

WHY DON'T THE WOMEN STRIKE?

These are the days of the improved machine—and the broken down woman. We see the spectacle of the farmer riding a sulky plow under a big red umbrella—and his wife pulling on seventy feet of heavy rope to get a bucket of water out of the well. In the business offices down town we see men wearily at work reading the morning papers while electric fans cool their fevered and perspiring brows—while in the kitchen at home nervous housewives stand over red-hot ranges and boil and bake and stew and fry and roast.

In the print shop down town the printer throws on an electric switch and the job press runs of itself, the man having only to stand erect and gaily shove the blank sheets upon the tympanum—but out at the house the wife bends wearily over the washtub, bowing her back 120 times a minute as she rubs the soiled linen over the old-fashioned washboard.

Why'n't thunder don't the women organize a labor union and go on strike for labor saving machinery?

A strike of the United Housewives Union of Lincoln wouldn't last more than twenty-four hours. Indeed not, for the men would be starved into submission before the strikers could get their hair crimped preparatory to a meeting to discuss the situation and lay plans for picketing the kitchens.

While the men have, by organization and co-operation, secured a reduction in the working day from twelve hours to eight and nine hours, have secured improved sanitary conditions under which to work, have secured improved labor saving devices and materially benefited themselves in divers and sundry ways—while the working-men have done all these things their wives are compelled to labor the same old twelve and thirteen hours a day without improved machinery and in kitchens so hot and stuffy that any self-respecting union man would absolutely and unqualifiedly refuse to work therein. Imagine, if you can, a union printer, or a union cigarmaker, or a union leatherworker, or a union electrical worker, or a union barber—or practically any other skilled tradesman—who would work in a room 10x12 feet in size with a big steel range going full tilt and the sun outside keeping things up to 100 in the shade. He'd see his employer in Ballyhack before he'd do it. But there's a whole lot of them who never give a thought to their wives at home who are doing that sort of thing every day in the year, beginning at 6 o'clock in the morning and keeping it up until 7:30 in the evening.

But the union man who wouldn't do it himself seems perfectly willing that his wife should. One reason is that he doesn't think. Another reason is that his wife doesn't complain. The union man would give a kick that would make Si's mule Maud look like six lead nickles if his employer asked him to work thirteen hours a day within

a foot or a foot-and-a-half of a redhot steel range when the thermometer registered 102 in the shade on the front porch. And the kick would be effective, too, and don't you forget it!

Now, why'n't the name of commonsense and self protection don't the women organize and make a kick?

Down town the dentist throws on a switch and electricity turns the cruel little dingbat that tunnels into your aching molar and makes your head feel like the quintessence of double distilled agony. But out at that same dentist's home his wife is running her sewing machine with her tired feet, and her aching back is bent over the machine until she comes to believe that her spine is an invention of Satan for the sole purpose of making women miserable. The dentist would "holler his head off" if he had to run the dingbat with his foot while electricity was running around loose, but he never gives a thought to the wife at home who is running up the long seams by footpower.

When the man in the store or office down town wants a book or a paper or a sample, it's "Here, Johnny, get me this or that," and Johnny, the officeboy, hikes off and gets it. But out at that same man's house more than likely the wife is trotting to the garbage box with a scuttleful of ashes, or trotting from the coal house with a scuttleful of coal, or out in the coal shed splitting kindling with a hatchet, whose edge is as blunt as the conscience of a Parryite.

And while this sort of thing has been going on for years, from good to better for the men—and from bad to no better for the women—the women, God bless 'em, haven't made any vigorous protest. Is it not about time that the dear creatures grasp the bovine by the horns, so to speak, and make an organized demand for shorter hours, better work conditions and more convenience in the way of labor saving machinery?

"We really can't afford it," growls the head of the family, lighting his 10-cent cigar and preparing to take the car to get to his office seven blocks away. "No; my mother cooked over an old fashioned 'charter oak' cook stove and never made any complaints, and my mother was a fine cook; none better. We can't afford one of those new-fangled gas ranges. They cost too much money to run, for the blamed robber gas company soaks it to us right and left."

And the wife, after humbly asking for a little kitchen convenience quietly subsides, and the head of the house goes down town and buys every blamed thing in sight calculated to make his work easier. The wife can slave away in the stuffy kitchen over a redhot coal fire; but down in the office her husband tilts back in a swivel chair and lets the Klondike breezes from an electric fan cool his perspiring brow. Wouldn't that jar you? Your true blue union man would go on a sympathetic strike to assist a fellow unionist in securing better conditions, but many of them—O, so many—never give a thought to the partner of their joys and sorrows, especially sorrows, toiling away without modern conveniences and in the midst of surroundings that would make a business agent call a strike.

Why don't the women strike?

Why don't the wife who slaves away over a redhot coal range get a few facts and figures to present to her husband. Let her show that the 10 cents a day he spends for tobacco would pay for running a gas range and relieve her of one-half of her kitchen work, to say nothing of adding a thousand per cent to her comfort and convenience. Let her show by the records that it costs less to operate a gas range than it does to run a coal range—to say nothing of the saving in the labor. With a gas range the wife has no coal to carry, no ashes to dump, no litter to sweep up, no soot marks to wash off, no kindling to rustle and split. Scratch a match and the cooking begins. No long waits for the stove to get hot enough to boil the water. When the cooking is done, turn a valve and the expense stops.

There have been thousands of strikes called by labor unions for far less substantial reasons than a thousand Lincoln housewives have for striking. The man who don't buy his wife a gas range when the gas is at his door and there is no cost for connecting up, deserves to find his wife on strike when he comes home in the evening. More than that, he deserves to be boycotted by the Amalgamated Order of Good Fellows who have enough regard for their wives to give them the advantage of all the labor saving and health saving and energy saving conveniences that they demand for themselves.

If the housewives of Lincoln who are toiling and sweating over coal ranges through the long summer when gas for fuel is to be had, will organize and strike for their rights, The Wageworker will back them up in their fight until the last canine is suspended and the kine return lowing to their domicile.

Let the Housewives' Union of Lincoln inscribe upon its banners, "We Demand Justice—and Gas Stoves." Let it go forth unopposed in the robes of right and conscious of the justice of its cause, and the mere men will capitulate without resistance.

What about gas for fuel? Cheapest fuel known to man. You can do the cooking, washing and ironing for a family of five for \$3 a month or less—and there's no coal to carry, no kindling to split, no litter to clean up. No weary waiting for the stove to warm up—and make the kitchen a furnace. The minute you touch a match to the gas you have the hottest flame imaginable. When the cooking is done the heat is turned off—and the kitchen is as cool as the parlor.

It's all so nice, so handy, so convenient, so comfortable, that the wonder is that any wife in Lincoln would consent to be without a gas range.

If you don't believe what we say about gas, ask your neighbor who uses it. We know a man who wouldn't dare even hint at cutting out the gas range. And he wouldn't do it anyhow. It's too cheap and too handy and too easy for the little woman.

The gas company people can tell you all about gas ranges—and sell you one cheap. Better see the man.

Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co.

Gas Ranges, Water Heaters and Radiators. New Ranges Connected Free

Pattern and Street Hats

I am regularly receiving and showing the finest line of

Street and Pattern Hats
ever brought to the city. Never before have I been able to offer such genuine bargains in the Millinery line. It will give me pleasure to show you my goods.

SADIE PUCKETT

YOUR CHRISTMAS PHOTOS
Go to
Loyden

STUCKEY'S
1429 O.
Confectionery
Ice Cream.

Dr. Clifford R. Tefft
DENTIST
Office Over Sidles Bicycle Store

FAGAN'S CAFE
1226 O STREET

HANDLES EVERYTHING IN SEASON
MODERATE PRICES. FIRST CLASS SERVICE
MEALS, 15c and UP

OPEN ALL NIGHT

Speaking about "the good old days," the only kind we'd give a snap for would be a return of those wherein we were a barefooted boy, clad in a roundabout and headed for grandma's over Sunday.

Railway Time Table

Leaves	St. & Mo. R. R. Sta.	Arrives	St. & Mo. R. R. Sta.
5:25am	Chicago Flyer via Omaha	7:07am	Chicago Flyer via Omaha
6:00pm	Chicago Limited via Omaha	10:25am	Chicago Limited via Omaha
10:30am	Omaha and Pacific Jc. Passenger	4:25pm	Omaha and Pacific Jc. Passenger
4:25pm	Omaha and Pacific Jc. Passenger	10:30am	Omaha and Pacific Jc. Passenger
1:58pm	Chicago & Omaha Fast Mail	12:40am	Chicago & Omaha Fast Mail
1:58pm	Ashland	10:25am	Ashland
5:25am	Plattsmouth via Omaha	5:30pm	Plattsmouth via Omaha
5:30pm	Plattsmouth via Omaha	5:25am	Plattsmouth via Omaha
4:00pm	Cretas, Sutton, Fairfield Passenger	5:20pm	Cretas, Sutton, Fairfield Passenger
7:20am	Denver and Hastings Flyer	5:15am	Denver and Hastings Flyer
5:00pm	Denver and Hastings Flyer	1:40pm	Denver and Hastings Flyer
10:53am	Kearney Express	1:40pm	Kearney Express
10:53am	Beatrice and Wymore Passenger	4:30pm	Beatrice and Wymore Passenger
5:40pm	Beatrice and Wymore Passenger	10:10am	Beatrice and Wymore Passenger
6:00pm	Columbus Express via Milford and Seward	10:25am	Columbus Express via Milford and Seward
2:00pm	Nebraska City & East	10:55am	Nebraska City & East
5:00pm	Broken Bow Passenger via Germantown	5:30pm	Broken Bow Passenger via Germantown
10:50am	Grand Island Passenger via Germantown	10:00am	Grand Island Passenger via Germantown
1:00am	Portland, Seattle and Deadwood Express	4:15pm	Portland, Seattle and Deadwood Express
4:25pm	St. Louis and Kansas City Special	12:55am	St. Louis and Kansas City Special
12:00pm	St. Joseph and Kansas City Express	5:00pm	St. Joseph and Kansas City Express
6:00pm	Table Rock and Tecumseh Passenger	5:30am	Table Rock and Tecumseh Passenger
6:00pm	Table Rock and Tecumseh Passenger	5:30am	Table Rock and Tecumseh Passenger

SOME BAD ADVICE

New York Schoolm'am Gives Some Mighty Bad Advice to Graduates.

We were prevailed upon the other night to attend the commencement of a public night school for women and girls. We thoroughly enjoyed it all but the address made by the estimable principal to her pupils. After complimenting them in the usual way upon the advancement they had made, etc., she advised these graduates—they were largely stenographers and dressmakers—not to take advantage of their enhanced skill by asking their employers for a higher salary. She said that, as taxpayers, their employers were supporting the school, and in this way practically paying for their education; in fact, that as they had little or no business experience, they were really paid while learning.

But for the nature of the occasion we would have felt tempted to have taken issue with the fair speaker, electing to be ungallant for the sake of truth. Working girls as the future mothers of the country fulfill their duty to the state, we opine, and perhaps in a higher measure than mere taxpayers; by remaining good, despite the temptations sometimes associated with small wages, they do their share towards supporting the state; by taking care of themselves in such a way that they have no need of reformatories, hospitals and prisons they are a valuable asset and more. The aid they render the state in fruitful womanhood contributes to the population, and makes theirs the responsibility for the early education of the future citizens of the country. Besides, the taxpayer does not pay taxes for their sake, but because he is obliged to do so.

Moreover, such talk is out of place in a public school. The public schools belong to the people, and whether they are day or night schools their pupils are not objects of charity; and when they become graduates they have every right to make the most of the education they have received.—Bricklayer and Mason.

THE PRINTERS
Nominate Officers and Nominate Another Delegate to Toronto.

The Typographical Union met in regular session last Sunday and was notified that it was entitled to two delegates to the international convention at Toronto. It was decided to elect a second delegate and to select a member who was going to Toronto, anyhow, thus saving the expense. H. W. Smith was nominated for the post.

tion, no other nomination being made. J. E. Mickel and O. C. Fodrea withdrew as candidates for delegate, leaving only F. M. Coffey and J. M. Leadon as candidates for the first delegate ship.

Nominations for local officers for the ensuing term were also nominated, and the election will be held at the meeting on the first Sunday in June. The delegate election will be held on Wednesday, May 17, time and place to be announced later.

A committee was appointed to arrange for the proper observance of Memorial Sunday.

President Brown of the Pressmen's and Assistants' Union visited the meeting and explained the trouble his union was having in securing recognition from the employers' association. The union informed Mr. Brown that it was ready to lend whatever assistance it could to the pressmen in their efforts to reach an agreement with the employers.

John Moore, head of the Star ad, is in the hospital with an attack of typhoid fever. Mrs. Moore is similarly afflicted and is in the hospital with her husband.

F. C. Greenley has moved down town so he won't have to waste so much time getting to his pork chops and taters. He and his family are now domiciled in the McBride block.

Members of Lincoln Typographical Union should bear in mind the fact that the May social of Capital Auxiliary will be held at Bohannon's hall on Wednesday evening, May 17. Charley Turner says it is good to be able once more to see the sun rise without having to remain up all night. He is now working a day shift on C. B. Righter's new machine.

THE BARBERS
After Considerable Backing and Filling Agreement Reached

The Barbers' Union has been having a long siege with the employers over the scale and shop rules, but an agreement has almost been reached and all signs of trouble have about disappeared from the tonorial sky. The "boss" barbers wanted a reduction of the guarantee from \$12 to \$10 a week, and also some changes in the union rules. The union conceded a reduction in the percentage from the sale of tonics, but stand pat on the guarantee.

The "boss" barbers wanted the union to discipline members who showed up for work in an intoxicated condition, or threw down the shop because of that fact. But the union refused, saying that the employers had the matter in their own hands, and could discharge any man guilty of that offense. The union men insist that they have benefited the employers by making it sure that every shop is placed on an equal basis so far as hours are concerned. The owner of the union shop knows that when he closes at 8 p. m. all other fair shops are closed. Prices are maintained and a better class of workmen furnished. For a time there were signs of serious disagreement, but the conservatives on both sides are in a majority, and as a result the difficulties have practically all been settled to the mutual satisfaction of the parties to the agreement.

The barbers have organized a base ball team and claim to have the best one in the city. Any other union that imagines itself the possessor of a winning aggregation of ball tossers is invited to meet the barbers' club. Sunday afternoon the barbers met the Lincoln Park team at Lincoln Park and pulled off a victory by the score of 11 to 10.

Jack Scott, who has been in the business for upwards of fifteen years in Omaha, has purchased the Pioneer shop at Eleventh and O streets. The Pioneer is a 7-chair shop and a favorite with the public, and Mr. Scott announces his determination to make it even more popular. And "Jack" is the man who can do it.

THE CLOSED SHOP.
Omaha High School Defends it With Signal Success in Debate.

The work of Parry and his crowd has had the good effect of calling public attention to the merits of the union contract, and the more the people study that question the better the standing of the labor unions. The Closed Shop vs. the Open Shop has been debated all over the country, especially by high school and university debating teams, and so far fully 99 per cent of the decisions have been in favor of the defendants of the closed shop.

Last week the Omaha high school debating team met and vanquished the Beatrice high school debating team the question being, "Resolved, That for the present the labor unions in America are justified in opposing the movements of employers for the open shop." The Omaha team, composed of Arthur Proctor, Charles Brome and Carl Van Sant, upheld the affirmative and won a decisive victory. The de-

bate was listened to by a large number of Omaha's union craftsmen, and they cheered the winning team vociferously.

GENERAL MENTION
Some Items of General Interest Gathered Here and Elsewhere.

For union made shoes go to Rogers & Perkins.

The Commoner force is preparing for its annual picnic.

Bricklayers are warned to keep away from Decatur, Ill.

Rogers & Perkins handle a full and complete line of union made shoes.

Look for the union card when you enter a barber shop. If it is not in plain sight, go elsewhere.

The annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Papermakers began at Holyoke, Mass., on May 8th.

Wait for the appearance of the Fulton Stock Company at the Oliver, beginning the summer season on June 6th.

Newburgh, N. H., brick makers are on a strike for an increase of 20 cents a day. The strike is spreading to the nearby towns.

Read "Why Don't the Women Strike?" And then do the right thing. Patronize Wageworker advertisers and help your friends and your paper.

Organized labor is warned to keep away from the Pacific coast. There are hundreds of union men walking the streets of the Pacific coast towns.

Union machinists at Quincy, Ill., who have been on strike for two years against the open shop, have won out, and have returned to work on the closed shop basis.

It took the Cigarmakers thirty-two years to establish the 8-hour day. The Horseshoers worked thirty years before they secured the 8-hour day. The Typographical Union has been in existence fifty-two years, and on January 1, 1906, will inaugurate the 8-hour day.

The Windsor cafe, under the management of Mr. Pennel is open and doing a good business. This cafe promises to become a favorite with merchants and wage earners who are compelled by circumstances to eat down town.

The local coal dealers' combine has fixed an arbitrary schedule of prices both for the coal it sells and the wage it pays, and so far has refused to meet the teamsters in conference for the purpose of adjusting differences. The consumers never had a chance with the dealers.

Governor Pennypacker has signed the child labor bill advocated by President Mitchell of the Miners' Union.

To the Workingmen!

...We handle...

..UNION MADE GOODS..

and am a workingman myself.

Allen's Kushion Komfort Shoe Parlors.

133 NORTH 14TH STREET.

When the law becomes operative it will take about 4,000 children out of the Pennsylvania mines and put them in school. Did Parryism ever do as good a work as that?

The teamsters' strike in Chicago is still spreading and the ranks of the strikers are being augmented every day. Mark Morton continues to breathe threatening and slaughter, and his gang continue to import murderous thugs and irresponsible heroes from the south to act as "scabs." The teamsters are standing firm and have the situation well in hand.

Left Alone
It was an actor man who spoke while tears rolled down his cheeks. "Why don't the women strike?" And then do the right thing. Patronize Wageworker advertisers and help your friends and your paper.

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A victory bought by money is always a failure.