

Patronize
The Wageworker
Advertisers

THE WAGEWORKER

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

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NO. 9

An Open Letter to Voters of the First District

To the Voters of the First Congressional District of Nebraska: By the mutations of politics, you are called upon to elect a representative in congress at a special election to be held soon. Conditions confronting the people of this country today imperatively demand that you take careful thought upon this matter, and endeavor to select a representative who will represent you as a body in the national congress, and not represent any faction or individual or corporate interest. If ever there was a time in the history of this country when partisan politics should be laid aside, that time is now. If ever there was a time in the history of this country when the people should have representation in congress to combat the influence of the representatives of special and selfish interests that time is now. Every great trust in the country is adequately represented in congress. Every great special interest, with one exception, has its careful, watchful and tireless representative in both house and senate, and the one exception is the great body of voters whose toil and sweat and endeavor have made the country rich and great and powerful. Is it not time that this great interest—the people themselves—shall have some representation at Washington?

I am not a statesman. Neither am I a great orator nor one so gifted of tongue as to be in demand at commencement exercises and chautauqua gatherings. But I am deeply interested in the solution of the great problems fronting the people. I am not a politician, and never could be for the very simple reason that I do not know how to palaver and soft soap the dear voter and make him believe that I believe as he believes when believing something else. What I think and believe I am very frank to say—something that a politician must not do if he would be a successful politician.

I am a candidate for the democratic nomination for congress in this district, not solely because I am a democrat, but because partisan lines have been drawn and a nomination can come only from the democratic party at this time. In announcing my candidacy I want to write a platform for myself. Not that the convention could not write one, but because I believe I can write one that would fit better.

I am in favor of a radical revision of the tariff to the end that protection be withdrawn from the great trusts and the benefits spread out over more territory and more people. I believe that any tariff sufficient to raise the revenue needed for the government will be ample protection, and a protection that will not make a few Carnegies and Rockefellers and Morgans and Schwabs and a million men without homes or opportunities, but will make millions of opportunities and no Rockefellers and Morgans and Schwabs and Schwabs whatever.

I am opposed to spending millions wastefully on rivers and harbors and neglecting the great highways over which the farmer must haul his grain to market. I favor national provision for better roadways.

I favor the postal telegraph system, and the postal savings bank system. I believe that the government should reserve to itself the function of issuing money and not delegate it to others, and I am opposed to the government hoarding up a great surplus at the expense of all the people for the purpose of loaning it to favored banks without interest in order that those favored banks may be able to control the finances of the nation.

I am opposed to a government policy that spends \$300,000,000 on an army and navy and less than \$10,000,000 on the greatest industry we have—agriculture. If elected to congress I will use my utmost effort to bring about a better average between these things.

I am in favor of granting to the interstate commerce commis-

sion the power to regulate freight rates, and if elected to congress I will support President Roosevelt to the limit in all that he may do to break the hold the railroads have upon the business interests of the country and make them tote fair. I hold that a railroad pass given to a public official is given for a purpose, and that purpose is not to benefit the people whom the official was elected to represent. Therefore I am opposed to the pass evil, and if elected to congress I pledge myself not to accept any railroad passes, but to pay my fare to and from Washington and collect my legal mileage with a clear conscience.

I believe that the present system of paying for the transportation of mail is rank robbery and a gross injustice upon the people. The railroads that make a profit on carrying express do not deserve to be paid eight times as much for carrying the mail, pound for pound, to say nothing of being paid handsome rental for cars that are furnished to the express companies without price. If elected to congress I will do all that lies within my power to correct this gross abuse and make the railroads carry the mail at a reasonable figure.

I believe in the right of labor to organize for its own protection and advancement, and for the protection and help organization affords to members of the same craft. I am a union workingman and carry a union card which, next to my country and my family I prize as my chief possession. It naturally follows, therefore, that I believe in the 8-hour working day, not to the end that my hours of labor may be shortened, but that my fellow workman may the more readily find employment by which to earn bread for himself and those dependent upon him. As a mechanic I am opposed to the hypocritical protection that boasts of preventing the pauper made goods of Europe from coming into competition with the wares made by American skilled labor, and then turns about and allows the pauper labor of Europe to come in by the hundreds of thousands to compete on American soil with American workingmen. The importation of ignorant hordes that can never be assimilated or Americanized, merely to gratify the selfish lust of tariff barons, is responsible for most of the great labor troubles that have afflicted us of late. Far be it from me to shut the gates against the worthy of any land or clime, but if elected to congress I will endeavor to secure the enactment of more stringent immigration laws and will demand a more rigid enforcement of the alien contract labor laws.

I believe that every man who knowingly violates a law is an intentional criminal and should be punished as the violated law requires. I therefore believe that the rich men who have knowingly and with criminal intent violated the Sherman anti-trust law should be sent to jail just as speedily as the small criminal who has violated the law "thou shalt not steal." If elected to congress I will, if a congressman has any influence whatever, use every effort to land a few gentlemanly criminals of the Standard Oil and Beef combine kind behind the bars of the penitentiary.

A public official is but a public employe. Every employe has a right to discharge an employe who is unfaithful or incompetent, therefore I believe the employing public has a right to discharge an unfaithful or incompetent employe. For this reason I favor the recall system which will enable the people to discharge a servant who is rendering poor service.

I believe in direct legislation—that is, the right of the people to propose laws they want that selfish lawmakers elected by them will not enact, and to veto legislation that unscrupulous legislators may seek to force upon them. This is the initiative and referendum, which is so honest, so simple and so just that only the dishonest or the politically blind will oppose.

I believe in a system of taxation that will levy taxes in proportion to benefits received and not according to man's necessities.

I believe that public utilities should be publicly owned and administered for the benefit of the public.

Just now I am very much more interested in restoring freedom to this country than I am in bestowing freedom upon other countries; therefore I am opposed to spending millions needed at home in keeping a huge army at work pacifying Filipinos who seem to be laboring under the opinion that as a people they have as much right to be free as any other people. I believe that the old flag for which my father fought is too almighty good to float above any people who would not die to defend it from assault.

I believe that every man should strive to make himself able to defend his own fireside, but I am opposed to the idea of a man loading himself down with big sticks or big guns and swaggering around like a big bully in school, threatening dire results to any or all that may question his right to be It. To my mind this country's mission is something higher and nobler than to be an international policeman with a locust club or an international collector of bad debts.

I believe that the man who will not submit his disputes with a neighbor to arbitration should be made to do so, and that the same rule should apply between organizations and between nations. I am therefore in favor of a national arbitration commission with power to procure books and papers and compel the attendance of witnesses. I do not favor legal compulsion in the matter of accepting the findings of this commission, believing that public sentiment would be far more effective, and that neither of the parties to the questions at issue could afford to affront that sentiment by refusing to acquiesce in the verdict.

These are my sentiments expressed as briefly as possible. No one has asked me to be a candidate. I do not flatter myself that the eyes of the people are turned towards me or that their lips are framing the gladsome remark, "Behold a Moses to lead us out of the political wilderness!" As a matter of fact, I do not want to be a Moses, for I read in the Good Book that Moses failed to "get there."

I have many reasons for harboring the desire to go to Washington. Among them might be enumerated the following:

I would like to experience the feelings of a real live congressman without feeling as big as the average congressman.

I would like to be in a position to take an official whack at some of the big evils that have been visited upon the people by selfish interests that work without the fear of God or the love of man.

I would like to draw a congressman's salary for about two years—or more.

I would like to see the mechanics, the organized workmen of the country, represented in congress by a craftsman who knows how to work for himself with his hands far better than he knows how to work other people by his wits.

If nominated I will do my best to be elected, and if elected I will do my level best to represent all the people and not the private interests of a few of the people.

If neither nominated nor elected, I will not shed any tears but go right ahead striving to earn an honest living and taking comfort in the fact that I gave the people an opportunity to elect a man who would think of their interests and not devote his whole official time to thinking of selfish interests antagonistic to the people's interests.

If you want a representative in congress who thinks more of his party than he does of the general good, I would advise you not to nominate me.

Conscious of the rectitude of my intentions, and willing to submit the whole matter to the people most interested, I am,

Yours hopefully,

WILL M. MAUPIN.

AGAIN "HOLLERS" FOR HELP.

Lincoln Overall and Shirt Factory Pleads for Protection in Its Business.

The Lincoln Overall and Shirt company is again "hollering for help." After the fire which destroyed its plant last winter, Manager L. O. Jones made a tearful appeal for financial help on the ground that it was a Lincoln institution employing Lincoln workers, and therefore worthy of help. At that time The Wageworker made a few remarks concerning the kind of "industry" it was. Taking Mr. Jones' own figures it was demonstrated that this company—non-union, of course—paid an average wage of \$6 a week, and in the average was included the superintendent, the foremen and foreladies, traveling representatives, and all.

What the wage of the girls who run the machines may be is better left to the imagination. Manager Jones is an ardent opponent of labor unions, being of the opinion that "American workingmen women should be free and independent," and not "slaves of tyrannical unions and venal walking delegates." Of course Manager Jones takes no thought of the fact that if he employed union help he would have to pay more than an "average of \$6 per week."

The Lincoln Overall and Shirt company is now threatened with the competition of convict labor, and it makes a plea for help. It does not want to be forced into competition with the labor of convicts. We do not blame it. And under any circumstances we hasten to echo the protest. But we'd feel more like jumping in and helping if the Lincoln Overall and Shirt company paid better wages to its "free and independent employes."

Of course convict competition would injure the Lincoln Overall and Shirt company's business. So, too, it injures the business of the law abiding makers of brooms—but the stockholders of the Lincoln Overall and Shirt company do not seem to care a farthing for the broom makers. They "holler" about convict competition because the cheap labor of convicts will enable the prison contractor to undersell them. But they seem to overlook the fact that by their sweat shop system they are enabled to undersell the manufacturers who pay living wages and have work done under fair conditions.

In view of the fact that other overall and shirt factories are running profitably although paying the union scale and working the short hour day, we see no necessity for tearing our union made shirt and our union made pantaloons in a desperate effort to befriend a concern that works long hours and pays sweat shop wages.

Mr. Carnegie has just given \$10,000,000 to establish a pension fund for college professors. The money was a small portion of the vast amount he wrested from honest toil by the use of special legislation often purchased from venal lawmakers.

Can you imagine what the condition of the laboring men and women of this country would be today had there never been a labor union?

OPEN MEETING CENTRAL LABOR UNION

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 13, 8:15 O'CLOCK

Theodore W. McCullogh, of Omaha, will speak in defense of "The Union or Closed Shop Contract." Mr. McCullogh is managing Editor of the Omaha Bee and a member of Omaha Typographical Union. He should be greeted by an immense audience. Everybody invited. Free.

GENERAL MENTION.

Some News Notes Picked Up at Home and Abroad for Your Perusal.

The largest line of union made shoes in the city at Rogers & Perkins. Rogers and Perkins for unloap made shoes.

Patronize Wageworker advertisers and tell the merchant the reason. It always helps.

The good for imitation stone has had one good result—it has made work for the stonecutters.

The International Stonecutters have issued a new traveling card which is the handsomest thing of the kind ever seen.

Do not forget the open meeting of the Central Labor Union next Tuesday evening. T. W. McCullogh of Omaha will be the principal speaker.

Stonecutters are warned to keep away from Itelica, N. Y., and Memphis, Tenn. The strike at Rock Glenn, N. Y., has been satisfactorily settled.

By purchasing Lincoln made cigars you add to the city's prosperity and patronize Lincoln citizens who are interested with you in making Lincoln a better city.

St. Joseph's labor carnival opened up Monday, and it has proved to be one of the biggest things ever pulled

off by organized labor in the Missouri valley.

Bert Wilson, foreman of the Western Newspaper Union, has been ill for a week, but is now convalescing.

The Wageworker apologizes for the shortage of news matter last week, and for the several "bulls" in the makeup. It has no apology, however, for the handsome line of advertising.

The St. Joseph Union of last week came to hand with eight pages of seven columns each, and forty-two of the fifty-six columns were filled with advertising matter. We're glad of it.

Shelby Smith, indicted by the international officers of the Typographical Union, was not only acquitted by the trial board, but was elected delegate to the international convention at Toronto. There promises to be something doing in Canada next August.

Ask Him.

When you hear a Union man complaining of the scarcity of work or low wage scale, ask him if he is wearing Union-made clothes and patronizing none but Union people. If he is, then the other fellow is to blame, for the lack of patronage of our own wares is the cause of all our troubles.—New Brunswick Federationist.

SUBLIME NERVE.

And Perhaps That is What Makes a Successful Labor Paper.

Last week The Wageworker received a copy of a labor paper published in a far eastern state with the request, "please exchange." The paper in question is a handsome one, and it contains several articles of great merit. We admit this because the articles were stolen bodily from The Wageworker and reproduced without credit. To all appearances the articles are original with the aforesaid exchange.

If this is not deliberate and malicious "scabbing," what is? The Wageworker does not pretend to be the greatest and best labor newspaper in the world, but it does pretend to be honest. Every line not credited in this modest little labor paper is original with the editor—and don't you forget it. It may not be worth much, but if it is good enough to be reproduced in other papers it is good enough to be credited—and don't forget that, either. We are of the opinion that it requires a sublime nerve to deliberately steal another man's product and then offer to trade it back to him for some more of his product.

THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

Preparing to Have a Splendid Social Time at Their Hall on Monday Evening, June 12.

The Electrical Workers' Union of Lincoln is preparing for a social time at the hall on Monday evening, June 12. The object is to cultivate more sociability between the members of the union and their wives, and to interest the non-union members of the craft in the union. The union men have invited the non-unionists to meet with them and enjoy the evening, and the intention is to show them by force of example that it is a good thing, socially, morally and financially, to be inside of the union fold.

The social will not be a public affair, but the members of the union will invite particular friends. A good program is being prepared, and good music will be provided for those who care to dance. Every electrical worker in the city, union and non-union, should make it a point to be there, for he who misses it is going to miss something that those present will remember with pleasure for a lifetime.

OPEN MEETING OF THE CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

On Tuesday evening, June 13, the Central Labor Union will hold an open meeting at C. L. U. hall, on which occasion Theodore W. McCullogh, of Omaha, a union man of thirty years standing, will deliver an address on "The Union or Closed Shop Contract."

The Wageworker takes especial pleasure in recommending Mr. McCullogh as a man amply able to defend the cause of unionism, and as a man worthy of the hearty co-operation of all genuine unionists. A few weeks ago Timothy J. Mahoney, attorney for the Omaha Business Men's association, addressed the Omaha Central Labor Union and defended the "open shop." The address was published broadcast throughout the country. Mr. McCullogh, who is managing editor of the Omaha Bee, has prepared a defense of the "closed shop," and no one in this section of the country is better able than he to meet and overthrow the arguments of the versatile and shrewd Mr. Mahoney.

Every union man in Lincoln, and every non-union wage earner as well, should be present on June 13. The meeting is free to all, and everybody will be cordially welcomed.

When the policy of the Union Busters' Association builds a home like the one the printers' have at Colorado Springs we will begin to think that the supporters of the union busting game are unselfish in their aims.

Judge Christian C. Kohlsaat of Chicago is merely paying the corporations for having secured his elevation to the federal bench.

What unionism needs is a larger number of consistent unionists.