

# The Wageworker

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Editor and Publisher.

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126 NORTH FOURTEENTH ST.

Merchants who advertise in the labor papers show that they care for the union man's trade. Patronize those who are willing to help you. Read the advertisements in THE WAGWORKER, and if you need of anything in their line, visit their stores and make your purchases, and tell them why you came there. We desire to particularly impress this matter upon the wives and daughters of the union men, as they do most of the purchasing.

## THE CITY ELECTION

The city election is drawing near, and already interest is becoming intense. The republican primaries are to be held on February 7, and the candidates are hustling night and day. Lincoln is an overwhelmingly republican city, as matters now stand, and it seems that if anything is to be gained by labor it must be sought through the dominant party. For that reason it behooves union men to be very careful and not allow themselves to be made tools in the hands of designing politicians. All politicians look alike to The Wageworker. Politically it doesn't know a republican from a democrat, or a prohibitionist from either. All it wants to know is where a man stands on the labor question, and if he is sound on that point it asks nothing more. It has been charged that The Wageworker was established for the purpose of furthering some political interests of its editor, but a little thought—which some men are incapable of exercising—will disprove the charge. Personally the editor of The Wageworker is a democrat, and a democrat stands about as much show for political preferment in this city, county and state as a snowball does of continued existence in the infernal regions. The editor of The Wageworker wants no office, would not accept the nomination for any office, and wouldn't turn his hand over to elect any politician to any office. The Wageworker was established for the purpose of furthering the interests of union labor, and if it succeeds in so doing, even though in the slightest measure, its editor will feel satisfied.

But right here and now let it be said that this labor newspaper is out of politics as politics is generally understood, that it is owned, edited and controlled by the man whose name appears at the head of these columns, and that it reserves the right to advocate or oppose any candidate it sees fit, regardless of party affiliation. Lincoln has had a sufficiency of newspapers that were influenced by campaign contributions about election time, especially labor newspapers.

If the union men of this city are wise they will jump in and secure control of the republican primaries. If they are foolish they will let a coterie of jackleg politicians use them to boost into office a lot of cheap screw grafters who never have any use for union labor except on election day. Organized labor must bear in mind that it must make atonement for a grave mistake made two years ago, and if it fails in this and makes another mistake of equal magnitude it need not expect to have any standing with decent men in the future.

If organized labor is wise it will not swallow any old dose put up by the leaders of the republican party, but will look further. The sooner the workingman cuts loose from partisan politics the better it will be for him. While the editor of this labor paper is a democrat he wants it distinctly understood that democratic leaders can easily fix up a dose that he will refuse to swallow. It hasn't been so very long ago that a dose like that referred to was declined with thanks.

Let union men make an effort to nominate friends of unionism to the council, the excise board and the mayoralty—not pretended friends, but friends who are actual. The interests of organized labor are of much more moment than the advancement of any politician or selfish interest. Here are a few things that organized labor should insist upon before its members support any candidate:

- Employment of organized labor upon all public work.
- Equal taxation, whether of individuals or corporations.
- Eight hours a day's work.
- The union label on all city printing.

Rigid enforcement of all the laws and ordinances.

Better street railway service. No franchises to be granted without a majority vote of all the citizens entitled to vote at any general election.

Lower street car fares.

Clean streets.

A public park commission to serve without pay, and steps to be taken to establish a city park that will be a credit to the city.

Strict enforcement of the excise regulations.

These are not all, but they are the most important, of the things that organized labor should stand for and vote for and work for. If you are a republican and the republican candidate will not pledge himself to support these things, be man enough to fight him to a standstill. If you are a democrat and the democratic candidate will not make a similar pledge, then fight him till Hades turns a skating rink. And if neither the republican nor the democratic candidate will pledge himself to support these things, then let workmen get together and put up a candidate who will. If the 1,800 union labor votes in this city will stand together they can make the republican and democratic leaders crawl on their knees to offer anything organized labor wants.

Get into the game! Don't be a sucker! Don't swell up with pride every time a political "fixer" pats you on the back and tells you that you are a "man of influence," for be sure the "fixer" will give you the horse laugh as soon as he finds that he no longer needs your help. Forget partisan politics and vote for "Molly and the babies."

## HARRISON AND ODELL

Two candidates before the republican primaries to be held on February 7, are Frank G. Odell, who seeks the councilmanic nomination in the Seventh ward, and T. P. Harrison, who is a candidate for excise man. The Wageworker has no hesitancy in endorsing both of these candidates, not because they are republicans but because they are friends of labor. Mr. Harrison is a contractor, and from the inception of the agitation he has advocated the eight-hour day. He fought for it in the Builders' Exchange. He fought for the "closed shop" agreement, and although that failed to carry he has maintained the "closed shop" by employing only union men.

Mr. Odell is also a contractor. He employs union men, and he was a leader in the fight for the shorter working day. He favors the "closed shop" because he believes it beneficial to both employer and employee. He stands upon the platform outlined in the leading editorial in this issue. He deserves the cordial support of every union man in the Seventh ward. Mr. Harrison has been endorsed by the Laboring Men's Political Club, an endorsement that does the club credit.

If the republicans will nominate a full set of candidates equally worthy as these two, organized labor should rally solidly to their support. The trouble is that the republicans are not at all likely to do it, and the democrats have no encouragement to do so. If union men would forget party once or twice in a city campaign there would be something doing that would be worth while.

Look here, Mr. Local Merchant! Before you join in any move to destroy the labor unions, just do a little figuring. Which would you rather have for customers, 1,500 union men working an average of eight hours a day at \$15 a week, or 2,500 non-union men working an average of twelve hours a day at \$8 or \$9 a week. Figure it out for yourself.

The manufacturer who opposes union labor insists on setting the price upon the labor he buys, and also insists upon setting the price on the product of labor that he sells. Your union buster always wants the big end of both transactions.

If the railroad managers want to make government ownership a sure thing they will oppose President Roosevelt's plan of federal supervision of rates. The people are becoming aroused, and the corporations are up against it.

Look here, Mr. Local Merchant! Which would you rather have, 1,500 union customers earning an average of \$15 a week, or 2,500 non-union customers averaging \$8 a week? Figure it out for yourself.

Of course you have heard the old conundrum, "What makes more noise than a pig under a gate?" Well, the new answer is: "C. W. Post under present conditions."

How would you like to belong to the "good labor union" that Post, the "gripe guts" man talks about?

In cities where labor is best organized wages are always at their best, local merchants are always prosperous

and the people generally happy. The reverse is always true in cities where labor is degraded.

Organized labor recognizes the right of every man to work, but the union man has too much self-respect to work alongside the man who is too mean, narrow, selfish, sordid and foolish as to refuse to assist organized labor in the work of securing and maintaining better conditions for those who toil. The man who will not share the expense of securing better conditions but insists on enjoying those better conditions, is too low in the moral scale to be a fit associate for right-minded men.

The laborer who insists on having a voice in the disposition of his labor is an "anarchist," an "agitator," a "desperate citizen," a "menace to freedom" and a "hug." But the man who secures control of a necessity of life and sets the price is a "captain of industry," a "foremost citizen," and his "vested rights" must be protected.

Post is such a confirmed "scab" that he "scabbed" on the advertising agents. The "Grandin Advertising Agency" consists of Post and a cheap secretary, and was organized to cut the throats of legitimate advertising agents. The advertising agents need a lesson or two in thorough trades unionism.

"The hated white collar of human slavery, the union label," is what the manufacturer of "postum cereal" and "grape nuts" calls it. And there are union men who still insist on using "the conglomerations made by this same manufacturer."

There are no labor unions in China, consequently no labor troubles worth mentioning. China seems to afford an ideal country for the manufacturers who want to employ "free and independent labor."

When organized labor gets into the political game with its eyes open there will be a sudden decrease in the number of judges who are willing at any time to do the bidding of organized capital.

The city campaign waxes warm already, and the fighting man finds his circle of friends growing larger every day. The circle will visibly contract the day after election.

Dave Parry is nobody's fool. As long as he can keep well under cover and get blatant fools like C. W. Post to do the fighting Parry will rejoice in spirit and be exceeding glad.

If Attorney General Moody doesn't end up his fight on the beef trust with another damphool injunction he will be entitled to a vote of thanks.

By the way, how many homes and hospitals have been built by the "free and independent labor" that the Parryites love to talk about?

Organized labor merely insists on having a voice in the fixing of the price of the only thing labor has to sell—labor.

The story of how the eight-hour day came to Lincoln, published elsewhere, is well worth reading.

Governor Douglas starts off all right, and here's betting that he'll keep it up.

Convict made goods must be branded.

The Lee broom is convict made.

Demand the union label.

Be consistent.

## Properly Labeled

"EX" OR "SELECTED."

There are troubles galore that upon a man pour  
As through the old world he doth travel.

There are things that perplex and so many that vex,  
And tangles he can not unravel.  
But speaking of a person I think that the worse one—

At least it makes me dejected—  
Is swiping these rhymes by the dozen at times  
And crediting "Ex" or "Selected."

A man sits him down with a deep thoughtful frown  
And takes a fall out of the muses.  
He writes a good verse that should add to his purse,  
But money and credit he loses.

For surer than fate, it is sad to relate,  
It always is to be expected  
That some scissors fiend's shears cuts it out—it appears  
With credit of "Ex" or "Selected."

If a joke makes a hit, or you show flash of wit,  
You're robbed of the fruits of your toil;  
For the scissors fiend's eye will the good thing espy,  
Then snip—snip—your work he's despoiling.

# EX-GOV. PEABODY

OF COLORADO

What of him? He occupies the same position with the laboring men and women that cash stores do, in comparison with Ridgley's Credit Clothing Store. We treat all alike here, and especially cater to the trade of laboring people who have the same priveleges here and are treated as courteously as do the cash stores their customers. Ridgely is becoming more liberal in his dealings to his customers. He has commanded each of his (16) managers throughout this broad land, to cut the price on all \$25 ladies' winter coats to \$4.50. My, what a slaughter! And we have done some of the same kind of work on our men's clothing. Come and see us. We can and will satisfy you.

## RIDGLEY M'D'SE. CO.

1406 O STREET  
WE GIVE S. & H. GREEN TRADING STAMPS

It's a ten-to-one shot that the fellow will not give credit for what he's collected: But if he does, then, he will grab up his pen And credit it "Ex" or "Selected."

## THE ELEMENTS

The board of directors of the Pot-dunk Gas company were in secret session, called for the purpose of arranging a few matters. The people had been demanding an investigation of certain political deals in which the city council was mixed up; also concerning financial methods following along the lines of dividends.

"Gentlemen," said the president, "something must be done. The people are becoming inquisitive and are demanding a look at the books. What shall we do?"

Then arose the expert of the company. He looked about him and then spoke softly.

"Gentlemen," he said, "nature has given us a hint. Let us not ignore it." Naturally enough he was called upon to explain, and the explanation was forthcoming.

The books were burned, the stock was watered and the pipes were pumped full of air.

## DISCOVERED

Mr. F. R. Webber of Decatur, Ill., has made a discovery. Not long ago he read in a daily newspaper an account of the arrest of a brass finisher who had been detected in the act of stealing brass castings from his employer. At the trial it was brought out that the prisoner, an expert workman, made an average of \$6 per week, with which he had to support a large family. The complainant testified that the prisoner had secreted the stolen goods in his dinnerpail.

"At last," writes Mr. Webber, "after eight years of diligent search I have discovered what the republican leaders meant by their talk of 'the full dinnerpail.'"

## THE SEASONS

Snow has its time to fall  
In many a soft and feathery flake.  
But on this season thou now hast the call,  
O buckwheat cake!

## THE TEST

Good citizens are numerous  
If you will search them out,  
A fact they will admit to you  
If you express a doubt.  
But there's a test you can apply  
And then you'll surely know—  
Just watch the citizen who cleans  
His sidewalk of the snow.

## THOSE DEAR GIRLS

"Percy Flage proposed to me last night, and I decided to accept him."  
"I expected that. Percy threatened to do something desperate when I refused him the other night."

## IN THE FUTURE

The workman in search of employment was ushered into the office of the manager of the great concern.

"What can I do for you, sir?" asked the manager.

"I am looking for employment. I am a skilled workman in your line, and I can give satisfactory reference. Do you need a man?"

"Yes, I have a place for you, but I want to ask you a few questions before I put you on the pay roll. If they are answered satisfactorily you get the place. Now, are you a—"

"Hold on a moment, please," inter-

rupted the workingman, "You are going to ask me if I belong to a trades union, eh?"

"Yes, that was one question I had in mind."

"And if I said yes you were going to make some remarks about 'free and independent labor' and 'slaves to walking delegates' and some stuff like that?"

"Yes, but I want you—"

"Correct! Now let me ask my questions first. Is this concern in a trust managed by a few greedy men who are willing to rob rich and poor alike if it only increases dividends?"

"Sir, I don't allow any common lab—"

"O, that's all right, Mr. Manager. Does your concern give other concerns in the same line of manufacture a show for their white alley? Do you oppose maintaining a lobby at Washington to secure special legislation in your interests? Do you buy and sell lawmakers to suit your own conveniences? Have you any string tied to judges on the bench? Have you any—"

"Look here; I'll throw you—"

"No, you won't throw anything. I just wanted to know a few things before I go to work for you. Sauce for the laboring man's goose is sauce for the employer's gander, and when you howl about 'free and independent labor' and all that sort of tommy-rot, don't kick if the laboring man makes a few inquiries. Good day, sir. I don't believe I want to work for this kind of an outfit."

P. S.—This did not actually happen. But it would be possible for it to happen if laboring men were wise enough to vote as solidly on election day as they march on Labor day.

## CARDS

He who wastes minutes wonders what becomes of the hours.

The best victories are won a long time ahead of the real conflict.

A man is often in bad company when he is alone with his thoughts.

"Good luck" is the term that the shiftless apply to the diligent.

The man who talks to himself always has an appreciative audience.

We have some doubts about the man who is always boasting of his reform.

Better meet trouble half way than to sit still and let it overwhelm you.

A little today is better than waiting for tomorrow in the hope of getting more.

It beats the world how big a little house feels when the babies are away visiting.

The fellow who is in the wrong is usually the fellow who has "nothing to arbitrate."

It is a good thing for this old world that the people who grow about the weather do not have the making of it.

The funniest thing about the "comic sections" of the daily papers is the fact that they are called "comic sections."

But fine feathers do make fine birds, despite the old proverb. But fine feathers do not always make good or useful birds.

Opportunity knocks once at every man's door, but the trouble is that so many men are so busy grumbling at their fate that they can not hear the knock.

Having successfully eluded the fisherman the first time, the bass was emboldened to try again.

This time the bass was not so lucky, and as it lay gasping in the bottom of the boat it cried out in a loud voice:

"Alas, I am another victim of the re-bait system."

However, not having an expert at the business to advise him, the bass had to suffer.

## Dr. Clifford R. Tefft

### DENTIST

Office Over Sidles Bicycle Store

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1228 O STREET

HANDLES EVERYTHING IN SEASON  
MODERATE PRICES. FIRST CLASS SERVICE  
MEALS, 15cts AND UP

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Confectionery  
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Ice Cream, Oysters, Milk, Cream  
Confectionery and Baked Goods.  
Prompt Attention Given to All Orders.  
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Will give you bargains the next thirty days in: Furniture, Stoves, etc.

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