

THE WAGEWORKER

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

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NO. 45

Central Labor Union Elects

The Central Labor Union met Tuesday night for the first time in five weeks and transacted a boodily amount of business, chief of which was the decision to appoint a building committee to draft plans for the establishment of a building fund. The matter was brought up by Secretary DeLong and was heartily seconded by all members present. Mr. DeLong offered to head the subscription with \$50 and Delegate Mickel said he was willing to give one week's work a year until the building was erected and paid for. The committee will be announced at the next meeting, President Kelsey asking for time in which to make the best selections possible.

By resolution the Central body asked the American Federation of Labor to admit the Woman's Label League, and the resolution was ordered forwarded to Federation headquarters.

With the exception of the building trades work was reported good in most lines and fair in the others. An amusing incident was the dispute between the Typographical Union delegates when the report of that trade was called for. Delegate Leaden reported it dull, and Delegates Mickel and Greenley at once took issue.

"Why do you report the trade dull when every printer in town is working?" asked Mr. Mickel.

"And working overtime if he wants to," said Mr. Greenley. Mr. Leaden persisted, but he was overruled and the report stands "good" on the secretary's book.

A report from the social committee revealed the fact that the oyster supper and dance netted \$1.85 which was transferred to the general fund. Delegates Bush came in for some criticism because he had overlooked a point and had the lumber for the seats and tables hauled by non-union teamsters. It was explained that the use of the lumber was donated and he did not feel like sending it back when it showed up in charge of a non-union driver. He was warned to be more careful in future and promised that he would be. The incident was the basis of a lot of good-natured badinage, beneath which was the determination to insist on having it "union" or not having it at all.

Delegate Mickel introduced a resolution endorsing The Wage-worker, which was unanimously adopted and ordered spread upon the minutes. The resolution appears elsewhere in this issue.

A lot of letters from Nebraska's congressmen were read, they being in reply to the notice that the Central body had asked the congressmen to oppose the reduction of the Philippine cigar tariff. Congressman Norris wrote that he was in sympathy with the Central body's position, and the rest of them said they would give the matter "careful consideration." Mr. Norris will receive a letter of thanks for his letter and the rest of them will be carefully watched.

The semi-annual election of officers was then pulled off and the result was as follows:

T. C. Kelsey, president; J. E. Mickel, vice president; I. R. DeLong, secretary; T. W. Evans, treasurer; Fred Schule, sergeant-at-arms. Trustees: M. T. Caster, J. M. Leaden, George Bush. Organization committee: Louis Hale, Robert Strain, A. L. Schiermeyer.

On motion the organization committee was notified that it was expected to get busy in the matter of organizing the retail clerks of the city. President Kelsey will assist the union men of Beatrice to form a Central Labor Union in that city. The label and home industry committees will be selected at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, The wage earners of Lincoln have in The Wage-worker a consistent and able champion of the cause of organized labor, and

Whereas, To be of the best service it should have the cordial support of all union men, both individually and collectively, therefore be it

Resolved, That this body, representing the trades and labor unions of Lincoln, urge upon all unions the necessity of giving full support and encouragement to The Wage-worker in order that it may best fulfill its mission as a champion of the rights of labor. And be it further

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this body that all union men and women should, so far as possible, patronize the merchants who advertise in The Wage-worker, exercising due care that the store be otherwise fair to labor.

Resolved, That this body endorse the stand taken by The Wage-worker in regard to the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co.

Resolved, That this body endorse the proposition that the publication of fair lists in better than the publication of unfair lists, and that we request The Wage-worker to no longer publish said unfair lists, but endeavor to give union men and women information concerning fair goods and wares to the end that we may know where our friends and comrades are.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in The Wage-worker and commended to the consideration of all trades and labor unions in Lincoln and surrounding territory.

WORDS THAT CHEER.

Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Give The Wage-worker a Boost.

The following, adopted by the Local Union No. 141, International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Union of America, were presented to The Wage-worker last Tuesday by Secretary Schiermeyer. It is needless to say that The Wage-worker appreciates the action of the Hod Carriers and Building Laborers:

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 10, 1905.—To the Editor of The Wage-worker: At a regular meeting of Local Union No. 141, International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' Union of America, held last night, the following motions became a part of our minutes, and as corresponding secretary I am instructed to convey them to you:

First—That we endorse the stand taken by The Wage-worker in regard to the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co.

Second—That every member of our union consider it a duty to buy of The Wage-worker's advertisers and make it known that their custom was thus directed by reason of the advertisement in The Wage-worker. Every member, however, to be cautious to observe whether the house is otherwise fair

to union labor and to report all irregularities, discriminations, etc.

Third—As the constant appearance of the unfair list is keeping our enemies' names and wares constantly fresh in the memory and has the effect only on a small minority, while it is a guide to the lukewarm and unscrupulous (the enemies in the garb of comradeship) therefore we would suggest that fair lists be prepared to substitute for the unfair lists and thereby detract the minds from the unfair goods and wares.

(Seal) A. L. SCHIERMEYER, Corresponding Secretary.

ALLIED TRADES BALL.

Will Be Held on February 24 and Promises a Great Success.

The first annual ball of the Allied Printing Trades will be given at Fraternity hall on February 24, and every indication points to a successful affair. Capital Auxiliary No. 11 has appointed a committee to look after the refreshment table and the guests will be cordially welcomed and entertained. Quick's orchestra, made up of union musicians, will furnish the music, and the program has been arranged with a view to meeting the terpsichorean tastes of all who attend.

THE MAN WHO PAYS IT ALL.

Morgan has his yachts so handsome. Schwab his private palace car.

Rockefeller has his "cottage" on the beach.

Astor travels like a princeling over Europe near and far.

Bradley-Martin has all luxuries in reach.

They have millions for their pleasures and they live in royal style.

Spending fortunes on a single "rout" or "ball."

But this point you should remember and consider all the while—

That the men who work for wages pay it all.

Uncle Sam has ships a plenty riding proudly o'er the wave.

And his army is a dream of gilded lace.

He has officers bespangled who are willing, quite, to save

Their country with a waltz of charming grace.

And our Uncle—may God bless him—wants more battle-

ships and men.

So for millions more of money makes a call.

But this point you should remember—let me state it once

again—

That the men who work for wages pay it all.

Millions for a greater navy, millions more for army great,

Millions more as tribute to the greedy trusts;

Millions for the "rouths" and "functions," millions for "affairs

of state."

While the unused scale of Justice slowly rusts.

Gold and glitter in the mansions, in the hovel hunger, cold;

Luxury looks down untouched on famine's pall.

And this point you should remember—let it often be retold—

That the men who work for wages pay it all.

Why should greed be left unshackled? Ask the question of

yourself;

You can answer in a moment if you will.

Why should congress' halls be reeking with the taint of

stolen pelf?

You've the weapon near at hand the wrong to kill.

You can scourge Greed from the temple, you can put Right

on the throne;

You're the men with power to solve the problem great.

Vote for "Molly and the babies"—then you'll come into your

own.

And the men who work for wage will rule the state.

The Other Side of The Case Presented

To the thoughtful man, the query naturally occurs as to why there is in many quarters so great a prejudice, and, in fact, almost hatred against the labor unions. The statement is frequently heard that the labor movement has seen its best days and deservedly so. That labor is getting more than its due—that the members of trade unions are a vicious lot of cut-throats and blackmailers. One of the principal reasons for all of this may be due to the fact that the daily press persistently circulates the news which can by an kind of juggling be twisted into form that will prejudice the public against organized labor.

Trade unions are represented as made up of new arrivals from Europe, men who do not work and who do not want to work, of discontented elements, anarchists, socialists, etc.

The business agent who goes wrong is prominently held up to public view as representative of that calling, while the fact is ignored that there are probably 7,000 business agents in the United States, and as many as two have been convicted of extortion.

Members of trade unions are represented as always looking for trouble, addicted to slugging, resorting to riot, in fact, an unthinking, irresponsible, unreasonable mob whose vote is for sale. Now let us look at facts:

Mr. Business Man, you have probably at some time had a carpenter, a bricklayer, a mason, a plasterer, a plumber, an iron worker, about your place of business or home. Think it over. What kind of a man was he? Was he not a quiet, modest and industrious sort of fellow who seemed to thoroughly understand his business, and who was very gentlemanly and very well behaved to the members of your family? And perhaps you conversed with him as to how he would vote at the coming election. Did you not find him well posted on the situation and his reasons sound as to why he would vote for a certain candidate? And did you not find him well versed in the news events of the day? Did he impress you as a violent man who would dynamite a place of business or take a life needlessly? And did you not find him to be a representative and responsible citizen? Take it home to yourself, Mr. Business Man, and think it over. Answer as to who elected Roosevelt, Douglas, Folk, and who defeated Peabody? Was it not a class of men who think matters over carefully? And had they not reasoned out that predatory wealth had too great control over some of our commonwealths?

And do you stop to think that the press is a great moulder of public opinion? And that the members of the Associated Press, the greatest news agency in the world, are interested financially in many of the large industries in this country? And that the treasurer of the Associated Press is the president of the one of the largest banks in this country, which is controlled by the same interests that control Standard Oil, the "Big Three" life insurance companies and most of the great railroad systems as well as many other great industries and enterprises in this country?

Have the men at the head of these great interests no object in creating hostile sentiment against trade unions? Do they not foresee the time when the trade union movement will have compelled a more equitable distribution of nature's products? And laws enacted to prevent the acquisition of the people's money by such methods as are now in vogue?

Organized capital is very shrewd and far-seeing and lets no opportunity pass which will tighten its grip on the strongly entrenched position which it now occupies.

Be fair, Mr. Middleman, and remember that that country is most happy and prosperous which has the greatest number of well paid and happy working men. Do not throw stones at the grandest movement which has yet been undertaken for the betterment of the industrial classes.—Labor Journal.

"Strictly Confidential"—Not

The following confidential circular has been sent out to all the various manufacturing establishments for the purpose of bringing about concerted action among employers of labor towards the defeat of the long pending eight-hour and anti-injunction bills of congress.

The circular was printed on a letterhead of The National Association of Manufacturers of the United States of America, David M. Parry, president; F. H. Stillman, treasurer; M. Cushing, Secretary; general offices 174 Broadway (Maiden Lane and Cortland Streets), and reads as follows:

"STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL."
"New York, Dec. 8, 1904.—Dear Sir: You have not replied to our recent letter. It is our fault; we didn't write you strongly enough.

"The simple question is whether your own valued company will not join the other manufacturers of the country in providing an absolute insurance against destructive and even revolutionary labor legislation at different state capitals. We believe that you will.

"Nobody has even questioned that it was the National Association of Manufacturers that beat the eight-hour and anti-injunction bill at Washington last winter. We have got to beat them again this winter, for Mr. Gompers insists that both bills shall be passed, and Senator McComas of Maryland agrees.

"Not only is the national association your only guarantee against the enactment of such revolutionary schemes, subversive of the very principles of our government, but the whole tendency towards collectivist and paternal legislation needs to be stopped, and it is this immense and successful movement of manufacturers which alone, apparently, can do it.

"I again ask you to join us. If we double our strength, we treble or quadruple our power; but we have to be right, and you can help us keep right. We have many friends in your industry. Will you not join them, and us, in the good cause? You will get your money back anyway in business advantages.

"Please let me hear from you. I won't permit you to be disappointed. Yours most cordially,

"MARSHALL CUSHING, Secretary."

A UNION LABEL ORDINANCE.

At last Monday night's meeting of the city council Councilman Stewart by request introduced a "union label ordinance," requiring the Allied Printing Trades Council label on all city printing, and that all notices be published in newspapers be inserted in newspapers employing members of the Typographical Union and allied trades and authorized to use the allied label. Councilman Stewart announced that the resolution was introduced by request, and on his motion it was referred to the city attorney for an opinion as to its legality. The resolution is as follows:

"Be it ordained by the mayor and the city council of Lincoln, Nebraska:

"Section 1. That all printing used and ordered by the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, shall bear the imprint of the recognized union label of the allied printing trades council of Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Section 2. That all advertisements of said Lincoln, Nebraska, required by law to be published in any newspaper in Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, shall be published in, and contract for publishing same shall be let to some newspaper employing members of the said International Typographical Union and Allied Printing Trades and authorized by said Allied Printing Trades Council to use the label and imprint of said Allied Printing Trades Council.

"Section 3. All bids may be rejected if deemed too high by the said city of Lincoln, Nebraska, or if bidders are deemed irresponsible by said city, and all printing shall be let to the lowest and best bidder, subject to the rules and regulations hereinbefore specified.

"Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance shall hereby be repealed."

TO TRADE UNIONISTS' WIVES.

"Ladies do you ever realize that the carpet on your floor, the pictures on the wall, the organ or piano, and all the luxuries you may be enjoying, you owe to the labor unions?" This is followed with other injunctions. This brings up the question of the labor leaders' wives and their duties, or their sacrifices, and the question arises: Who makes the sacrifice nowadays in the labor movement? One needs but to ask the wife of the average labor leader, local or general, and they will all cite the same story of "late hours, out nearly every night, and rarely home with his family." It is not at all pleasant for the wife of a laboring man to be alone with her family and numerous duties all day, seeing her husband simply at meals, and then have him out again at night, and keep this up week in and week out. The real sacrificers are not the labor leaders, but in reality their wives, who are too often left alone.—Blacksmith's Journal.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' BALL.

A Successful Affair that Reflected Credit on the Electricity Boys.

The Electrical Workers' ball on February 10 was the successful result of a lot of hard work on the part of the membership, and socially and financially it was a triumph. The ball was held in Fraternity hall and nearly 150 couples were present, over fifty of whom participated in the grand march led by Mr. and Mrs. Caster.

The hall was tastefully decorated with multi-colored electric lights and during the evening the dancers were served with punch by a committee of hustling Electrical Workers who were too busy to dance. Another committee prepared the tables in the dining halls, and at 11:03 a fine luncheon was served to the union's members and guests.

Two handsome prizes were awarded during the course of the evening to the holders of lucky numbers. A fine gas range, donated by the Lincoln Gas and Electric company, went to Sanderson's shoe shop. A ton of coal was won by the Standard Meat Market. The music by Quick's orchestra was all that could be desired, and the evening was delightfully spent by the jolly crowd present. The committee having

the arrangements in charge are deserving of the thanks of all who attended.

THE LABEL LEAGUE.

Cold Weather Interferes but Something Will Soon Be Doing.

Owing to the extremely disagreeable weather the Label League held no meeting last Monday evening. The meeting on February 27, however, will be a rouser, and something will be doing to advance the interests of the organization. The organization committee of the Central Body is going to be put to work in building up interest in the league, and the members themselves will be aroused to renewed interest if possible.

Every union man's wife should be a member of the Ladies' Label League, and the union men would not lose anything by also becoming members under the associate membership plan. Properly supported the League could be of immense service in the cause of unionism.

A wise girl occasionally induces a young man she doesn't like to act as peacemaker for one she does.

A woman can change her mind a dozen times while a man is making his up once.