

THE WAGEWORKER

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

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The Fruits of The 8-Hour Day

The opponents of the eight hour day are divided into two classes. First, there are those who labor under the delusion that the demand for the eight hour day is based solely upon the desire of wage earners to secure shorter hours for their own convenience. Second, there are those who want a wage earner to work as many hours as possible for a day's pay for the purpose of exacting a larger profit from his toil.

The members of both classes are laboring under a grievous mistake. The first class is mistaken in believing as it does, for the real truth is that the demand for eight hour day is based almost wholly upon economic grounds. A shorter work day is demanded on the grounds that a man can do practically as much work in eight hours the year 'round as he can in nine or ten hours, and also on the ground that the shorter the work day the more numerous the opportunities for work. This may appear paradoxical to the superficial observer, but the careful student will not be long in grasping the point. The second class bases its opposition on selfishness, and the selfishness is based on ignorance. Therefore it is not necessary to waste any time arguing with them. They must be compelled to learn by experience.

Just now the government is unintentionally giving a demonstration of the claim that the union workman working eight hours a day does more and better work than the non-union workman working ten hours a day. Ethelbert Stewart has written an article on the subject for the Chicago Commons, and to this article we are indebted for the facts herein quoted. That they are facts is demonstrated by the other fact that they are gleaned by Mr. Stewart from a report made on the subject by Frank J. Sheridan, agent of the government bureau of labor.

The government is having two battleships, the Connecticut and the Louisiana, built—one by contract and one in the government ship yards at Brooklyn. The Louisiana is the contract ship, the Connecticut the government built ship. On the Louisiana non-union men work ten hours a day. On the Connecticut union men work eight hours a day.

From the date of laying the Connecticut's keel to the launching was 568 days, and the percentage of work done was 54.5. In the case of the Connecticut the elapsed time was 570 days and the completion 53.59. To all intents and purposes the eight-hour men accomplished as much work as the ten-hour men, but really they accomplished more.

The men who furnish the material for the Connecticut are interested in having the work done by private contract, therefore they have delayed the government work by holding back material and furnishing material which they knew would be condemned and refused.

But there is a better evidence than this in favor of the eight hour workmen. The Louisiana workmen worked 2,413,888 hours, and averaged 5.0608 pounds of iron work per hour. The Connecticut workmen worked 1,808,240 hours and averaged 6.2995 pounds per hour. Working 20 per cent longer hours the non-union ten-hour men performed less than 1 per cent more work. The non-union men on the Louisiana averaged 50.608 pounds per day of ten hours, and the Connecticut workmen averaged 50.396 pounds per day of eight hours. An average of 500 men a day worked ten hours a day on the Louisiana; an average of 470 men worked eight hours a day on the Connecticut—and the 470 men in eight hours performed practically as much work as the 500 men in ten hours. Mr. Stewart says:

"So far, the claim of the labor leaders that the eight-hour day is productive of better work and just as much of it in the skilled trades as the ten-hour day, seems to be amply sustained."

Mr. Sheridan gives several reasons why the ship being built by the navy yards is progressing faster in proportion to the hours worked than the one being built by contract at Newport News. His reasons are as follows:

1. Higher rates of wages are paid at the navy yard than by private companies in Greater New York and vicinity, and the rates of the latter average higher than private companies elsewhere.
 2. Employment the year round is steadier and more secure than in private yards.
 3. The higher wages, shorter hours and steady employment attract the best grade of workmen to the navy yard, where a tacit recognition of an asserted economic theory prevails that the best workmen can not be induced to work extra hard without larger pay than the average.
 4. Prompt recognition of good work by advances in wages and promotion in grade.
 5. A large waiting list of mechanics and others from private shops to select from.
 6. The expectation or belief that if the Connecticut were built in record time the building of another battleship would be given to the Brooklyn navy yard.
 7. A zeal generated by the general challenge of the country to the navy yard workmen to make good their claims in this test.
 8. Prompt discharge for inefficiency.
 9. Dismissal of workmen who could not or would not come up to a required standard of output in quantity and quality.
 10. No restriction of output individually or collectively.
 11. Loafing, soldiering, or 'marking time' not tolerated.
 12. Workmen required to begin work the moment the whistle blows, and to continue working until the moment the whistle blows at quitting time.
 13. Strict technical and exacting supervision of a high order of skill and experience.
 14. A desire on the part of naval constructors and workmen to remove an impression of inefficiency growing out of former navy yard construction of war vessels before civil-service regulations controlled employment there.
- Reasons 6 and 7, as listed by Mr. Sheridan, seem to require some qualification. The Machinist Union claims that whatever of increased speed may have been secured through the zeal of the men to show the advantage of the government building its own battleships in the navy yards direct has been more than offset by the delay in the supply of material to work upon. The union officials, both national and local, have persistently declared that material for the Connecticut has been delayed; that material which the steel manufacturers knew would not stand inspection has been sent to Brooklyn to be condemned. This, it is alleged, is for the purpose of delaying the work on the ship.

The heartfelt sympathy of every unionist in the country will go out to John Mitchell whose little daughter died very recently. It should be a great comfort to John Mitchell in his affliction to know that the parents of thousands of little children whom he has rescued from the serfdom and sweat shop mourn with him in his loss.

There is only one imbecile equal to the republican union man who always votes the republican ticket straight regardless of whom the nominees are, and that one is the 'democratic union man' who always votes the democratic ticket straight regardless of whom the nominees are. Don't be chumps.

The managers of the seven express companies doing business in Chicago refuse to treat with the striking teamsters. A little dose of government ownership of the express business would tend to make these arrogant managers thing a bit.

A SPLENDID ARGUMENT

Colonel McCullough's Defense of Unionism a Masterpiece of Logic.

There are about 1,500 union men in Lincoln who owe themselves an apology, to say nothing of owing an apology to a gentleman who came to Lincoln at his own expense for the purpose of defending their cause. The apologies are due because they did not take enough interest in unionism to be present, and did not show proper courtesy to a friend and a fellow unionist. Some time ago the Central Labor Union invited Mr. T. W. McCullough of Omaha to deliver an address on the topic, 'The Union or Closed Shop Contract,' and he finally consented to do so. Last night the address was delivered before a mere handful of unionists at the Central Labor Union hall. The hall should have been crowded to the doors, for an abler and clearer presentation of unionism's side of the argument was never presented in this section of the country, and as one who has given the matter close investigation the editor of The Wage-worker unhesitatingly declares that it was one of the very best ever presented anywhere.

There was no attempt at oratory, no appeal to pathos and sentiment, no striving after theatrical effect—merely a plain, logical and thoughtful dissertation upon the advantages of unionism to both employer and employee. A synopsis of the argument would be inadequate. To secure any conception of the address one must either hear or read it. Mr. McCullough quoted from the government's census, from economists and sociologists, and showed clearly that every authority on the subject presents unanswerable argument in favor of collective bargaining. As soon as possible The Wage-worker will present this able address in full. It should be the pleasure and the duty of every genuine unionist in the country to work to give Mr. McCullough's address the widest possible distribution.

Mr. McCullough, who is managing editor of the Omaha Bee, is a union printer and for nearly thirty years has been active in the work of trades unionism. He has studied the question in all its phases. He has had all the experiences common to the man who works at a skilled trade, and the result of experience and study have been crystallized into the paper he read Tuesday evening.

After the meeting Mr. McCullough and several old-time 'prints' held a session and nearly every railroad in the country was traveled again in the usual way. Frank Reed, editor of the Shelton Clipper, and a union man all the way through, was a member of the session. Mr. Reed is postmaster at his town and is here attending the "Nasby Convention."

THE CIGARMAKERS

Putting Up Some Elegant Advertising in the Interests of Their Label

The local cigarmakers are engaged in putting up some elegant lithos and handpainted signs advertising their already familiar "blue label." This line of advertising is undoubtedly the finest ever put out by a labor union, and it will certainly have a good effect. If the employers were as enterprising in the line of securing publicity as the employees a great deal more might be gained in the way of patronage. The cigarmakers have favored The Wage-worker with a liberal advertising patronage, but up to date the manufacturers have aggregated the magnificent total of \$2. The Wage-worker, however, will go right ahead hoisting Lincoln made cigars for two reasons. First, Lincoln made cigars are union made cigars, and, second, the more Lincoln made cigars there are smoked the more cigarmakers will be employed, and the more skilled tradesmen employed in Lincoln the bigger and better Lincoln will be.

Some time ago Alex Stewart put on the market a cigar named "Police Judge," and the box bore the familiar features of Judge P. James Cosgrave. The union men of the city very soon discovered that the cigar was not union made and the attention of Mr. Stewart and Judge Cosgrave was called to the fact. Mr. Stewart, who has exhibited his friendship for unionism on more than one occasion, admitted that he had made an error of judgment and promised to rectify it at the earliest possible moment. Judge Cosgrave insisted that if the cigar was to bear his name it must be union made. Immediately Mr. Stewart got busy, and the result is that arrangements have been made to have the cigar manufactured by union men, and the next consignment will bear the familiar "blue label."

"It was merely an oversight on my part," said Mr. Stewart, "and as soon as I was reminded of it I set to work to make good. I'm glad the boys called my attention to it, and I assure them that I'll not forget again soon." "I cheerfully admit that there are handsomer faces than mine," said Judge Cosgrave, "but homely as I

may be my phiz is too blamed good to adorn the lid of a boxfull of 'scab' cigars. I have had a heart-to-heart talk with Stewart, and hereafter my nicotine namesake will have the proper credentials on the box." The union cigarmakers of the city are feeling quite cheerful over the outcome of the matter.

ONE OF THE OLDEST

Veteran Printer Finally Lays Aside the Stick and Rule

The following from last Monday's issue of the Indianapolis Sentinel will be interesting to all old time printers, as well as to craftsmen generally:

After a long illness John H. Eagle eighty-eight years old, died at 5 o'clock Sunday morning at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. M. J. Dobson, 448 Blake street. Death was due to old age.

Eagle was the oldest printer in Indianapolis and had worked at his profession all over the United States. He started as a pressman on the Pittsburgh Gazette in 1837, and later worked in Philadelphia, where he was born, and in New York City.

In 1852 he came to Indianapolis and worked for a time on the Journal. Then he went to California, and, returning again to this city, was made foreman of the Journal composing room, in 1856. He held that position for eleven years, when he retired and established a grocery adjoining his home at 620 North Delaware street. Until the death of his son, William, last October, the aged man remained in business, but after the loss of the son he sold his property and made his home with a granddaughter, where he died.

GLORY ENOUGH FOR ALL

A Damnable Doctrine That Should Be Refuted at all Hazards

Work the very best you can, Better than the other man, You will find it the best plan, To hang on.

—Milwaukee Sentinel Poet.

The sentiment of the Sentinel's verse is essentially bad. It is all right to "work the very best you can." It is your duty to take interest in your employer's welfare and to earn your salary by giving the best service you can. That form of agitation which aims to keep you at war with your employment is extremely hurtful to all concerned. But to have it in mind that you are to do "better than the other man," who perhaps is not you equal in strength or skill, but who nevertheless has a family to be fed, clothed and sheltered, is to make of yourself a hog so far as that name can be applied to a human being. While you are doing your work with conscientious fidelity and skill, you should be glad if "the other man" does his work equally well. This D. M. Parry idea that it is the workingman's duty to aim to belittle "the other man's" work by comparison was born in hades and is in harmony with its origin. Away with it.—Superior Telegram.

THE BARBERS

Warm Weather Makes Work Better and All Are Feeling Good

The Journeymen Barbers of Lincoln have demonstrated what conservative and wise action can do towards maintaining pleasant and satisfactory relations between employers and employees. The committee appointed by the local union to handle the matter of adjusting differences went to work quietly and without any flourish of trumpets. The meetings were marked by cordiality and a willingness to do the right thing, and as a result of the meetings everything was arranged to the complete satisfaction of all concerned.

Business is good. This is the time of year when business is usually first-class in the tonsorial line.

The barbers are all base ball fiends, and when they can not get out and root for their own team they are rooting for some other team. The barbers claim to have just a little the best ball team of any craft in the city, and are willing to wager razors and strops on the proposition. If any other craft holds that the barbers are mistaken, a challenge inserted in The Wage-worker will find a speedy response.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY

Planning for the June Social and Expecting a Jolly Good Time

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 will meet in regular session next Wednesday afternoon. In the evening the regular June social will be held, and the committee in charge is laying plans to make it fully up to the mark set by former socials. At the next meeting officers will be elected and a full attendance is desired. And above all things, let the members remember that the date of the meetings has been changed to Wednesday afternoon, and the place is now Bohanon's hall.

GENERAL MENTION

Items of Interest Culled From Sources Here, There, and Everywhere.

For union made shoes go to Rogers & Perkins.

The union horseshoers of Atlanta, Ga., are out on strike.

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

Anti-Japanese leagues are being formed all along the Pacific coast.

French workmen are reported uneasy and fears of general strike in all trades are expressed.

The state convention of the Massachusetts Building Laborers' union was held in Boston last week.

The United Mine Workers are making especial efforts at organization among the non-union miners in the Pittsburg district.

The new Burr block at Thirteenth and O streets will add a whole lot to the appearance of that section of the business district.

San Francisco carpenters are demanding the enlargement of the Chinese exclusion act so as to include Japanese and Koreans.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad management has abolished the Sunday excursion. President Earling says they are bad things.

Machinery for the new Missouri Pacific shops at Sedalia, Mo., will be installed by October 1, and work for 2,000 men will then be provided.

Doubtless Shadr, the druggist, is crazier now than ever, taking his own plea of insanity as a basis for his charge. The excise board is making him hop lively.

Street railway men in New York hope to secure a vestible law from the next legislature. Nebraska has had it for eight years. They're awfully slow down east.

If you have not seen the Fulton Stock company in "The Lost Paradise" do so before the week ends. It is a labor play that every union man and woman should see.

Ten thousand Jap laborers in Hawaii are reported waiting an opportunity to come to the United States. There is a big demand for that kind of labor on western railroads.

The magnificent new Labor Temple, at Los Angeles, Calif., is almost ready for dedication. The flag on its staff will flap over the roof of General Otis' "rat" printery and make the general furious.

LINEMAN KILLED

James R. L. Mauzey Meets Death While at Work in St. Joseph

James R. L. Mauzey, better known as Roy Mauzy, an electric lineman, met death at St. Joseph, Mo., Monday evening by coming in contact with a live wire. Mauzy went out to repair a broken wire, and before he snapped his life belt at the top of the pole he came in contact with a live wire and was thrown to the ground. The wire burned his shoulder frightfully and the shock loosened his hold. He fell to the ground, sustaining injuries which resulted in his death a few hours later.

Mr. Mauzy was a Lincoln boy and the remains were brought to this city for interment. The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon and the interment was at Wyuka. Mr. Mauzy had many friends in Lincoln, and was especially well liked by members of his craft.

AN OPEN SHOP

Leatherworkers Agree to It, But Secure Some Valuable Concessions

The local leatherworkers on horse goods have been compelled to agree to the open shop, but their wage scale was agreed to and they have a grievance committee. For two years Lincoln has been the only closed shop in this district, and the employers insisted that in justice to them the open shop should prevail here. The leatherworkers resisted, but finally agreed to it in view of valuable concessions made along other lines. All of the negotiations were carried on without any serious trouble, and the results appear to be mutually satisfactory.

Modern Definitions

Vested Rights—Something you have no right to but are strong enough to keep.

Standpatter—Either a man who dislikes the idea of letting go of the swag or a man who can not see that he is being bilked.

Trustee of Providence—An insouciant excuse for monopoly.

Community of Interest—A thin disguise for financial highwaymen.

Protection—Synonym for graft.

Pacification—Compelling the other fellow to be satisfied whether he is or not.

Why He Failed

"Did Schemery succeed in floating that company he organized?" "No; he scored a great failure. He put so much water in the stock that there was nothing left for it to float in."

Vardemann Turns Carnegie Down

Governor Vardemann of Mississippi is all right as a general thing, although he is sadly off in his views on the industrial conditions of the country. He does not believe in allowing men like Carnegie and Rockefeller and their ilk to get control of Mississippi's educational institutions. Recently Andrew Carnegie offered \$25,000 to the Mississippi state university, conditioned upon a similar sum being donated by the state, the whole to be used to erect and maintain a library in connection with the university. Governor Vardemann and the board of university trustees, of which he is a member, politely but firmly declined the "generous" offer.

The Wage-worker thinks a whole lot of Chancellor Andrews of the Nebraska university, but it does wish with all its soul he had been possessed of enough independence to decline Rockefeller's gift to our university. Governor Vardemann has acted wisely. Men like Rockefeller and Carnegie are doing enough to poison our social life without letting them get control of our educational institutions. We have taken occasion to criticize Governor Vardemann for his peculiar views concerning labor unionism, and it is with pleasure we seize an occasion to give him the credit he so richly deserves.

HERE'S A GOOD STORY.

And It Has the Merit of Being True as to Minor Details and to Major Facts.

Here's a good story involving the management of the Lincoln Overall and Shirt factory, and as it comes to The Wage-worker pretty straight it is doubtless true:

Once upon a time a young woman occupying the position of forelady in one department of the factory was married to a young man who is a unionist from the ground up. As soon as the young lady was married she worked no more in the factory. One day the manager sent for her and asked her to return to work, saying he was short of help and needed her services very much. She spoke to her husband about it and he vetoed the suggestion instantly. As he was making \$1 a day and working six days a week the year around he felt amply able to provide for the household. The wife sent word to the manager of the factory that she could not resume her old place, her husband being very much opposed to her again working in a factory.

"It must be a mighty small man that will refuse to let his wife earn a little spendin' monee," the manager is reported to have exclaimed. "And he might have let his wife come down and help us when we were short-handed."

"A little spending money" is just about what that outfit pays its help. The average wage is less than \$6 per week, including every employe on the pay roll. This is undoubtedly the lowest wage paid in the city, not even excepting Hermann Bros., another sweat shop overall and shirt factory. In one publishing house in the city where about forty young women are employed as mailers and subscription clerks, the average wage for all employes is about \$14 a week, with an eight hour day, Saturday half holiday, all legal holidays on full pay and a week's vacation each year on full pay. In another publishing house the average is about the same with the nine hour day.

WOMAN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE.

Listen to a Verbal Report from Mrs. Kent, Delegate to the International Convention.

The Woman's Union Label League met in regular session last Monday night, and the most interesting feature of the meeting was a report from Mrs. Alice Kent, delegate from the local league to the international convention at Chicago last week.

The convention was held at Hull House, in the stock yards district, and the experiences of the delegates in that slum section were often laughable but more often annoying. But the experiences taught the woman the necessity of more earnest work in the cause of bettering social and industrial conditions. The sessions of the international were somewhat stormy, a bitter fight among the chief officials being the disturbing cause. The fight was centered on Mrs. Brittel, president, and she was retired, Mrs. Fitzgerald of Chicago being elected to succeed her. It would seem that the affairs of the league are not in good shape, and it will take some earnest effort to bring order out of the chaos created by petty jealousies and incompetency. But the newspaper reports of trouble in the convention's sessions were grossly exaggerated.

Mrs. Kent talked entertainingly, and demonstrated by her report that the local league made no mistake in selecting her to represent it at the convention. Her report was calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of the members and set them to work more earnestly to build up the organization in this city.

STRENUOUSLY DISCIPLINED.

Charter of St. Louis Typographical Union Revoked for Violation of International Law.

In violation of international law adopted by an overwhelming referendum vote, St. Louis Typographical Union entered into a contract for the nine-hour day extending beyond the date of January 1, 1906. The international officials endeavored to prevent it, but without avail. When the contract was signed the charter of the St. Louis union was immediately revoked.

The St. Louis union has a membership of about 1,400. The full details of the trouble have not yet been made public, and may not be until the July issue of the Typographical Journal. In the meanwhile the eight hour campaign goes on with unabated vigor. City after city is being brought into the eight hour class. Upwards of two hundred local unions have already secured the eight hour day, and nearly a hundred have arranged for it to take effect on January 1. The St. Louis trouble will have no effect upon the intention of the unions to bring the shorter work day.

THE FULTON STOCK COMPANY.

Worthy Theatrical Company Opens Its Second Summer Engagement at the Oliver Theatre.

The Fulton Stock Company, supporting Miss Epit Jackson and Mr. Jess Fulton, opened its second summer engagement at the Oliver last Tuesday evening. It is with pleasure that The Wage-worker recommends this company to the consideration of its readers. It presents a line of attractions at popular prices—attractions as well staged and as well presented as those of other companies charging the regular theatre prices. The engagement will continue through the summer months, and many a delightful evening may be spent at the Oliver.

Some time during the engagement a play by a local author will be given, full particulars of which will appear later. The opening bill of the engagement was "The Lost Paradise," a labor play which every reader of The Wage-worker should see. This play will continue until Saturday night, with regular Saturday matinee. See it by all means.

Vocalization will never build a Labor Temple. We greatly fear that the esteemed Typographical Journal is falling into the error of indulging in "personal journalism."