and was told that under the circumstances the contract had to go to the lowest bidder. Red tape stood in the way of giving the work to the soldiers' widows and orphans.

"O, just a little red tape?" queried the president. "T'ell with red tape," or words to that effect. And with his little old jackknife he severed the red tape. The sweatshop contractor is looking for another job, and the soldiers' widows and orphans living near the Schuylkill arsenal are merrily sewing away on the 55,000 pairs of trousers that will be needed by Uncle Sam's soldiers boys as soon as warm weather sets in.

## CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

**New Officers Installed at the Last Meeting.**

The afternoon of January 5 found the Auxiliary in session with Mrs. Wright on North Twenty-second stret. There was, as usual, a large attendance. The feature of the day was the installation of officers for the coming six months.

After taking the obligation the newly elected officers were seated. The retiring president, Mrs. Barngrover, cordially congratulated Mrs. Smith, and in a graceful little speech, asked for her the same loyal support and faithful service, for which she thanked the ladies in her own behalf. The report of the secretary and treasurer were now in order, and gave substantial proof of progress, numerically, socially and financially. Indeed, we are "financially respectable." Right here I think we should thank the Wageworker" for much of our money success, together with Typographical Union No. 209, who have always dealt so generously with its Auxiliarq.

Gentlemen, don't you wish you were all married, and your wives members of our organization? For the ladies will banquet their husbands on their birthday, and entertain them royally.

The reports of committees were accepted and placed on file. The motion was again made and carried, that the ladies alphabetically "cudgel their brains" for inspirations and send the result to the "Waegworker."

The Auxiliary enters with enthusiasm upon its third year, fondly believing that bright and fruitful days are in the future.

**Don't Forget It.**

Don't forget the oyster supper and dance to be given by the Central Labor Union on January 24. A good time is guaranteed all who attend. The proceeds are for the pupose of replenishing the treasury of the central body.

**An Omission.**

The advertisement of Mrs. Roy Rhone was ommitted last week and the week before through oversight. Mrs. Rhone is building up a splendid class in mandolin and guitar study, and her methods and experience enable her to give unusually profitabe results to her pupils. The Wageworker takes especial pleasure in recommending Mrs. Rhone to those who desire instruction upon either of these favorite instruments.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

**Are You Booming the Label or Letting It Slide?**

Look here, Mr. Union man, are you really honest in your unionism? Is your unionism of the heart as well as of the mouth? We know you talk unionism in your local, but do you practice it in your daily life?

Stand up and answer!

You've a union card in your pocket, I know, but that's nonunion tobacco you have in your mouth. O, it's your favorite brand, eh? Well, you'd holler your head off if your employer suddenly took a notion that your unionism wasn't the right thing for him, wouldn't you. O, in a hurry, eh, and didn't have time to walk across the street where they sold union tobacco? That excuse is no good. How you would howl and holler if your boss hired a "scab" because it might have taken an extra minute to find a union man.

Differen't in your case, isn't it? Because you are a union man you want everybody to chase over and help you maintain your union by patronizing stuff bearing your label, don't you? And yet you are so infernally lazy you won't take an extra step to help a fellow unionist, or so prejudiced in favor of a certain 'scab" brand that you won't look for something equally good or better with a label on it. You never forget to push your own label, but you never think to specify a union teamster when you want coal delivered, or a cigarmaker's label when you buy a cigar, or the boot and shoeworker's label when you buy shoes, or the garment worker's label when you buy a suit.

Laziness and indifference, coupled with mouth-unionism is the curse of labor unions today. Every time you smoke a "scab" cigar, or fill your pipe with "scab" tobacco, or neglect to specify union teamsters when you want something hauled, or fail to demand the label on your clothing and shoes—in fact every time you buy "scab" goods you give the lie to your professions of unionism and give aid and comfort to union labor's enemies. Shout and holler and pose and prace all you will in the union hall, if you don't practice what you preach in spite of difficulties and discouragements, you are a "scab" at heart and a detriment to the cause of union labor.

Get into the game! Either go to "scabbing" in earnest or be a union man fro msole to crown, from stem to gudgeon, from Alpha to Omaha, from hell to breakfast.

Agitate for the label! If it is possible to get the article you want with a label on it, get it if you have to hunt through the town with a fine-toothed comb. If it is worth making some uinon men and women are certainly employed, somewhere, to make it.

If you are not pushing the label your unionism isn't worth three whoops in Hades.

**The Hodcarriers.**

At the regular meeting Tuesday night the Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' Union elected the folowing officers:

T. W. Calkins, president; L. D. Wertz, vice president; Miles Burk, recording secretary; A. L. A. Schiermeyer, financial and corresponding secretary; F. W. Swanson, treasurer; T. Tryne, sergeant-at-arms; John H. Schleuter, F. W. Swanson, A. L. A. Schiermeyer, delegates to Central Labor Union.

The selection of committees was postponed until the next meeting, when the officers-elect will be installed. Every member is urged to be present at the meeting, a[illegible]y 17.

# Suffering Cattle Starving Children

Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, the popular actress, is heading a crusade having for its object the more humane treatment of cattle shipped by rail from the range to the stock yards and slaughter houses. As Mrs. Fiske is too popular to need the services of the "stolen diamond" and "divorce" press agent, we are quite certain that she is in earnest in this matter, and we hasten to congratulate her upon her interest in the physical comfort of our dumb animals.

There is certainly room for vast improvements in the methods now in vogue among cattle shippers. The poor beasts are allowed to freeze or suffocate, according to the weather, and endure the pangs of hunger and thirst for many weary hours. Much of this could be obviated by a little care and thoughtfulness, and it seems stange that it should remain for an actress to take steps looking towards an improvement in present methods. One would naturally think that the humane societies should take the lead.

But while congratulating Mrs. Fiske upon her regard for the dumb cattle of the range, we rather opine that a greater work lies right at her own door. While Mrs. Fiske is shedding tears over the cruelty inflicted upon cattle, tens of thousands of women and children are starving and freezing within a radius of five miles of her own palatial New York residence. Over 75,000 children in New York City are deprived of schooling because the is not adequate facilities in that city. Has Mrs. Fiske ever shed any tears because of this deplorable fact? While she is bemoaning the fate of the range steers has she ever given a thought to the misery and squalor all about her? Has she ever headed a crusade to do away with the horrors of the New York sweat shop?

If Mrs. Fiske wants to se misery in all its horrors, let her go over on the East Side and spend a few hours in the tenement blocks where dozens of men, women and children eat, sleep and work in single rooms that have no outside openings, and which are lighted by flaring gas jets day and night. Let her study the pinched and starving faces of widowed mothers as they bend over their sewing machines for eighteen hours a day, striving to earn the scant pittance doled out by the sweat shop employer. Let her interview the thousands of hopeless women who have, as a last resort, sold their bodies and souls for the crusts that not even the pet dogs and cats in the Fiske mansion would deign to touch. Let her gaze upon the babies slowly starving to death as they tug at the barren breasts of despairing mothers. Let her investigate all the miseries and horrors and heartaches of the thousands of human beings in her own home city, and if she really has a womanly heart in her bosom she will not give all of her sympathies to the maltreated cattle shipped from range to slaughter house.

There are scores and hundreds of children in New York City today that suffer far more than any steer that ever grazed upon a western range. Ther are women in New York City today who daily undergo more of physical—to say nothing of mental—suffering than any western steer ever endured, be the weather ever so inclement.

Not for worlds would we put a stick or stone in the way of any effort to reform the present methods of shipping cattle. But when we see some one like Mrs. Fiske paying all her humane attention to dumb brutes and none at all to suffering humanity, we recall the words of the Nazarene when he talked about the sparows. One hungry and freezing child is worth more than all the steers that ever ate grass. Then why so much maudlin sentiment in behalf of the steers and not a thought for the precious ones of whom the Nazarene said: "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

By all means improve the methods of shipping steers, but in God's name let us first look after the physical welfare of the [illegible] of thousands of human victims [illegible] selfish and cr[illegible] greed. [illegible] warrant that if Mrs. [illegible]innie[illegible]dern Fiske wil[illegible] a wee[illegible] vestigating condition[illegible] on the E[illegible] Side she will forget that there [illegible] ever such an animal as a stee[illegible]

## CENTRAL LABOR UNION

**Gets Busy Talking About Booming The Union Label.**

The Central Labor Union [illegible] wonderfully enthusiastic over the union label at its meeting Tuesday night, and it appointed a committee to draft a lot of resolutions calculated to help the good work along. It also appointed a committee to look after some labor legislation, and made some recommendations. It also took a dip into national politics and voiced its protest against lowering the duty on manufactured cigars from the Philippines, Porto Rico and Cuba. The union cigarmakers do not want to be forced into competition with cigarmakers who make the munificent wage of 30 cents a day in our "foreign possessions."

The Lincoln Central Labor Union will act jointly with the Omaha body in opposing the proposed garnishee law, and will also ask the enactment of a law compelling all convict made goods to be branded "convict made."

Then the body grew ra[illegible] and determined to ask the State Agricultural society to engage a union band for service at the next fair. If the board gives no heed to the petition a lot of the union men will forget to go to the fair. Of course they wouldn't boycott it, for that is illegal. But there is no law to prevent a man from forgetting to go to a place where the music is not on the square.

The central body also endorsed the bill to be introduced by Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209, asking that the Allied Printing Trades Council label be declared the standard of excellence for all state printing. It was also decided to ask the Lyric and Oliver theatres to put the label on their programs.

Delegates present reported on trades and with one or two exceptions all reported work good.

Then there was some talk about the oyster supper and dance to be given on Tuesday evening, January 24. That will be a joyful occasion. You can have oysters and plenty and dance til your're tired for the small sum of a quarter, and the Central Labor Union guarantees you the time of your life. Don't forget the date.

**State of Trade.**

Trade is good in every line of organized industry in Lincoln, and in some lines is unusually good. Bricklayers and Carpenters report trade unusually good in their lines for this season of the year, and the printers report [illegible] better than ever before. [illegible]ar makers are all busy, [illegible] barbers report [illegible] average.

**Two Delegates.**

Oscar Moore left last Satu[illegible] for Minneapolis, where he [illegible] as a delegate from the [illegible] local to the national conve[illegible] Hod Carriers and Buildi[illegible]borers. The la[illegible] month Fre[illegible] Sch[illegible] Bloomington, Ill., [illegible] from the Lincoln [illegible]tional conve[illegible] Union. Both [illegible] are capable me[illegible] credit upon th[illegible]

The man w[illegible] own inter[illegible] his party [illegible] of a [illegible] paresis [illegible]