

THE WAGEWORKER

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

VOL. 2

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NO. 11

A Suggestion to The Woman's Club

The Lincoln Woman's Club is a magnificent organization, and it has accomplished a splendid work in assisting in building up the city on educational and material lines. It is possible for the Woman's Club of Lincoln to inaugurate right here a movement that will do more to uplift and benefit their sisters throughout the country than any previous movement has ever done. While working along intellectual lines the Woman's Club could be bettering industrial conditions, and by so doing make it possible to increase the results of educational effort.

With all due respect, and with every assurance of its interest in the work of the Woman's Club, The Wageworker ventures to suggest that the Club take up the subject of "sweat shops" and start a movement that will result in wiping out this iniquitous evil. The Wageworker believes that the members of the Club have only to understand the terrible evils of the "sweat shop" system to impel them to organize a movement against it. There are union men in Lincoln who are amply able to give the Woman's Club information on this subject, and if the women think they can stand to hear some of the horrors that actually exist and drag women and children down to depths lower than death, The Wageworker will be glad to furnish the speakers.

The women of this country have it in their power to wipe out the "sweat shop," and if they want to take up a work that should be done—a work that will save their sisters, and stop the hellish sacrifice of innocent children upon the altar of Moloch—let them begin right now. It would be in keeping with the eternal fitness of things if the movement that will abolish the "sweat shop" system starts in the city bearing the name of the man whose hand struck the shackles from the black man. There exists in free America today a system of slavery by the side of which negro slavery was a beneficent and a model institution. Chattel slavery bound only the body of the slave—the slaves of the "sweat shop" are bound body and soul, for the "sweat shop" system is the recruiting ground for the brothels. Women who would starve before they would sell their honor to feed themselves, sell their bodies in order to provide a crust and shelter for those whom they love better than their own lives. Women in this unhappy state exist by the thousands and tens of thousands in the "sweat shop" districts of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and Baltimore.

The unholy craze for "bargains" is the foundation of the "sweat shop" system. "Just think, I got this lovely dress for \$18," exclaims Mrs. Bargainseeker. "Why, I couldn't hire it made for that, let alone buy the material."

Of course not. But some poor, hollow-cheeked and half-starved sister of yours, Mrs. Bargainseeker, living in a windowless room and working twenty hours a day, stitched her soul into that bargain of yours. Perhaps three or four half-starved children tugged at her ragged skirts and cried for a crust of bread that she could not give while she stitched with fevered hands and aching heart upon that "bargain" you boast so much about.

In God's name, you happy and prosperous women of Lincoln, give some heed to your struggling, starving sisters of the "sweat shops." If you know nothing of their condition, ask some one who does know. The writer, the humble editor of this little labor paper, has seen sights in the East Side "sweat shops" of New York City that would make the heart of every true man and woman ache—sights that would put to shame the tortures of the inquisition.

If the Woman's Club of Lincoln wants to engage in a work that is really worth while, let it inquire into the industrial situation as it affects the sisters of its members and seek to abolish the evils that exist today.

THINK IT OVER, MR. TOLL.

What Labor Unions Have Done for Their Members in the Way of Helpfulness in Trouble.

Phil R. Toll, the chief agitator of the Employers' Association of Kansas City, who was formerly at the head of the Phil R. Toll Box company, recently sold by the sheriff, will perhaps admit that labor unions have some good features if he will just think over the following figures, which show the amount of death benefits paid by the different international unions to the widows of working men last year:

By the Carpenters.....	\$109,069.38
By the Cigarmakers.....	148,120.00
By the Iron Moulders.....	54,400.00
By the Bottle Blowers.....	45,000.00
By other unions.....	345,102.70

A total of\$782,382.08

Another item that might interest Mr. Toll and other labor fighters is the sick benefit feature of labor unions. Unions have reported paying the following sick benefits to members:

By Cigarmakers.....	\$ 15,600.00
By Iron Moulders.....	205,698.25
By Boot and Shoe Workers.....	88,000.00
By Carpenters.....	75,000.00
By Machinists.....	60,000.00
By other unions.....	172,068.58

A total of\$756,762.83

Unions have paid, or at least reported as having paid in death benefits and sick benefits alone the neat little sum of \$1,539,144.91, which, by the way, is not one-half of the money actually paid out, but not reported.

Think it over, Mr. Toll, at your leisure.—Kansas City Labor Herald.

WHERE YOU GET THE LABEL.

Clothing That Union Garment Workers Make Are Very Easily Obtained in Lincoln.

Every suit of clothes made by Kohn Bros. of Chicago bears the label of the United Garment Workers of America. This is a guarantee of the excellence of the workmanship, the fairness of the conditions under which the tailors work, and the fairness of the members of the firm who make the clothing for the trade. Kohn Bros. are advertisers in The Wageworker. They deal fairly by union labor, and at the same time they deal fairly with their customers. The brand of Kohn Bros. is a synonym for good goods at right prices.

The Armstrong Clothing Co. is the local agent for Kohn Bros. clothing, and the company carries a large line. There are many reasons why The Wageworker wants you to buy Kohn Bros. clothing. One of them, and the chief one, is that Kohn Bros. employ only union garment workers. Another is that Kohn Bros. advertise in The Wageworker. Another is that every demand made for Kohn Bros. clothing stimulates the union label crusade. It is Kohn Bros. clothing it carries the label. Ask for it.

A BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

An Opportunity for Central Labor Union to Better Its Finances

Last week the Fulton Stock company, headed by Miss Enid Jackson and Jess B. Fulton, and embracing a company of unusually competent people, presented a labor play, "Lost Paradise." The play is one that thrills a union man through and through, for it is full of the union spirit and teaches a lesson that unionism has been seeking to impart for many years. The great strike scene, the never-ending questions between capital and labor, the sufferings of the toilers, the thoughtless selfishness of the rich—all these are pictures that appeal directly to the heart. The company presents this powerful drama in a way that leaves nothing to be desired.

M. Jesse Fulton was approached by The Wageworker editor early last week and the suggestion advanced that it would be a good idea to present "Lost Paradise" later in the season as a benefit for the Central Labor Union. Mr. Fulton immediately fell in with the suggestion, and agreed to do so at any time set by the central body. If the delegates to that body and the unionists of the city will take hold, it will be possible to add a nice amount to the treasury and incidentally call the attention of the public to what unionism is trying to do to better the social, moral and material status of those who toil. It will do any man or woman good to see this magnificent play.

The Fulton Stock company is presenting a series of dramas at the Oliver, and each performance is far above the average of repertoire attractions. The company is exceptionally strong and is deserving of the most liberal patronage. The bill for the remainder of this week is "Lynwood," a touching military drama. The opening bill next week will be "Thelma," the week concluding with "Young Mrs. Winthrop."

THE PRINTERS

Feeling Good Over the St. Louis Situation Since Last Sunday

The printers of the city are feeling mighty good over the action taken by the St. Louis union last Sunday. For a week before that the boys were not feeling so good, and when St. Louis was mentioned they said things that were extremely warm and smoking. Now that the big town on the river has got back in line there is a better feeling in union printer circles.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner took advantage of the Woodmen excursion and visited around the Wisconsin lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Sayer were among the Milwaukee excursionists this week.

Mrs. F. C. Greenlee has returned from a pleasant visit with relatives and friends in Iowa.

Mrs. B. O. Wilson left Tuesday for Chicago where she will visit with her son, Don, and wife, and incidentally get acquainted with that new baby. Bert is still feeling the effects of a serious illness and will remain around home for a week or two in an effort to get back to his old time form.

Mrs. Frank Coffey is expected in Lincoln in a very short time, and will renew many friendships of other days. She expects to remain in Lincoln through the summer, returning to the Oklahoma farm in the early fall. While visiting here she will doubtless accompany Mr. Coffey to Toronto.

The "handcuff man" who played at the Lyric last week—his name being temporarily mislaid—is a union printer and carried a Chicago card in his pocket.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION

Meets Next Tuesday Night and Important Business Will Demand Attention

The Central Labor Union will meet next Tuesday night for the first time in five weeks. A great deal of important business will come up for consideration, and it is hoped that every union will be represented by full delegation.

Some of the unions are woefully careless in having delegates. The Pressmen have not been represented for many months. Neither have the Plumbers. In fact, less than half a dozen unions are represented with anything like regularity. This is not as it should be. Instead of from ten to fifteen delegates present as a rule, there should be in the neighborhood of a hundred. Let there be a full attendance next Tuesday night.

THE BARTENDERS

Union in Good Shape and Local Organization Well Nigh Perfect.

The local Bartenders' union is in excellent condition, and the organization is more nearly perfect than ever before. Every bar in the city is manned by unionists at the present time. Just now the local is pondering over some radical changes made in international law by the Kansas

City convention last month. The "Mixer and Server," the national organ, contained a full resume of convention in the last issue, and since it appeared the Bartenders have been studying up on some of the more important changes. Opinion is somewhat divided upon the advisability of the radical changes made. Under the new order of things the international takes charge of the work of paying all sick, strike and death benefits, and locals are allowed to cover into the general fund only 60 per cent of their receipts from dues and assessments.

When Mark Wilber entered business for himself the local found itself compelled to find a new financial secretary. Mr. Wilber has filled the position so well that others are loath to tackle the job. Hermann Sundean is being urged to take it, and if he does Mr. Wilber will turn his books over to a man well qualified to carry on the work.

Dan Raymer wants it distinctly understood that he is in no wise responsible for the fact that his saloon was papered by an unfair firm. The agent of the landlord promised to have it done by a fair firm, and when the workman showed up to do the work he showed a card. It developed after the work was finished that the workman was working for an unfair firm and that he was under \$25 fine by the local union of Paperhangers and Decorators. The same firm had the contract for painting the front and decorating up inside woodwork, but the aforesaid firm will not do it. Dan kicked to the landlord and the fair firm. The work will be done by a fair firm and union men.

Al Walker knew where there was a good fishing hole until quite recently. He often went up there and returned with a goodly string of succulent bullheads. He'd do it again if he could. But he can't. However, he will have revenge if he can locate the fiends who dragged his fishing spot with a seine.

THE TEAMSTERS

Watching the Outcome of the Chicago Situation With Deep Interest

Members of the local Teamsters' Union are watching the outcome of the Chicago strike with a great deal of interest. The rumors of "graft" have stirred up considerable feeling.

"We've got to get rid of that sort of thing," declared a prominent member of the local. "It hurts us. I don't believe that Shea is half as guilty as rumor charges him. At any rate he is not a bit worse than the aristocratic gentlemen who put up whatever money he may have taken. Why don't those highly moral newspapers open up on the men who bribe our leaders as well as the leaders themselves. Is the rich man who pays a bribe any better than the poor devil who accepts it?"

Local Teamsters are not sweating any particular amount of blood over the local situation. True they have no agreement with the employers just now, but work in the coal hauling and lumber hauling lines is very slack, most of the work being on the streets and on grading. But before cold weather comes it is expected that an agreement will be in force. The employers are not manifesting any hostility, and there are indications of getting together when the proper time comes. The local is not making very much noise just at present, but the members are keeping up a gratifying amount of thinking.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION

Decides Upon a Lecture Propaganda and Will Begin at Once

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor met at Scranton, Pa., last week and decided upon a lecture propaganda. The members of the executive council will begin immediately to arrange for lecture dates in various sections of the country, and much good is expected to result in the way of renewed enthusiasm along union lines. President Gompers told about his recent lecture tour through the west, and said that he was greatly pleased with the results. The affairs of the American Federation of Labor are in fine shape. There are 116 international trades unions, 33 state branches, 604 central labor unions, 1,043 local trades and federal unions now affiliated with the Federation. The 116 international unions have upwards of 25,000 local unions attached to them. Secretary Morrison submitted the following report for the eight months ending May 31:

The balance on hand October 1, 1904, was \$103,017.94, and the income for the eight months \$141,074.03, making a total of \$244,991.97. The expenditures were \$148,356.45. The report shows that \$70,901.52 has been received for per capita tax of 1/2 cent per member per month. One hundred and ninety charters were issued for the eight months; one state branch, forty-six central unions, fifty-three federal labor unions.

T. C. Kelsey, president of the Central Labor Union, is working for the municipality.

TRAINMEN'S PICNIC.

Splendid Program Arranged for the Celebration at Seward.

The railroad brotherhoods of Lincoln have completed all arrangements for their Fourth of July picnic at Seward, and the program will provide entertainment for all. The railroad men have spared no energy to make this celebration a huge success, and that they will win out is assured, for they have a habit of making good on all they undertake. Those who celebrate the Fourth at Seward will have as good a time as can be framed up. The following program has been arranged, but other features will be presented during the day:

11 to 12 noon—Speaking by Hon. James P. Cosgrave.

12 noon to 1 p. m.—Lunch.

1 p. m.—Ladies ball driving contest. First prize \$3, second prize \$2.

1:15 p. m.—Boys' eggs race. First prize \$3, second prize \$2.

1:45 p. m.—One-hundred yard dash, free for all. First prize \$5, second prize \$3.

2 p. m.—Boys seventy-five yard foot race, under fourteen. First prize \$3, second prize \$2.

2:30 p. m.—Hose race between York and Seward, run 250 yards, break and make coupling, purse \$30, second \$20.

2:30 p. m.—Ball game between Utica and Davey, Neb. Purse \$50.

2:30 p. m.—Cup race. First prize \$3, second prize \$2.

4:30 p. m.—Balloon ascension.

5 p. m.—Tug of war across the river, between train men and engine men. Prize, two boxes cigars. One side has got to go into the water.

Finest picnic grounds in the state and everybody welcome.

Trains leave Lincoln 8:30 a. m., 10:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.

THE LEATHERWORKERS

Jardine Re-elected President at the Kansas City Convention

The executive committee of the International United Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods is still in session at the headquarters of the Brotherhood in the Gibraltar building, and will probably be unable to close up the work in hand until the latter part of next week.

The canvas of the returns from the referendum election shows the following officers elected:

General President—Mark Jardine.

First Vice President—E. J. Baker.

Second Vice President—Frank Sweeney.

Third Vice President—O. I. Kruger.

Fourth Vice President—George Shipman.

General Secretary-Treasurer—John J. Pfeiffer.

District President—First district, Herbert Martyn; Second district, A. W. Spencer; Third district, Harry Thomas; Fourth district, C. C. Hutchins; Fifth district, D. O. Owens; Sixth district, H. L. Darby; Seventh district, C. W. Krumm; Eighth district, no nominations; Ninth district, S. Malone; Tenth district, no nominations; Eleventh district, William Hunter; Twelfth district, E. Simper.

The members of the committee say the Leather Workers organization was never in better shape. The organization has not got one strike on now, and has satisfactory agreements with both the National Saddlery Manufacturing association and also with the employers in the trade districts.—Kansas City Labor Herald, June 16.

THE PRESSMEN

Watching the Outcome of the International at San Francisco

The annual convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union met at San Francisco last Tuesday with upwards of 200 delegates present from all parts of the country. The Lincoln local is not represented, but the members are watching the convention and waiting to learn the outcome.

President Higgins is a candidate for re-election, but is being opposed by Frank Gampush of Denver. The battle is good-natured but is being warmly waged. The international union is in good shape and material progress has been made during the year. The Lincoln local is still negotiating a wage scale with the employers, and while progress is very slow the members are in no wise discouraged.

THE LABEL LEAGUE

Meets Monday Night and Will Map Out a New Campaign of Work

The Woman's Union Label League will meet in regular session next Monday evening. A Kensington has been formed and it is expected that it will have the effect of arousing new and deeper interest in the work of the League. Mrs. Alice Kent, president of the League, has also been selected as leader of the Kensington.

The largest line of union made shoes in the city is to be found at Rogers & Perkins.

Will Union Men Ever Get Wise?

The other day we stood in a cigar store and watched. A union painter came in and called for a cigar, indicating the brand he wanted. It was a notorious "scab" cigar, but this "union" man bit off the end of it, struck it against the gas jet and went out puffing contentedly.

Shortly afterwards a printer came in. He is a card man and has been for years. He indicated his brand of cigar, and it was "scab." But he lit it and sauntered out:

An hour later we stood in a clothing store and saw a union mechanic buy a pair of "scab" overalls. While looking for a pair that would fit he removed his hat and laid it on a counter. We stole a look under the sweatband, and it was made by the most notorious "scab" hat manufacturer in the country. Before we left that store we saw another "card" man buy a two-piece summer suit made by a "scab" Rochester clothing house. He never even asked or looked for the label.

Not one of these men is a genuine union man! He may belong to a union and keep up his dues, but he lacks as much of being a union man as a cat lacks of being a lion. He may talk about being a "square man," and he may be chief orator in his union, but he hasn't learned the first and fundamental principles of unionism.

It is awfully discouraging at times, this thing of trying to preach consistency into members of trades unions. It looks as if any member of a union ought to see without particular urging that it is his duty to buy union made goods whenever he can. But the most of them fail to do so. It is not because they do not want union made goods, but because they never think. And that's the chief trouble with union men—they do not think enough. They never forget the duty that others owe them as union men, and if the other fellow employs a non-union man the unionist raises a holler about it. But while he is making his "holler" the chances are that he is wearing "scab" clothing, hats and shoes, smoking or chewing "scab" tobacco and getting shaved at a non-union shop "because it is so handy."

The genuine union man would as soon think of "scabbing" on his fellow craftsmen as he would of buying the product of "scab" or unfair labor.

Brace up, fellow unionists, and get into the union labor game up to your eyebrows. Get your brains as well as your stomachs interested. One year of solid and insistent demand for the union label by every union man and woman in the country would double the numerical strength of the unions and put the Posts and the Parrys out of business. The union label is the greatest weapon in the union arsenal. Intelligently used it will overcome the "sweat shop" of the unfair factory and the "scab."

ST. LOUIS "GIGS BACK"

Joe Jackson's Bunch Sees the Error of Its Way and Gets Back Into the Fold.

St. Louis Typographical Union met last Sunday and made haste to get back into the fold. It didn't take long to do it, either. Filled with a realizing sense of the fact that their 47,000 brethren would not stand for their violation of international law, and with visions of vanishing charter and cards before their eyes, the St. Louis printers by an overwhelming vote decided to rescind the contract for the 9-hour day tentatively agreed upon with the Typothete and get in line.

Just what impelled the St. Louis union to ever even think of signing up for the 9-hour day is a deep, dark mystery that may never be explained. Perhaps Hon. Josephus Jackson could tell—but it is doubtful if he ever will. Suffice it to say that St. Louis is once more inside of the fold, and the Typothete bunch that was hugging itself with joy over what it considered a death blow to the 9-hour day is now wondering what hit it.

The vote of the St. Louis union to sign up for the 9-hour day was close, less than 500 votes being polled. When the thunderclap came the boys began doing some thinking. The first thing they knew their cards were not worth holding, for no other union would recognize them. Immediately there was something doing. Last Sunday saw the game reversed, and 700 printers crowded the hall and by an overwhelming vote decided to get back in line and be good.

St. Louis was one of the parties to the six-cities agreement, and President Jackson was the hottest 8-hour man at the conference. Then, inside of two weeks, came the announcement that his union had accepted the 9-hour day with a paltry advance of \$1.50 a week to the job men, and a wave of disgust and anger swept through union circles all over the country. St. Louis was the first big city whose contract expired, and the Typothete had it all figured out that if the union lost there it wouldn't have enough fight left in it to make a ripple in other cities. The Typothete forgot that there were about 48,000 union printers scattered over the country, and that no little old local union could violate international law and retain its charter.

In the language of Al Edmondson, an old Missouri friend of The Wageworker's, "there's goin' to be hell a poppin' in St. Looney," and don't you forget it. But the St. Louis printers, having become good, will find themselves backed by an army of men who have never been whipped when they had right on their side—and they've got it this time for fair.

The battle seems to be on now, with the first skirmish in St. Louis and a warm battle in sight in Chicago. The St. Louis experience will be a valuable lesson to all the wavering unions, if there are any such.

THE CARPENTERS.

A Bunch of Interesting Items From Lincoln's Biggest Union.

Three members initiated June 20, and four candidates voted on.

The following officers were elected to serve the union for the next six months: President, C. E. Woodard; vice president, H. B. Atterbury; recording secretary, George Quick; financial secretary, A. E. Hawkins; treasurer, R. Shepard.

The first meeting of the quarter occurring on July 4, it was voted to hold the meeting Thursday, July 6. Members who have not brought their cards for examination by the trustees must do so that evening.

Hank Robinson injured his leg while working for Contractor Dabas a couple of weeks ago, and is still laid up on account of the injury.

Bro. Margus is building himself a house at Twenty-fourth and S.

Bro. Emberson is nursing a good sized carbuncle. It is doubtful if Billy is as patient as was Job.

The supply of non-union men from College View seems well nigh inexhaustible.

In case union men should forget,

remember that A. M. Davis don't patronize union men. Remember, too, when you want furniture or carpets, that there are dealers who believe in reasonable hours and decent wages, and sometimes employ union men.

Isn't it strange that so many carpenters when they become bosses become at the same time the most meanly and scabby employers, bearing out the old saying, "Put a beggar on horseback and he'll ride to the devil?" It is disgusting how some of them will prostitute their trade for a little filthy lucre.

There is a very fair demand for union men.

Your correspondent is informed that Clie Campbell's carpenter work on the Fraternity building is being done by members of the Building Laborers' Union.

In the words of the Pittsburg, Pa., Dispatch of May 7, "The master builders of Pittsburg have met with a crushing defeat in their efforts through the medium of a lockout to enforce the open shop," on the members of our organization in Pittsburg. It has been one of the most signal victories of the year.