

Patronize
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

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, MAY 19, 1905

NO. 6

THE ANSWER LIES IN THE BALLOT

"The American people are uneasy. There never was a time in the history of the nation when almost every individual was so politically sensitive as at present."—Congressman Jenkins.

"Conditions rapidly grow worse that ought never to exist in a free country like the United States, and the question is, How much longer can this state of affairs continue?"—Congressman Jenkins.

(Congressman Jenkins is a republican from Wisconsin. He told his colleagues in congress a few things about the "revolution" so much feared by the capitalist class. His speech was printed in the Congressional Record, the extract which follows being taken from page 2119.)

"A most tremendous change has been wrought in this country in the last few years. It has operated quietly, effectually, aggressively, and lawfully, but not, however, without provoking intense feeling, developing dangers that must be removed, introducing new elements that must be controlled, subverting many principles of government, making the many industrial slaves of the few—Americans, freemen in name only. The end sought has been obtained—competition has been eliminated, the business and industrial interests of the country placed in the hands of a few instead of the many. The average American citizen, instead of being his own master, has rapidly become the industrial slave of another. The individual is no longer known in business.

"The American people are uneasy. There never was a time in the history of the nation when almost every individual was so politically sensitive as at present. All realize that there is something wrong, something needing correction.

"The trust, combination, and corporation all have the same object in view, the elimination of competition, so today the people have absolutely no protection whatever. A gigantic institution can control one or more of the necessities of life and either refuse to sell to the people or, if they sell at all, on just such terms as they suggest. This is what makes the system so objectionable. These great industrial changes seriously affect almost everyone. Years ago we had in this country many proprietors of business, or what might be called business men, or yet stating it plainer, employers. Now we have but very few employers; almost all are employees. They are compelled to await the action of the employers. They have no voice whatever in the industrial affairs of this country. They go to work at the suggestion of the monopoly, work on such terms as the monopoly dictates, and at such length of time as it prescribes, all contributing to the maintenance of a very bitter feeling. As I shall show, these unwise institutions are beyond the power of congress and practically beyond the power of the states, growing stronger and stronger every day, and are determined to maintain themselves on a proposition undisputable—that they have the absolute legal right to do as they see fit with their property, and that if the people do not want to buy of them or work for them they need not.

"Opposed to the few manufacturers as employers in the country are millions of laboring men who are the political power in the nation and who insist upon their rights in business affairs. They want to be parties to the contract affecting their labor, and when they are told they can either work on the terms given them or quit a bad feeling is produced. The laborers know that the only possible way for them to succeed is by preventing others from taking their places. They pay no further attention to the statement that if they do not want to work they must let others work, but they combine for what they deem their mutual protection. They absolutely believe they are standing in defense, not only of their own rights, but of their families. They are supported in their contentions by a very large majority of the people. The strike comes on and they feel that after having left work their only protection and safety depends in not letting any one else take their places. Their employer, who is following a course marked out by law, calls upon the military arm of the government and the injunctive power of the courts for protection. This intensifies the animosity already existing, and conditions rapidly grow worse that ought never to exist in a free country like the United States, and the question is, How much longer can this state of affairs continue."

THE TEAMSTERS' TROUBLES.

The Committee Appointed by the Central Body Has Been Doing Some Good Work.

The committee appointed by the Central Labor Union to assist the Teamsters Union in its little trouble with the employers has accomplished a good work, and through its efforts has secured a meeting between the employers and a joint committee from the Teamsters and the Central for the purpose of talking the matter over.

Mr. John Dorgan of the Whitebreast Coal company has interested himself in the matter and to him much credit is due for arranging the conference.

There seems to have been much of mutual misunderstanding on both sides, and the committee has made much progress in removing it, the result promising to be profitable alike to all parties interested. The Teamsters presented their scale and were met by a scale presented by the employers, and there the matter stood. Neither side seemed disposed to yield, and neither side seemed desirous of meeting the other. But when the committee started out it soon found that this misunderstanding could be removed. Accordingly a meeting was arranged for Thursday afternoon, and this meeting is in progress as The Wageworker forms are being made up. The result of the conference will be made known next week.

At the regular meeting of the Teamsters Monday night a good committee was appointed to take charge of the matter, and this committee met with the employers.

THE PAINTERS' JOUST.

Last Friday night the Painters and Decorators of Lincoln had a social that proved to be one of the best union affairs ever held in the city—best in point of attendance, best in point of enthusiasm, and best in point of results beneficial to unionism. It was a "Dutch lunch" and an open meeting to which the non-unionists of the craft were invited, and a number of them accepted the friendly invitation and were given their first insight into the meaning of the word "unionism." A long table adorned the rear end of Bruse's hall, and the table was loaded down with edibles calculated to appeal to the appetite. Sandwiches piled as high as stepladders were flanked by bunches of spring onions and radishes, and yellow pyramids of cream cheese were supported on all sides by pickles and hard boiled eggs. Mustard pots as generous as the hearts of the hosts stood on sentinel duty, and cigars with the label on the box were as free as the Nebraska wind that blew without. Behind this table Secretary Jennings, Secretary DeLong and Brother Hart officiated, and were kept busy handing out good things. Tables were scattered around the hall, and each table was surrounded by jolly good fellows engaged in whist and cinch and pitch and euchre and eating.

There was an air of goodfellowship about the whole affair that made it doubly enjoyable, and the non-unionists were given an insight into what unionism and fraternity means. There can be no doubt that the local union has benefited immensely by the social, and it set an example that other crafts in the city would do well to imitate.

The speechmaking was very brief, for it was recognized as a time for sociability and not a time for oratory. Consequently the two speakers called upon said as much as they could in the shortest possible time. Mr. Maupin talked three minutes and twenty seconds, and managed to tell why he was a union man and why every laboring man should be a union man. General Kelsey talked three minutes and thirty-one seconds and urged a broader unionism and a better fraternity. He explained the difference between certain methods of financing by saying that when a faro bank went broke the people on the outside had all the money; and that when a savings bank went broke the people on the inside had all the money.

The social had no set time for meeting, but it was understood that the hall would be open until midnight. The members drifted in and out to suit their convenience, and there was an absence of formality that made it all the more pleasant. The union men spared no efforts to make the non-unionists feel at home, and the spectacle of four or five union men surrounding a non-unionist and thrusting good things to eat upon him was good to see. The result was that several applications for membership were taken, and other non-unionists admitted that they had misunderstood the meaning of unionism.

When the social was over the members most active in promoting it spent a few minutes congratulating themselves on the success of the whole affair—and it was a success. It will be a long time before the good effect of last Friday's social will cease to be felt for good is painting and decorating circles.

BOOSTING IS BETTER THAN KNOCKING.

A boost beats a knock every time. The way to hurt the "scab" clothing manufacturer is to boom the manufacturer who employs union help. The way to knock the enemies of unionism is to boost unionism's friends. It would take less than twelve months to put the "scab" clothing manufacturers out of business if union men and women without exception would prosecute a vigorous label campaign.

"Why advertise the 'scab' clothier by forever parading his name before the public? Why not keep the union manufacturer's name ever in sight?"

When you know a manufacturer's clothing is union made and well made of good material, walk into the clothing store and boldly ask for it. Then insist on getting it. That's the way to boost the label and "knock" the unfair manufacturer. And what holds good in clothing holds good in hats, caps, boots, shoes, underwear, etc.

Let us all go to boosting for a while, and give our little old hammers a much needed rest.

WOMAN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE SOCIAL.

On Monday evening, May 22, the Woman's Union Label League will give a social at Central Labor Union hall, the purpose being to raise funds to defray the expenses of a delegate to the international convention in Chicago in June. A fine program—something out of the ordinary—will be rendered, refreshments will be served, and the best of music provided for those who desire to enjoy the merry dance. The Woman's Union Label League is doing a splendid service for unionism, and it deserves the cordial support of union men and women. The admission to the social—including everything that goes on inside the hall—will be 25 cents. Let every unionist in the city remember the date and be there, prepared to enjoy the hospitality of the League, and at the same time assist the organization in a splendid work. The attendance should tax the capacity of the hall.

MR. CLARK WRITES Has a Few Thoughts on Churches and Labor Unions

Lincoln, Neb., May 15.—Editor of The Wageworker: Believing that churchianity is necessarily an enemy of Christianity, for more than half a century I have been, still am, and shall be till I die, a bitter, uncompromising, unrelenting enemy of the so-called orthodox church or churches.

Whatever and whoever has taught of the punishment of the soul after the body is dead, that religion is other than a matter of reason, science, good common sense, or that a true church could be other than "one is your master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren" (Matt. 23:8); "and there shall be one fold and one shepherd" (John 10:16) is such a plain, bold and flagrant violator of the teachings of Him who brought the gospel of "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10); "tidings of great joy" because it meant "on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14), must ever be regarded as an enemy of humanity and humanity's God. An enemy alike of creator and created.

Practically, "eternal punishment, not meaning as the Bible teaches, the eternal law that had people are always miserable, or in hell; but that the souls of the wicked will be eternally burned in hell-fire, or as the little theological girl expressed it, "just a-zizle and a-zizle but never die," has disappeared. Still many "orthodox" church people want some kind of a future punishment, or hell for those whom they please to regard as "sinners."

But I believe that the invitation of the Labor Union to the Ministerial Association to send delegates to the union meetings, or to some of those meetings, and the almost unanimous acceptance of that invitation is the beginning of one of the greatest reform epochs that the world has ever known.

If the wageworkers and the priesthood can meet on a common level in a labor union hall, 'tis but a little while till "the people" will have their regular meetings in all the halls and churches, and, equally, the voice of every individual can be heard, whether in entreaty or in giving an opinion, or voting upon any question.

And "the voice of the people is the voice of God," or at least nearer to it than can be had in any other way.

Then we shall be on the road to "the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God," or "the fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man." It is as broad as it is long, and one can not exist without the other. When halls and churches are open to public meetings, for the free discussion of public questions, all questions con-

cerning the well-being of mankind, there will be no need of either labor, or sectarian religious organizations. Then all people will be laborers, engaged in some useful occupation, and "one is your master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren," constitutes the most perfect church that the world has ever known.

So let the grand work of unity and fraternity go on. Let "sinners" remember that Christ was "a friend of publicans and sinners" (Matt. 11:19), as well as of all the rest of mankind, and let ministers remember that Christ said to "the chief priests and elders, "Verily I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you" (Matt. 21:31); and therefore be not "puffed up" (1 Cor. 4:6).

"Great oaks from little acorns grow."
"It's coming up the stream of life, and this old world is growing brighter. We may not live to see the dawn, but high hopes make the heart throb lighter."
C. M. CLARK

THE CARPENTERS

Local News of the Biggest Trades Union in the City

Much building is going on and there is a fair demand for good men. Our old stand-by, John Plin, is building him a new home near Sixteenth and South.

John Bedouski is reported quite ill. He is building a new house near Seventh and H.

Four new members were initiated last Tuesday, and ten candidates are now awaiting initiation.

The joint arbitration board of the Carpenters' Union and the Contractors' Exchange is discussing a code of rules governing apprentices.

The union was advised by telegram last Sunday of the death in Denver of Brother Godfrey Johnson. Brother Godfrey recently took a clearance from Lincoln union.

Street Commissioner Hensley, late of the Lincoln Sash and Door Mills, seems to be catching on to his new job quite easily. We hope his administration will reflect credit upon the union men of the city.

Why is it that so few merchants advertise in The Wageworker? Don't they want the union man's trade? Some of these days a co-operative store may be opened up in Lincoln, and then they will wonder why.

The boys are pleased to see the Central Labor Union and the Ministerial Union fraternizing. May much good come of it. The ministerial delegates are given a standing invitation to visit the carpenters and we can assure them that they will be given the glad hand of fellowship.

Quite a number of the boys have

shares in a gold mine near Boulder, Colo., where Brother Derby is located as mine carpenter. Some rich strikes are reported from that section and numerous plans are being laid for disposing of the wealth that is yet to come.

We can not understand how the business men can sympathize with the open shop idea. The open shop means a lower standard of living, less consumption and necessarily a loss of trade to the merchants. For business reasons alone the merchant should favor the 8-hour day. We have over 250 carpenters working the 8-hour day in Lincoln, and this means the employment of sixty more men than would be under the 10-hour day. The merchant should not forget that these sixty additional men buy bread and meat and clothing and sundry other things.

THE PRINTERS

A Few Notes from the Boys Who Make the Printed Page

On Sunday, May 28, Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will hold its annual memorial exercises, assisted by Capital Auxiliary No. 11. The program is now being prepared and will appear in the next issue of The Wageworker.

The election of delegates and alternates to the Toronto convention was held at Carpenters' hall last Wednesday. Eighty-four votes were cast for delegate, F. M. Coffey receiving 50 and J. M. Leaden 34. H. W. Smith received 69 votes for second delegate.

F. C. Greenley was elected alternate, receiving 38 votes to 32 for Henry Bingham and 7 for Roy Rhone. H. W. Smith, Henry Bingham and E. J. O'Shea acted as judges of election.

Will Bustard is preparing for a tour of the country and will leave Lincoln in a few days. Mrs. Bustard will spend the summer with relatives in Wahoo or until Mr. Bustard decides to locate permanently.

THE PAINTERS

Gained a Point During the Week and Feel Good

The Painters and Decorators gained a point or two during the past week. In one instance the Bartenders' Union helped them to turn the trick. Hanger & Roberts started in on the job of decorating Spain's saloon, but about the time the sixth strip of paper was being hung the Bartenders' Union got busy. The sixth strip was the last hung by that firm, because it is on the unfair list, and the job was finished by a fair firm.

This week Carl Meyer signed up with the union and is now on the fair list. Thus one by one the union is getting them back into line.

MR. PARRY IS NOT CONFIDENT.

Talks Big About Breaking the Unions But Takes a Gloomy View of the Future.

The National Association of Manufacturers, the resounding name of the Parry organization, met in annual convention at Atlanta, Ga., on May 16, and of course President David M. Parry was the center of attraction. David M. Parry is a railroad man and owner of a big carriage factory at Indianapolis. He is opposed to unions, giving as his reason that it prevents American citizens from exercising their independence, the real reason being that he can hire non-union men cheaper than he can union men. His opposition to unionism is based on the fact that unionism enables wage earners to better their conditions. Mr. Parry is also opposed to President Roosevelt's freight regulation policy, being a railroad owner and a large shipper who can, perhaps, secure inside freight rates that give him an advantage over competitors. His annual address showed that he fears socialism, and his remarks concerning "labor lobbies" should be read by union men everywhere. Mr. Parry said:

"The efforts of organized labor to secure the passage of laws abridging individual freedom of action met with complete failure at the national capital during the recent session of congress. This was due to the aroused activity of manufacturers and employers.

"With strikes less numerous, the laws better obeyed and enforced, and the power of labor lobbies considerably checked, the value of this association's activity on the labor question is emphatically demonstrated. The policy taken by the association in demanding a full recognition from organized labor of the individualistic principles of our government is the only policy which will establish and maintain industrial peace. Peace is utterly impossible so long as it attempted to make the right of employer and employee the subject of dickering and trials of strength."

This clearly shows laboring men the duty they owe to themselves to make their power felt in Washington. When capital boasts of what it can do with our lawmakers, it is time for labor to take a hand and show what it can do to the lawmakers who betray the wage earners of the nation. And the greatest influence on legislators is not by maintaining lobbies at the national capital, but by getting together at the polls on election day and electing the right kind of men to look after labor's interests. The old plan of voting for men that capital puts up, and then wasting time trying to influence the legislators who are owned body, soul and breeches by the capitalists, should be discarded. Mr. Parry has performed a distinct favor to organized labor by revealing to us just how the capitalists have "checked the power of the labor lobbies." Let labor now get together and do a little in the "checking" line on its own account.

Naturally Mr. Parry opposes "dickering" between employers and employees. He wants the power to set the price of the labor men have to sell, and also the price of everything that men have to buy, and when the unions are strong enough to have a voice in the sale of labor it naturally makes men of the Parry brand wroth. The labor unions, as Mr. Parry well knows, are all that stand between labor and the greed of the men who manage the National Association of Manufacturers.

Industrial peace, according to the ideas of David M. Parry, means laboring men who are compelled to take what is thrown to them and look pleasant. Anarchy, according to those same ideas, is the ability of men to have a voice in the disposition of the only commodity they have to sell—their labor.

The Wageworker regrets its inability to reproduce Mr. Parry's entire speech. It should serve to strengthen the faith and the determination of union men everywhere.

THE TRAIN THAT NEVER CAME.

And the Delegates to St. Joseph Missed the Picnic and the Other Good Things.

There was a great eight-hour demonstration at St. Joseph last Sunday, given under the auspices of the St. Joseph Allied Printing Trades Council. From all reports it was a most successful affair from every point of view and was attended by members of the allied trades from all the principal points in the Missouri valley with the exception of Lincoln. And Lincoln would have been represented had it not been for a heavy fall of dew in the northwest.

Jess Mickel, H. W. McQuittie and the editor of The Wageworker had it all framed up to be present to represent as best they could the printing fraternity of Lincoln. Albert Watkins, jr., was going along to cicerone the party. The train was due to leave the Burlington depot at 4:25 Saturday afternoon. It did not leave until 5 o'clock Sunday evening—and thereby hangs a tale. The party arrived at the depot on time and were met with the announcement that the train was three hours late. At that time the train was on the far side of a washout above Grand Island with no hope of arriving in Lincoln before midnight. So the party returned to the city proper and waited. At 8 o'clock the party returned to the depot to be met with the announcement that there would be no train before 10 o'clock Sunday morning. Even that announcement was not a good guess for the train did not get in until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. By the time it could reach St. Joseph the rally would be history, so it carried no Lincoln representatives.

These facts are set forth for the purpose of explaining to the St. Joseph brethren why Lincoln was not represented, and not because they are of especial interests to the local brotherhood. When Lincoln's 8-hour rally is pulled off it is to be hoped that the St. Joseph brethren will strive to get here as the Lincoln brethren strove to get to the town that Joe Robideaux built.

Job, Morton and that bunch of Chicago union busters are writing threatening letters to themselves, looking brave and expecting to see public sympathy enlisted in their favor. But the old game has been worn thin.