

Patronize
The Wagerworker
Advertisers

THE WAGEWORKER

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

VOL. 2

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, APRIL 28, 1905

NO. 3

Will Affiliate With Ministers

Inclement weather was the cause of a small attendance upon the meeting of the Central Labor Union Tuesday night, but those who were present heard things that will repay them for their energy in braving the elements. Mr. Flynn of the United Hatters of North America made an interesting talk, during which he pleaded for more united action among labor organizations and more interest in the use of the union label. The Labor Temple committee reported, and suggested that a stock company be formed, but insisted that nothing could be done until the people knew what kind of a building it was proposed to erect. In order to show this, the chairman insisted, it would be necessary to secure architect's plans, and they would cost money. There was some discussion of the report, then it was accepted and the committee instructed to make further investigation.

Then arose a matter that promises to be of great importance to the cause of organized labor in Lincoln—the adoption of resolutions asking the Ministerial Union of the city to exchange fraternal delegates with the Central Labor Union. There was practically no opposition to the resolution, the only objection coming from a delegate who raised the question of the resolution's constitutionality, claiming that the ministerial delegates could not be admitted because they were not members of organized wage earners affiliating with the American Federation of Labor. It was held that since the resolution provided only for an exchange of fraternal delegates who would be without vote, the constitution did not prohibit the exchange and the admission of the ministers. On motion the following delegates from the central body were elected to meet with the Ministerial Union in case the ministers accepted the proposition: President T. C. Kelsey, Jesse E. Mickel and Will M. Maupin. Following is a copy of the resolution:

"Whereas, Central Labor Unions in various cities of the country have exchanged fraternal delegates with the Ministerial Unions of their respective cities, and

"Whereas, There seems to be a misunderstanding as to organized labor's aims and objects prevalent among ministers and laymen of the churches of this country, and

"Whereas, Organized labor should not hesitate to seize every opportunity to make its mission known of all men and to disabuse the minds of those who seem to be laboring under the delusion that labor unions are unchristian and opposed to the work of the churches, and

"Whereas, This body, representing the organized workmen of the city of Lincoln, is anxious to join hands with any and all influences calculated to work to the moral, physical and financial good of those who toil, therefore be it

"Resolved, That this body select three delegates from among its members and accredit them as fraternal delegates to the Ministerial Union of this city, asking the Ministerial Union to take the same action. And be it further

"Resolved, That these fraternal delegates if exchanged, be given the privileges of the floor but without vote, to the end that there may be, if possible, a better understanding between a body organized to look after the material welfare of its members and a body organized for the purpose of furthering the spiritual condition of those under its immediate charge.

"Resolved, That this body tender to the Ministerial Union its well wishes in any work it may undertake having for its aim the betterment of present day conditions, disregarding man-made creeds, personal schisms and interference with that measure of personal liberty guaranteed not only by the Book of Books but by the laws of the land.

"Resolved, That this body tender to the Ministerial Union of Lincoln and through its members to the whole body of earnest and consistent Christian people, assurances of its consideration and the hope that when organized labor and its aims are better known of all men the church will join with organized labor in the work of making more endurable the life of the toiler, and making it possible for him to enjoy the rewards of the hereafter all the more by reason of having had some experience in the matter of enjoying rewards while in the flesh."

Reports of "state of trade" disclosed a good condition of affairs. The reports standing from "fair" to "excellent." An appeal from the Garment Workers of Louisville, Ky., who are locked out by the "Ox Breeches Co.," was read and a committee appointed to call on merchants who may be handling the company's product.

Herman Bros., wholesale hatters of Lincoln, were reported as handling a large line of non-union hats, many of them carrying bogus labels. Mr. Flynn reported that the head of the firm refused to consider the idea of throwing out the bogus labels, declaring that he was after the dollars and didn't care a rap about bogus labels or any other kind of labels so long as the firm got the money. This matter is mentioned in order that organized labor may know what to do when it meets up with a retail firm that patronizes the Herman Bros. jobbery.

A QUESTION OF ETIQUETTE.

Union Men Would Do Well to Stop and Think About It a Minute or Two.

Look here, Mr. Union Man! If an acquaintance of yours gave a party and didn't invite you, would you have the nerve to go anyhow merely because you were acquainted with the host? If your neighbor's wife gave a "pink tea" and did not invite your wife, would she go anyhow, presuming on the fact that she knew the hostess?

Not much! Neither of you would be guilty of such a breach of etiquette. You would not go where you were not invited, would you?

Well, how about trading with the merchants who do not think enough of your patronage to ask you for it? How about walking into their stores and giving them your patronage when they failed to send you an invitation and did send it to another class? The Wagerworker strives to represent union labor in Lincoln. The merchant who advertises in these columns does so in order to invite union men to his store. Why not go where you are invited, and pass up the stores that tender you no invitation as union men?

"O. Catchem & Skinem carry a good line of union goods," says one.

To be sure. And Mr. Ronaldson DeSmyth served ice cream, cake, champagne and cocktails, too, but he didn't invite you, although you would like to enjoy those things.

But Fairplay & Goodservice also carry a good line of union goods and they invite you to visit them. Why not accept the invitation? Do business with your friends. Patronize the merchant who wants the trade of union men enough to ask for it through a newspaper that tries to be of service to organized labor.

There are a number of clothing stores in town, and doubtless all of them carry some union goods. But only two of them invite you through The Wagerworker to patronize them—the Armstrong Clothing Co., and the Lincoln Clothing Co. Why not accept the invitation and pass up the stores that don't think enough of your trade to invite it?

Stop and think of these things a little bit. Perhaps you will be able to see how the whole body of organized labor will be helped by putting this little hint into active practice.

The courts decide that the "closed shop" is illegal. The courts hold that a law fixing the length of a day's work is unconstitutional. And then the capitalists who have "pull" enough to secure the appointment of judges hold up their hands in holy horror and complain that the laboring men of the country "have no respect for the courts." Isn't it truly awful?



Now what can it be that these men are preparing for?

—By Courtesy of The Progressive Printer.

THE PRINTERS

All Eyes Turned on Chicago for the Beginning of the Struggle

The chief interest in the struggle for the eight-hour day is centering on the situation in Chicago. The Chicago union's contract with the employing printers expires in July, and the Typothaete is framing up a fierce opposition to the "closed shop." The Chicago Typothaete is strengthening its lines in every possible place, and the Typographical union is by no means idle. It is generally recognized among union men that the result in Chicago will have a most important bearing on the outcome of the national struggle. If the Chicago printers lose out—and they are getting in shape for a great struggle—it will make the accomplishment of the international's object more difficult elsewhere. But if Chicago wins out the work will be easier.

Next to Chicago St. Louis presents the most interesting situation, and then comes Omaha. The locals in these cities are all active and making great preparations for the struggle.

B. W. Baney has taken out a withdrawal card and has gone to McCook to accept work.

Mr. Wayne is a new sub on the Journal. He came in from Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Charley Righter has received the bill for his new machine and expects to have it in position before the end of the month.

A new machine will soon be placed in the Woodruff-Collins printery.

A. L. Gale, managing editor of the Star and an honorary member of Lincoln Typographical Union, has been rusticated in the wilds of Texas for a week. He accompanied the governor's party to the Lone Star state.

"Farmer" Coffey and "Agriculturist" Mickel were welcome callers at The Wagerworker office Wednesday, bringing their own cigars with them. This made their visit doubly welcome. The session lasted from A to Z.

The race for delegate is remarkable for its quietness. The only real interesting thing about the race is the fact that there are three candidates.

At the meeting on May 7 candidates for local officers for the following six months will be nominated.

There will be but one more meeting before Memorial day and the union should take some measures to appropriately observe the day. The observance of memorial day last year was a success, but this year's observance should be much better.

Printers are on strike at Meridan, Conn.

Bert Pentzer was making some improvements on his sand hill farm in Cherry county last week.

The Journal book chapel is now working a night machine shift, and Dick Arm is manipulating the iron man.

Tom Dunn is taking a lay-off from

his apprenticeship at the Journal, pending the overhauling of his mill.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY

Interest in the Organization is Growing Greater All the Time

Capital Auxiliary-No. 11 met in regular session at the home of Mrs. Brown April 21. The meeting was largely attended. It seems that the interest in the organization is growing, and the members are taking a more active part. Part of the business transacted was the nomination of candidates for delegates to the Toronto convention. The election will take place at the next meeting.

A committee was appointed to arrange for the May social, and it is hoped that it will be as largely attended as the April social, which was the largest in the history of the organization.

After the business meeting Mrs. Brown served a dainty luncheon to her guests. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Freeman, 1240 D street.

MRS. WATHAN.

THE PRESSMEN

Visited by a Delegation of Omaha Press Feeders for a Conference

The Pressmen's and Assistants' Union held a special meeting last Saturday night for the purpose of meeting with a committee from the Omaha Press Feeders' Union. The Omaha union is very anxious to get the Lincoln and Omaha scales somewhere near equal, and their especial effort was centered in securing a change in the proposed Lincoln scale from time and a quarter to time and a half for overtime. The matter was discussed in all its bearings, and the Omaha visitors assured that Lincoln union was not laying down, although it was pointed out that until the local was recognized it was not timely to talk about insisting upon any material concessions. After the conference was ended a social time was enjoyed by all present and the Omaha visitors were cared for in a manner that left nothing to be desired.

The scale committee is still at work, and while things are not progressing as rapidly as hoped for, yet progress is being made. It is generally expected that an agreement will be reached within a very few weeks.

The pressmen and assistants have never been formally recognized in Lincoln, and the union is now bending every energy to secure it. The contract made by the Typographical Union has materially aided in this work and the local is happy in the idea that it is making material progress.

Boost the Label.

If every member of organized labor in this country would practice labor and simple unionism for a period of six months, there would not be a shelf in a store in the country that would not be teeming with union label goods.—Coopers' Journal.

THE CARPENTERS

Brother Hensley's Appointment Meets With Hearty Approval

The local Carpenters' Union rejoices with Mr. Hensley in his appointment by Mayor Brown as street commissioner. Mr. Hensley was one of four union men whose names were presented to Mayor Brown with the assurance that the appointment of one would be gratifying to union men of the city, and the selection of Mr. Hensley is a tribute to his standing and to his ability. He has been an earnest working member of the union for many years, and those who know him best are assured that he will give the city good service and reflect credit upon unionism.

The St. Joseph union reports a steady increase in membership and a constant strengthening of the union spirit. Conditions in the Missouri town are daily growing brighter and better.

Janesville, Wis., carpenters are on strike.

Washington, D. C., carpenters report that conditions in the nation's capital were never better.

Members of the Elgin, Ill., building trades are on strike for recognition by the contractors.

Two months ago the building contractors of Trenton, N. J., organized an "open shop" association and announced with a flourish of trumpets that no more union contracts would go. They then sat down and waited for the unions to surrender. The union men smiled and waited. Competent men refused to work and the contractors began tearing their hair. Finally one or two contractors broke away. Then some more. Then came a stampede. The union men are all at work under union contracts and the inept Parry association is a thing of the past.

VAST IMPROVEMENTS

Nebraska Telephone Company Putting Its Wires Underground

The Nebraska Telephone Co. is spending in the neighborhood of \$100,000 in Lincoln in the work of burying its wires in the business and near-by residence districts. The work is giving employment to an army of laborers and has increased work for linemen.

The burying of the network of wires will add vastly to the appearance of the down town streets, and at the same time increase the efficiency of the service given by the Nebraska Telephone Co. The work is under the immediate supervision of Manager Thompson and is being pushed with characteristic vigor.

Be a Real Union Man.

If you belong to a union, be a real union man and demand the union label. It will put an end to strikes, lockouts and boycotts.—Buffalo Progress.

Some More About The Union Label

Members of organized labor are not the only ones who should be concerned about the union label. Every lover of humanity should take an interest in the work of pushing the label. Every lover of health and personal comfort should take an interest in the work of making the label universal.

One trouble with organized labor and its efforts to make the label popular is the lack of systematic endeavor. Too much stress is laid upon the union end of it, and not enough upon the humane end of it. Every woman with a heart big enough to feel a thrill of sympathy for her fellows ought to know what the label means, and it is the duty of organized labor to teach such. Even the most chronic bargain hunter would, if she were made fully aware of the facts, hesitate before buying a wrapper or a night dress or underwear if she knew it was made in a room infested with the germs of tuberculosis, typhoid, smallpox, diphtheria, or a thousand other diseases. And yet that is the risk every woman takes when she buys such articles made in "sweat shops." More especially would any tender-hearted woman hesitate to buy them if she knew that those articles were made by the unrequited toil of helpless and hopeless widows, starving children and toddling infants whose eyes never saw a flower in bloom or the green grass growing, and who never knew what it was to be free from the pangs of hunger. The absence of the label means that the goods might be—and doubtless were, made under just such conditions. The presence of the label is a guarantee that it was made under healthful conditions by adult labor that received a fair wage. Why shouldn't women in all walks of life take an interest in a movement that means so much for their sisters? If the humane women of this land would stop for a moment and think of all the misery and woe their bargain rushes cause their unfortunate sisters; if they would pause for a moment and think of the cruelty inflicted upon helpless children by their efforts to get "bargains," they would certainly quit it and be willing to pay fair prices for fair goods made by happy women under healthy surroundings. The woman whose attention is called to these things, and who pays no attention but goes right on profiting by the sweat and sorrows of her sisters and the hunger and grief of God's little ones, is not worthy the name of woman.

Good friends, the union label means a whole lot more than we have been giving it credit for. It means more than temporary profit—it means hope and happiness for millions. It means life to tens of thousands. It means joy to thousands of children, love to thousands of mothers and new ambitions to thousands of despairing men.

If you are not insistently demanding the label you are untrue to your obligations as a union man or woman. If you are not insistently demanding the label you are untrue to your fellows. If you are not preaching the virtues of the label to your non-union friends you are not a proper missionary and should receive a new baptism of the union spirit.

STAND UP FOR LINCOLN.

Here's a Way to Help Make the City Larger and More Prosperous—and It's Easy.

There are not less than 10,000 smokers in the city of Lincoln. It is safe to say that these smokers consume an average of three cigars a day, or their equivalent in smoking tobacco. Inquiry reveals the fact that only one cigar in sixteen smoked in Lincoln is made in Lincoln. The money for the other fifteen goes out of town to men who live in other cities.

Now, every cigar factory in Lincoln is union, but regardless of your attitude towards unions, wouldn't it be better for all concerned if every smoker used the cigars made in Lincoln? A Lincoln made cigar is just as good as any cigar made elsewhere—that's a cinch. There are about 40 cigarmakers in Lincoln, and they average about \$12 a week each. If every Lincoln smoker used Lincoln cigars it would take nearly 400 hundred cigarmakers to keep them supplied—an increase of 360 men in this one trade, and an increase of \$2,500 a week in the volume of Lincoln's retail trade. That would be \$125,000 a year—all made and spent right here at home. It would mean an additional population of 1,200 or 1,500 people, all of whom would patronize Lincoln merchants. That would mean more clerks, more consumption of other Lincoln made goods, and more business all around.

There should be enough home pride to settle this point to Lincoln's advantage, to say nothing about ridding yourselves of the danger of smoking rotten cigars made in disease infested tenement shops in New York City and Philadelphia. If you don't call for a union made cigar because you are prejudiced against labor unions, call for them because the label is a guarantee against the foulest diseases imaginable—diseases that infest the coolies and scum that manufacture the boosted cigars of the tobacco trust. Leprosy, consumption, diphtheria, syphilis, and every other dread disease thrive in the tenement factories where non-union cigars are made. Protect your own health by looking for the label. And then boost your home town by buying home made goods. Get into the game for fair!

STUFF AND NONSENSE.

Why Shouldn't Andy Carnegie Be Willing to Have a Coachman for Nephew-at-Law?

Andrew Carnegie's niece recently married a coachman, and since then a lot of the boot-licking press has been saying soft things about Andy because he congratulated the happy pair.

"I'd rather have her marry a coachman than a duke," Carnegie is reported as saying, and then the boot-licking press took it up and is saying beautiful things about the man responsible for Homestead.

Why shouldn't he be willing for his niece to marry a coachman? He ought to be proud of it, for it's dollars to doughnuts the coachman takes more genuine honesty and character into the Carnegie family than any male member of the crowd has ever had. Isn't a coachman just as good as the pin-headed scion of a purse-proud millionaire whose money was won by rank stealing under the guise of purchased laws? If the coachman Carnegie's niece married is a young man of average character we'd rather take his chances of heaven than to take those of a multi-millionaire whose dollars are tainted with theft and stained by the blood and tears of working men and women. We'd rather have a few friends point to us and say, "There's an honest and industrious coachman," than to have the world point to us and say, "There goes a man who accumulated millions of money by bribery, collusion and special privilege, and added thereto other millions wrung from the sweat and toil of better men."

Andrew Carnegie has purchased a great reputation for philanthropy by building big libraries, but every stone in them represents a hungry workingman's child, the sob of a starving widow or the despair of a man forced to the wall by brute strength backed by purchased privilege. The ghosts of Homestead's murdered victims haunt every corridor in the Carnegie libraries. A reputation for philanthropy bought by money accumulated like Carnegie's money was accumulated may look good here, but there will come a time when it will look like hell—and it will be hell, too. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked."

Of course Carnegie ought to be proud to have a coachman marry into the family. It's a cinch that the coachman's character will raise the Carnegie average a whole lot.

The corporations have scored again in the United States supreme court. Supreme court judges are appointed for life. Elective judges would have to answer to the people. Appointed judges can snap their fingers at the people.