

Patronize
The Wageworker
Advertisers

THE WAGEWORKER

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

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The Labor Record of The Nebraska Legislature

If The Wageworker has at any time asserted that the present legislature has failed to enact any labor legislation, it here and now takes it back and apologizes.

The legislature of 1905 has made a record for the enactment of labor legislation, and that record will go thundering down the ages and be preserved in the archives of labor as long as time shall last. And when the heavens shall be rolled together as a parchment scroll; when Gabriel, leaving his post of duty by the side of the great white throne, shall stand forth with one foot upon the mighty land and the other upon the bottomless sea, proclaiming in thunder tones through his golden trumpet that times shall be no more, the record of the Nebraska legislature upon the labor question will rise up like a resurrected soul and be the wonder and the admiration of the heavenly hosts throughout all eternity.

The Nebraska legislature of 1905 enacted into law an eight-hour day for monkeys.

Hereafter it will be unlawful for a monkey to work more than eight hours a day in Nebraska. Men, women and children may be forced to toil from sun to sun, but the monkey is given the eight-hour day from now on.

Glorious news. Carry it around the world and emblazon it upon the banners that are flung upon the outer wall—Nebraska's legislature thinks more of monkeys than it does of human beings.

But perhaps that is natural. It is said that "a little fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind." We no longer doubt it, for the lawmakers of Nebraska have given ocular proof of the truth of the saying. What else but a "fellow feeling" could have induced a legislature that haughtily turned down every request of human workingmen to give the monkeys an eight-hour day?

The monkeys have no reason to complain. They were effectively and thoroughly represented in the Nebraska legislature. Blood is thicker than water.

A GREAT SMOKER.

The Allied Printing Trades of Omaha had a "smoker" last Saturday night, and it was a winner. There were fully 200 members of the allied trades present, and the feast of good things, material and intellectual, made it well worth while to be there. The editor of The Wageworker was there, and had Charley Righter along for company. Both of them were thrown down and union cigars thrust into their pockets. They were fed sandwiches and coffee until they had to loosen the straps on the back of their vests, and then they cheered the eight-hour day speeches until they were so hoarse they had to make signs to the hotel clerk.

William J. Bryan addressed the "session," over which Theodore McCullagh presided, and made an eight-hour day speech that brought out round after round of applause. E. Rosewater and G. M. Hitchcock both made rousing eight-hour day speeches, and both of them employ union men and observe the eight-hour day. Samuel Reese told the boys the eight-hour day would come only at the end of a fight, and he said he was ready to fight against it. The boys know Sam Reese, and they know he knows how to fight. But his brief remarks had the effect of shaking the confidence of the men and they are beginning to realize that they have a scrap on their hands. A guitar and mandolin club rendered sweet music, and the Elks quartet—two of whom are printers—sang well.

From a social standpoint the "session" was a huge success, and it will doubtless have a beneficial effect. Mr. Bryan made a hit by saying that he was not a member of any union, but he thought he was eligible to membership in the Stereotypers' Union, because he could prove by every republican organ and orator in the land that he made stereotyped speeches. And the stereotypers cheered louder than all the rest.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

The Central Labor Union transacted only routine business last Tuesday evening. It was decided to let the next convention of the American Federation of Labor attend to the matter of framing a constitution. Mr. Schiermeyer of the organization committee reported that there were 112 telegraph operators in the city, twelve of whom were employed by the Western Union and four by the Postal, the rest being employed on private and leased wires. He further reported that the outlook for organizing them was very poor. Mr. Schiermeyer was given credentials as a member of the central body, and as he expects to be in Deshler in a few days he will endeavor to do a little missionary work in the big broom factory at that place. Every union represented reported trade from good to excellent, and the outlook for the season reported as remarkably good.

An incipient effort to inject a little politics into the meeting was nipped in the bud by a point of order, but it was easily seen where the delegates all stood in relation to municipal politics this spring. The constitution of the Central Labor Union prohibits politics in its meetings, and the rule was rigidly adhered to.

An earnest appeal was made to all union men, and especially the members of the skilled trades, to stand by the laborers and help them in their efforts to organize.

DON'T FORGET SIMMONS.

If there are 1,800 union labor votes in Lincoln, and there are, Charley Simmons should poll exactly 1,800 union labor votes for city clerk. He is a union man. His unionism is practical and not theoretical, for he has long been affiliated with the Typographical Union, is a practical printer and a "square man." His ability to transact the business of the office if elected is beyond question.

The Wageworker has not one word to say against his opponent, Mr. Pratt, for Mr. Pratt is a good fellow and has made a good city clerk. But Mr. Simmons is just as good a fellow and will make just as good an official. And Simmons carries a union card. That ought to be sufficient recommendation to all union men when all other things are equal.

THROUGH WITH A WHOOP.

The resolution presented by the Allied Printing Trades to the city council, was read the third time last Monday night and adopted with but one dissenting vote, that of H. F. Bishop, who got real funny. The resolution was in effect that the city hereafter give its printing so far as possible to shops and newspapers having permission to use the Allied Printing Trades label. Mr. Bishop tried to be funny by moving an amendment to favor the Masonic and Grand Army of the Republic organizations. Mr. Bishop's efforts in the humor line created a hearty laugh from Mr. Bishop.

Councilman Stewart introduced the resolution and kept his eagle eye upon it until it was landed safely.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

A meeting was held Monday evening for the purpose of talking over the idea of organizing an allied council of the building trades, and all trades were represented. The matter was discussed in all of its bearings, and the general opinion was that such a council was badly needed, not only for the protection of the unions but for the protection and advantage of the fair employers.

Nothing definite was decided on, although good progress was made, and another meeting will be called in a few days.

FRANK W. BROWN

Why Union Men Should Vote For Him For Mayor of Lincoln

The municipal election will be held on April 4, therefore this is the last issue of The Wageworker before the battle of the ballots is fought. During the brief campaign that has been waged this newspaper has tried to honestly and carefully set forth what it believed to be the real facts in the case and the real issue at stake. It has endeavored to show that the so-called issue of license fee is merely a bugaboo raised by designing men and combines for the purpose of attracting attention away from the real issue.

The Wageworker has insisted, and still insists, that the attempt to make a difference of \$500 in the amount of the saloon license fee the vital issue of the campaign is an insult to intelligence and a shrewd trick turned for the purpose of deceiving the gullible. The real issue before the people is whether the next city administration shall be an administration for all the people, or an administration representing a faction of the dominant party—the faction that has axes to grind and with sanctimonious face and hypocritical whine asks the general public to turn its grindstone. In this campaign labor has a peculiar interest, for an opportunity is afforded labor—and especially union labor—to demonstrate that it will stand by its friends and give the support of their influence and their ballots to men who are fair employers of labor. Ever since its initial number The Wageworker has been striving to divorce the workingman from partisan politics and persuade him to vote in his own interests rather than in the interests of machine politicians. All things else being equal, a man should vote for his party candidates, but the union man who votes for partisan candidates who have shown no signs of friendship for union labor, and against men who have shown friendship for union labor, is untrue to himself and untrue to the cause of unionism.

In this campaign two men have been nominated for mayor. One of them has shown no particular friendship for union labor, save with his mouth—and even by his voice his disregard for the principles and plans of unionism has been shown on more than one occasion. Granted that Mr. Hutton has employed union men, and granted that he is not an antagonist of unionism, the fact still remains that he has given the unions of the building trades no encouragement or support, and as an employer his pay roll is very small.

On the other hand, Frank W. Brown is not only a large employer of labor, but he is a "closed shop" employer. Craftsmen who work for him must belong to the union of their craft, be it carpenter, painter or teamster. He not only urges men to join the union, but he insists that they do so before they are put upon his payroll. He employs nearly one hundred men, either as millmen, painters or teamsters, and every man so employed is a union man. His craft pay roll exceeds \$50,000 a year, and every dollar of this vast sum goes into the pockets of union men. He is outspoken in his advocacy of organization, and has no hesitancy in saying that he would rather deal with unions than with individuals when it comes to the matter of employing labor.

There is in existence an association of manufacturers having for its object the securing and the maintaining of the "open shop," knowing that the "open shop" means the ultimate destruction of the labor unions. These men want to destroy the unions because the unions prevent the exploitation of labor and the piling up of greater profits at the expense of those who toil. When Mr. Brown was urged to become a member of this association—and he was so asked—he emphatically declined, saying that he preferred union men because it insured him better workmen, better results and better profits.

Mr. Brown is accounted a man of considerable wealth, but every dollar has been made openly and above board and is the result of tireless energy coupled with business sagacity. He took hold of the Lincoln Sash and Door Mills when it was a broken down concern employing less than a dozen men. Today it is one of the big concerns of the city and gives employment to from 75 to 90 men—all of them union men and drawing the union scale or more. He has built up a splendid lumber business. He is interested in a number of other business enterprises. And in all of them he has used the same fair methods with labor. Recognition of the union is not an expedient with Mr. Brown. He did not seek the nomination for mayor. He is a candidate because the demand for a live, capable business man for mayor centered upon him as the most available man. And years before he ever dreamed of becoming a candidate for any office he recognized the unions, doing so, because he figured it out on a business basis and determined that he could get better returns for the money paid to labor by employing men whose union cards were evidence of their skill as workmen. He has seen no reason to change that view.

Mr. Brown is a successful business man—the kind of a man Lincoln needs at the head of the administration. Lincoln has outgrown the little politician, the self-seeker, the machine supporter and the theorist. The municipal business of Lincoln runs into the thousands of dollars every month, and that business needs the control of a thorough business man.

The Wageworker is supporting Mr. Brown for two reasons: He is a capable business man who will, if elected, give Lincoln a clean, businesslike administration. He has shown his friendship for labor organizations in a material way. These are reasons enough why not only union men should support him, but why he should receive the support of every voter who wants the business interests of Lincoln looked after by a business man. If the excise question cuts any figure at all, Mr. Brown's record as a member of the excise board shows where he stands. He stands for the strictest enforcement of the Cloumb high license law and the excise rules and regulations of the city. In a word, Frank W. Brown stands for a better and greater Lincoln. His every interest is here, and as a loyal citizen he will seek to do all that lies within his power to advance the material and moral welfare of the community.

The Wageworker believes that Mr. Brown will be elected. It believes it because it believes in the good judgment of the voters of Lincoln. It believes it because it has faith that the workingmen of the city will seize the opportunity to give their approval to a man who has shown himself to be a fair employer and a friend.

If the 1,700 union voters of Lincoln vote as a unit for a man who employs only union men—not because he has to, but because he has found it to his financial advantage to do so—then Frank W. Brown will be elected beyond a peradventure.

The election of Mr. Brown will do more to give union labor a standing in the political arena, more to make the machine politicians "sit up and take notice" than anything else that could happen.

The Wageworker appeals to all union men especially, and all voters in general, to cast their votes for Frank W. Brown.

Time That Union Labor Showed Its Voting Strength

The municipal election this spring affords union labor an excellent opportunity to show its strength, and at the same time advance the material welfare of the city. The election of Frank W. Brown will convince the most skeptical that the "labor vote" is a tangible fact, and make the union men of this city a factor to be reckoned with in future campaigns.

At more than one convention in this state the editor of The Wageworker has made a plea for the recognition of the union workingmen by the nomination of a union man upon the ticket, and every time he has met with a response something like this:

"O, what's the use? The ——— fools won't stick together."
That's the adjective used. "The ——— fools!" And it might just as well be admitted that the adjective is partly deserved, for we haven't stuck together like we should. As long as the labor vote is divided along partisan lines it will not be a force to be reckoned with. But when the labor vote is solidified in the interests of labor and good government, then it will be a force to be reckoned with—not only that, but a force that will swing elections.

In the present campaign union men are confronted by a condition. They are afforded an opportunity to vote for a man whose friendship for unionism is a matter of everyday demonstration. He employs nearly a hundred union men. He pays the union scale and better. He conducts a "closed shop" by insisting that a man must be a union man before he goes on his pay roll. He does this because he has found it advantageous to do so. The solid labor vote of Lincoln will elect this man mayor, and as mayor he will be in a position to be of material assistance to the cause of unionism while administering the affairs of the city on a business basis.

His election will demonstrate that in the future the workingmen of this city must be consulted, and that there are other forces in politics than the cheap politicians who meet in back rooms and fix up slates calculated to advance their own selfish interests. His election will demonstrate that the "—— fools" have learned something in the days gone by, and that henceforth the "—— fools" will be those who imagine that the labor vote can be divided on partisan lines as in the old days.

Two advantages are to be gained by electing Frank W. Brown mayor. One advantage will be the demonstration of the strength of the labor vote. But an even greater advantage will be that it will put a man of business ability at the head of the city administration, thus insuring business dealings, clean city government and rigid enforcement of the law regardless of favor.

What will the labor vote do about it?
Will the labor vote divide along partisan lines as it has too often done in the days gone by, and thus give the machine politicians proof that "the ——— fools won't stick together?"

Will the labor vote allow itself to be used as the tail to political kites flown by scheming politicians?

Or will the labor vote seize the opportunity to demonstrate its strength, to show its friendship for a "square man," and to secure a business administration for the beautiful city which we all love so well?

The Wageworker is not worrying much about the result. It opines that the labor vote will be a practically solid vote, and it believes it because it is convinced that a quiet revolution is going on in the ranks of labor all over the country.

"The ——— fools" are going to stand together, unless all signs fail. And when the victory is won and union men are rejoicing over the result and profiting by the object lesson, there will be no further talk about "the ——— fools" not sticking together.

A vote for Frank W. Brown is a vote in the interests of organized labor and the interests of good, clean able city administration.

THE LABEL LEAGUE.

The Women's Union Label League kept open house last Monday night and entertained a large number of guests. The occasion was an "open meeting" for the purpose of arousing interest in the work of the League, and the interest and enthusiasm manifested gave evidence that the effort was a success. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the presence of a large number of men and women who have not heretofore attended labor meetings of similar nature, and they enjoyed themselves so thoroughly that they may be depended upon to take part in future meetings of the same kind.

Mrs. S. J. Kent presided and announced the various features of the program. Mr. Maupin, Mr. Kent, Mr. Kelsey, Mr. Schiermeyer and Mr. Swanson made brief talks on union lines, and each speaker laid especial stress upon the good work for unionism that the women could do and were doing.

The Misses Turner rendered a piano duet and were liberally applauded, and little Misses Dorothea and Rachel Swanson sang a duet in a manner that won for them warm praise. Miss Schamp recited and added much to the interest of the program. Master Lawrence Kent, who was so little that his head barely showed above the table when he stood on a chair, sang a couple of songs and brought down the house. Then he had to sing another one, and when that was finished he was compelled to recite something. As a matter of fact, Master Lawrence was the bright particular star, both because of his ability and his youth.

Punch and ladyfingers were served in abundance, and a social good time followed the set program. Several old-fashioned quadrilles were danced, and the spectators had as much fun out of them as the participants did.

The social was a great success from every point of view and will doubtless result in a largely increased membership for the League. The Women's Union Label League is an organization that should have a membership of a thousand in Lincoln, and if union men knew what the league could do for unionism with such a membership every one of them would resolve himself into a hustling committee and see that the membership was brought up to that figure. The League is yet small numerically, but it is cutting a big figure in the work of unionism by its insistent demand for the label.

A MASS MEETING.

There was an impromptu mass meeting of union men at Red Ribbon hall last Tuesday evening. It was called immediately after the meeting of the Central Labor Union, and was participated in by more than half a hundred men.

Several rousing good talks were made, and the desirability of standing together in the present campaign was emphasized by every speaker. One speaker thoughtlessly referred to "cheap labor," and the result was a call-down that shook the building. The offending member apologized and explained that what he meant was unskilled labor, and things went on smoothly thereafter. But the episode served to arouse the union spirit and the need of more thorough organization of the unskilled workingmen was made very evident.

Insofar as politics was concerned the meeting was very one-sided. A motion was made to endorse Frank W. Brown for mayor, but it was lost. Then some one asked that all who advocated Mr. Brown's election stand up, and every man present arose with a whoop.

"The meeting was called right after the Central Labor Union meeting," explained one man, "and we voted down the resolution because we did not want it to go out that the central body endorsed any candidate. But we are all for Brown, just the same."