

State Historical Society

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The Wageworker
Advertisers

THE WAGEWORKER

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

VOL. 2

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NO. 2

Concerning the Label

Here's a proposition that no sane union man can deny: If every union man and woman in the country would for twelve consecutive months demand the union label on all that they buy, and refuse to buy unless the label was in evidence, the battle of organized labor would be won.

If you are not insisting upon the label you are untrue to the obligation you took when you joined the union. Can you explain the difference between being a "scab" and patronizing "scab" goods? Can you show any consistency in the idea of demanding that union men patronize your label while you refuse to patronize the label of another union?

Look here, Mr. Carpenter! You "holler your head off" if a union cigarmaker employs a "scab" carpenter. But that cigar you are fondling between your teeth was made by the American Tobacco Co., the rankest "scab" outfit in America.

Look here, Mr. Printer! "You holler your head off" if you found a lot of printed matter from the United Hatters of North America without the label on it. But you are one of those fellows who "have to have a Stetson hat" because you just can't wear any other kind, and the Stetson hat is the chief of "scab" hats.

Look here, Mr. Teamster! You "holler your head off" if you catch a union man receiving for coal delivered by a non-union teamster, but that suit of clothes you have on was made in a sweat shop by women and children whose wage averages less than 3 cents an hour.

Look here, Mr. Bricklayer! You "holler your head off" if you see a fellow unionist giving employment to a "scab" bricklayer, yet the tobacco you are chewing is "scab" and the shoes you are wearing were made in a penitentiary by convict labor.

Hell is full of just such union men. There was a meeting of union men in Lincoln one night last week, and out of twenty men present 25 per cent wore scab hats. Probably 50 per cent or more wore "scab" clothing. Did we say a "meeting of union men?" beg pardon; we meant to say a meeting of men who claimed to be unionists.

Wake up and get into the union game! If you are going to "scab" on your fellow workman at least have the courage to do it in the open and quit doing it under cover. The professional strike-breaker is no worse than the alleged union man who is a chronic buyer of "scab" goods because he can get them cheaper or because he has a favorite merchant who does not handle union made goods.

When you go into a store to buy a hat, or a suit of clothes, or a pair of shoes, don't be content with just looking to see if the label is there. When you go in some smiling and obsequious clerk will come forward and ask:

"What can I do for you today?" That's your chance. Take right hold of it and say: "I want a hat, and it must have the label of the United Hatters of North America. If you haven't got that kind of a hat, say so, and I'll go somewhere else where they do have it."

That's the kind of union boosting that counts. Don't take "something just as good" without the label, for if you do you buy a gold brick—there is nothing "just as good." There is nothing quite so good as the union label.

Look on the inside of the shoe at the arch of the instep and see if the label of the Boot and Shoe Workers is there. If it is not, pass it up. Demand a shoe with that label in it, and march out of the store if you don't get it. By that time a dozen or more of you do that Mr. Merchant gets busy, and he hustles around for shoes that he can sell you.

Look on the inside breast pocket of the coat and see if the label of the United Garment Workers is there. If it is not, pass it up and demand something that has got that label. If you don't get it, march out like a union man and a gentleman. By the time a dozen or more of you have done that little trick Mr. Clothing Merchant begins to scratch his head and think.

It ought to tickle any union man to be able to play that game. Nine-tenths of you would walk twice around the block to get your favorite brand of chewing or smoking tobacco, wouldn't you? And yet a whole lot of you wouldn't walk forty feet to get a labeled suit, shoe, hat or shirt.

If it requires any measure of skill or ingenuity to make any article, that article is made somewhere by union labor. Get the union made article or go without.

Get a little of your unionism off your card and into your head. Get some of the unionism out of your pocketbook and into your heart. The Wageworker abhors profanity, and tries to cultivate a mild and forgiving disposition. But the more it thinks of it the madder it gets. Damn the unionism of the union member who won't always, at all times, and under all circumstances, demand the union label!

Regular meeting of the Central Labor Union next Tuesday evening. Let every affiliated union be represented by full delegations.

HATTERS WAGE WARM WARFARE.

Their Representative Meets With Cordial Reception From All the Union Men in Lincoln.

Mr. Flynn, representing the United Hatters of North America spent several days in Lincoln last week and this, and during his stay put in some splendid licks for his organization in particular and unionism in general. Mr. Flynn is a fluent and easy speaker and knows the union game from start to finish. Last Friday night he appeared before the Central Labor Union at its special meeting, on Monday night he talked to the Union Teamsters, and on Tuesday night he addressed a splendid meeting of Union Carpenters.

Mr. Flynn confines his remarks to strictly union lines and he preaches good union doctrine. In addition, he works a mighty smooth game that can not help being of service to unionism in general. After explaining the position of the United Hatters of North America and the fight they are waging against unfair manufacturers, he gave a short explanation of his union's label.

"Now, gentlemen," says he, "while I pass these cards around, if you will show me the label in your hat I will tell you whether it is genuine or counterfeit. There are many counterfeit labels on the market, and it is well that you be posted."

Of course he always finds a lot of "scab" hats, and when his investigation in concluded he makes some remarks about union members who patronize "scab" hat makers, and the remarks smell of brimstone. The boys always take it good naturedly, but they will remember it, just the same.

Mr. Flynn says his union is centering its fight on the Henry B. Roelofs company of Philadelphia, that company having discharged, all union men and hired scabs, and leading the fight against the union haters. The Armstrong Clothing Co. has been handling the Roelof hat, and last Saturday a committee from the Central Labor Union accompanied Mr. Flynn to see Mr. Armstrong. The conference was very short. Mr. Flynn explained, and Mr. Armstrong said:

"Gentlemen, I will quit handling that hat. I want to do the right thing."

"Thank you, sir," said Mr. Flynn.

The union men of Lincoln should bear this little incident in mind. When union men put in less time "knocking" their enemies and more time "boosting" their friends they will be better off.

Mr. Flynn expresses himself as immensely pleased with his visit to Lincoln, and certainly the union men who have had the pleasure of meeting him and listening to him are glad that he came and hope he will come again soon.

THAT UNION BAND.

No Reason Why Union Men Should Not Have One Here.

There is no reason why the union men of Lincoln should not have a brass and reed band of their own. There is enough musical talent within the ranks of organized labor in Lincoln to make a band that would be second to none in this western country.

If these men could be brought together for consultation The Wageworker believes the result would be the speedy organization of a band that would be a credit to unionism and to the city. The matter is worth considering, and in order to get things started The Wageworker makes the following proposition:

Let every union man who has been a member of a band at some time in the past, or is now a member, send his name and address to The Wageworker, stating the instrument played and length of experience. When enough names have been secured to warrant an attempt at permanent organization due notice will be given and a meeting held.

"Do it now" is a good motto in any line of business, therefore do not postpone action on this matter. Address "The Wageworker, 1216 G Street, City."

INFLUENCE OF TRADE UNIONS.

Helpful in Americanizing and Bettering Industrial Conditions.

The influence of trades unions upon immigrants is the subject upon which Carroll D. Wright tried to secure information in a recent investigation of the Chicago stock yards. His finding is that the unions are helpful in Americanizing and bettering the conditions of the Poles, Bohemians, Lithuanians, and Slovaks, who form so large a percentage of the laborers. Before the unions were organized, each race kept closely to itself. It had its own church, its own schools, its own benevolent associations, its own social life. It attempted, when the unions were started, to organize these also on race lines. The leaders, however, objected, and, for the first time, Irishmen, Germans, Poles, Bohemians, and the rest were forced to mingle—to hold common meetings, to learn a common tongue, and to take common action. To a certain extent, also, the unions have been educators in political science. Here the eastern immigrant first learns the value of his vote, and gets some vague notion of his relation to the state. Again, through the union he seeks to improve his condition. Better wages, shorter hours, better homes, better clothes, large opportunities for himself and children—these, according to Mr. Wright, are the staple subjects of talk at the union meetings. Pushed to the extreme, these ideas may have unfortunate results; but in general the lesson is a valuable one. Similar influences, Mr. Wright would discover, are operating in New York, especially in the clothing trades. The Jewish workmen do not take naturally to the trades-union idea. They join in large numbers when some prominent issue, like the open shop or a wage increase, is at stake; and then, after the crisis is passed, drop out. In the quiet seasons the unions, with decreased membership, do exist, but usually as social organizations and debating societies. With the temperate Hebrew they often take the place of the saloon as the

FRANK AND SAM.

Two Gallant Servants That Deserve to Be Liberally Pensioned.

Frank and Sam are only horses. But for eighteen years they have been willing and faithful servants to their employer, the city of Lincoln. For eighteen years they have run to fires, carried sick and maimed to hospital and home, and carried the dead to the morgue. For eighteen years they have sprung under the harness at the sound of the gong and chased away with the patrol wagon to bring in the festive cyster and the violator of the law. Having no union, Frank and Sam have been compelled to stand on duty twenty-four hours a day during all these eighteen years, and they are just as ready and willing now as they were the day they first responded to the alarm.

But Frank and Sam are old. They have worked through more than twenty summers and winters, and now they are old and physically unable to meet the tasks that their spirits are still willing to undertake. They are soon to be let out to make room for younger horses. Shall Sam and Frank be allowed to throw their massive chests against the collars and draw dirt wagons over the steets they have so long galloped over with the blue coats in the wagon behind? To allow it would be a shame and a disgrace. Such faithful old servants deserve the very best that can be given them. They deserve to graze in the lush grasses of the pasture during the remainder of their summers, and contentedly munch oats and hay in warm box stalls during the few winters that yet remain to them.

The Wageworker proposes a sum to pension them—enough of a sum so that the interest thereon will keep them in comfort the remainder of their lives. It would not take much, and The Wageworker will give its mite. What say you?

George R. Bookman, advertising manager of the union clothing manufacturing firm of Kohn Bros., Chicago, was in Lincoln last Saturday and made a pleasant call upon The Wageworker.

THE AUXILIARY SOCIAL.

Last Wednesday evening Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209 gave its April social at Bohanon's hall. Something seems to have struck the printer man of Lincoln, for about thirty of him turned out to the social, this being about twenty-six more than the average. As a result of the large attendance the social was the most enjoyable in the long list of enjoyable socials given by this enterprising and womanly adjunct to the cause of unionism. The women who have toiled earnestly to make the Auxiliary a winner, and who have had to encounter the seeming neglect of the men, who should have been most interested in their success, were immensely pleased with the splendid attendance Wednesday night, for not less than 100 people were present.

In the early hour of the evening the men gathered in a circle and told stirring tales of the old days when "I got 50 cents a thousand in Butte" or "the time I lit in Denver"; and the ladies gathered in another circle and talked about the weather and the probability of rain on Easter Sunday and how to make the Auxiliary better than ever.

At 8:30 Fred Ihringer assumed the position of chairman of the evening and announced the program. Mrs. Rhone and Miss Howe with guitar and mandolin rendered two selections, and later rendered another, much to the delight of the audience. Miss Hazel Smith, accompanied by Miss Shaw on the piano, rendered two difficult piccolo solos and was warmly applauded. Mrs. Walter Leese, accompanied by Mrs. Sheldon on the piano, favored the gathering with two vocal solos and earned the hearty applause bestowed. Bert Wilson gave a correct imitation of a Georgia negro in the old days before the war and won encomiums enough to fill a hay wagon. W. M. Maupin read some rhymes perpetrated in honor of the Auxiliary.

Following the program luncheon was announced and this was a feature of the program worthy of more extended notice. The tables were neatly laid and the dining room took on the appearance of a banquet hall. It might be stated here that Bohanon's hall is the prettiest little hall in town for gatherings of this kind, and the conveniences are unsurpassed.

After luncheon a guessing contest was engaged in and Mrs. Will Bustard and Mrs. Will Norton won the first and second prizes. Then dancing was indulged in until it was time to "paste up." Dance music was rendered by Mr. Hagensick, whose ability as a pianist is fast becoming recognized in this city.

The committee having the April social in charge is entitled to praise from the guests and the thanks of the Auxiliary for their tireless efforts in making the occasion the most successful in the history of the organization. This is said of every social given by this enterprising organization, and said with equal truth each time, for each succeeding social is better and more enjoyable than its predecessor.

"CLEAN HANDS."

A Newspaper That Looks Only on One Side of the Shield.

A significant statement appears in the last bulletin of the New York State Department of Labor. It reads as follows:

"On the oft-discussed subject of the attitude of the courts on labor legislation, Chief Judge Cullen, in his opinion in the eight-hour case, took occasion to declare his apprehension that 'the many outrages of labor organizations or of some of their members have not only excited just indignation, but at times have frightened courts into plain legal inconsistencies and into the enunciation of doctrines which, if as asserted in litigations arising under any other subject than labor legislation, would meet scant courtesy or consideration.' Whether or not workingmen shared this opinion in the past, it is clear that many labor leaders now find themselves in agreement with the chief judge of the Court of Appeals in respect to the cause of the legal inconsistencies upon which he dwells at some length in his recent opinion. Thus the organ of the International Typographical Union, the Buffalo branch of which, after a five years' legal contest, has recently established in the Court of Appeals its legal right to strike in order to secure the discharge of a workman who refused to join the union, affirms that the lesson learned in the prolonged contest 'is that labor litigation will get a square deal if it comes to the law with clean hands.'"

The significance of this statement lies in the two words "clean hands." The attitude of organized labor toward the courts has been largely that of hostility. The labor unions have felt that they were not fairly treated by the courts and they have objected strongly to the frequent injunctions that have been issued to prevent them from violence and other unlawful acts in order to achieve the ends sought by their strikes and boycotts. But at least one great organization of labor has learned the lesson that organized labor will get "a square deal" from the courts if it will come to the law with "clean hands."

That is an important lesson to learn. Clean hands in this case means absence from violence and unlawful methods of coercion. As long as labor unions will refrain from such violence and unlawful means they should get exact and full justice in the courts. The courts of the United States have recently shown by their decisions that they intend to hold the corporations to strict observance of law and they will hold organized labor to the same requirement.—Ohio State Journal.

SQUARE CIGAR DEALERS.

These Do Not Handle Cigars on the Printers' Black List.

The union printers continue their warfare on the Henry George and George W. Childs cigars, and as a result these two brands are rapidly disappearing from the city. The Wageworker carries no cigar dealers' advertisements, but the following firms are cheerfully given this measure of publicity because they do not handle the George and Childs cigars and do handle a full line of union made goods:

- Joe R. Oppenheimer, 1425 O street.
- Alex Stewart, 115 N. 14th street.
- Stevens & Neville, 1330 O street.
- Ed. Fagan, 1226 O street.
- Annex, 1131 O street.
- Steve Carveth, 922 P street.
- John Blum, South 10th street.
- Hefley, 316 South 11th street.
- P. Wohlenberg, 123 South 11th street.
- Capital Cigar Co., 134 South 11th street.
- Wolf, 105 South 11th street.
- Royle & Walker, 1028 O street.
- Herminghaus & Helwig, 122 South 10th street.
- T. A. Burke, 135 North 12th street.
- M. H. Hickman, 14th and P streets.
- Fred Brittle, 23d and O streets.
- Wm. Seelenfreund, 926 S streets.

DOWN COUNTRY LANES.

A book of verse by Byron Williams, editor of the Western Publisher, is soon to be issued by the International Press Association, 65 Plymouth Place, Chicago, Ill. To those familiar with the sweet simplicity of Mr. Williams' style, this announcement will bring pleasant anticipation; for many readers, ere this, have accepted his invitation in "The Old Cross-Road" to "Come with me by the old cross-road That leads to Uncle Bill's; Down this way through a dreamland filled With peace that God instills"—and have revelled in clouds and country air to the joy of hearts that yearned for boyhood and the home "back yonder." Dearborn Melville, the talented Chicago artist, has illustrated the volume with sixty full page pictures of rustic life. "Down Country Lanes" promises to be both unique and popular. Prettily bound in cloth \$1.25, postage 12 cents extra.

Carpenters' Big Time

Last Tuesday night the Carpenters' Union had an open meeting at its hall, and the meeting was thrown open to the non-unionists. The meeting was one of the largest labor gatherings ever held in Lincoln and is bound to be productive of results beneficial to unionism. A large number of union men of other crafts were present, and several non-union carpenters accepted the friendly invitation extended to them.

Mr. Flynn of the United Hatters of North America made a short talk and then Mr. S. J. Kent, business agent of the union, gave a talk on the objects and aims of the Carpenters' Union. He showed how the organization had benefitted the craft at large, and pointed out what it hoped to do in the future. He made a direct appeal to the non-union men to get inside the organization and help elevate the standard of the craft, and further the social, financial and moral welfare of all connected with the great industry. He briefly traced the history of the organization, which has, like all other trades unions, had its ups and downs, but which now is decidedly on the "up." He told of early conditions in Lincoln and contrasted the 10-hour day of that early period with the 8-hour day of the present time, and showed that the improved conditions were the result of the toil and sacrifices and efforts of the men who had made the Carpenters' Union what it is today.

Mr. Kent's address was listened to with great interest, for he is a pleasing speaker and always presents reasons for the union faith that is in him. President Kelsey, of the Central Labor Union, and the editor of The Wageworker spoke briefly on union lines. A pleasing feature of the open meeting was the presence of Mr. Burbank, one of the new members of the firm operating the Lincoln Sash and Door mills. Mr. Burbank spoke briefly and told the carpenters to "get 'em all in." He said he was not well posted on unionism and then added: "But if you are going to have a union of carpenters at all, get every competent carpenter into it. Employers are willing to pay high wages, even higher than they now pay, if they are assured that their competitors in business have to pay the same."

Mr. Kent announced that the union had passed the 250 mark in point of membership, and it was learned that the union will obligate nine or more new members at the regular meeting next Tuesday night.

The Carpenters' Union has met with a great many serious obstacles in its path, but it has met them conservatively and handled them with good judgment. The result is that its position is growing stronger every day.

Regular meeting of the Central Labor Union next Tuesday evening. Let every affiliated union be represented by full delegations.

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

Call For a Meeting For the Purpose of Organizing a Woman's Auxiliary.

On Sunday, April 30, at 2:30 p. m., a meeting will be held at A. O. U. W. hall, 1005 O street, to which all members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the wives of members and the widows of former members are cordially invited, to discuss the matter of forming an Auxiliary to Division No. 98, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

It is intended at this meeting, which it is hoped will be well attended, to settle upon an opportune time for the inauguration of said Auxiliary, and to make such plans and preparations for the same as will make the event a pleasurable and a memorable one.

WOMAN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE.

Will Meet in Regular Session Monday Evening to Transact Some Important Business.

The Woman's Union Label League will meet at Central Labor Union hall Monday evening. It is to be hoped that a full attendance will be had, as matters of importance are billed for discussion. Among other things to be considered is the instructions to be given to the delegate, Mrs. Kent, who will represent the League at the international convention in Chicago next June. There are some important amendments to the constitution to be considered, and every active member should be present and participate in the discussion.

The Wageworker urges every union man and woman in the city

SPEAKING OF YOUR HAT.

There are 300 union hat factories in the United States, and only six "scab" hat factories. A union made hat is about the easiest thing in the union line to obtain. In fact, it looks as if a man really had to hunt for a "scab" hat in order to get one. And yet a representative of the United Hatters of North America discovered that about 25 per cent of Lincoln's union men were wearing "scab" hats. Here is a list of "scab" hat manufacturers in this country:

- John B. Stetson, Philadelphia.
- Knox Hat Company, Brooklyn.
- Henry B. Roelofs, Philadelphia.
- Waring Hat Co., Yonkers, N. Y.
- Marshall Hat Co., Fall River, Mass.
- D. E. Lowe, Danbury, Conn.

Every union made hat has the label stitched under the sweatband opposite the bow. Every label has its four edges perforated like a postage stamp. If the edges are not perforated and the label not stitched with a few stitches, it is bogus and should be passed up. Is your hat union made or "scab"?

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The Easter Number of the Omaha Western Laborer was without doubt the finest issue of a labor paper ever sent out in the country. We speak advisedly, for we have seen them all. Mrs. Frank Kennedy, president of the International Auxiliary to the Typographical Union, took charge, hustled all the advertising, whipped all the copy into shape and transacted all the business, and the result demonstrates that she possesses superior ability both as a business woman and as an editor. The edition was printed in Inland Printer style on superior paper and had a covering in keeping with the Easter time. When the Wageworker gets out its regular Labor Day number it will strive to appear as well as the Easter number of the Western Laborer—better it could not hope to do.

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SUES UNION FOR DAMAGES.

James Garvin has an idea that he is going to get hold of \$75,000 and have a high old time at the expense of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union. He has brought suit for that amount in the superior court of Cook county, Illinois. Garvin was fined for an infraction of the rule of the local union and refused to pay the fine. As a result he found himself without a job. Now he alleges that he was "blacklisted" and wants the \$75,000 as damages. Garvin says he can not get work, and as a result his wife has to take in washing to support the family.

We feel sorry for Mrs. Garvin, not only because she has to support the family by taking in washing, but because she is married to a man who would rather see her wash than to pay a fine assessed against him by his union. Doubtless Garvin is willing that she should wash until he gets the money.