

THE WAGEWORKER

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WHAT MR. BROWN STANDS FOR.

In one of his campaign speeches Mr. Pollard, the republican nominee for congress, said that he was in favor of a "conservative reduction of the tariff." This should be good news to everybody. If there is anything on earth that people are crying for it is a "conservative reduction of the tariff." But we are not going to rend our nether garments over Mr. Pollard's declaration until he tells us just what he means by a conservative reduction of the tariff.

But we do know what Mr. Brown, the democratic nominee for congress, stands for. There is no secret about Mr. Brown's position on the tariff, or any other question of interest to the people. Mr. Brown is opposed to any sort of a tariff that robs the many to enrich the few. He believes that if given a fair field the American craftsman can hold his own against the craftsmen of any or all other countries. He believes that the American farmer, aided by the best soil, the finest climate and best brains ever put into human skull, can hold his own against the grain raisers of any or all other countries. He has no patience with the hollow mockery of the cry, "protection to American labor," while hordes of ignorant and degraded labor swarm to American shores to work under contract for tariff-protected barons, to the detriment of free and intelligent labor. Mr. Brown believes that fewer millions spent on a large army and a large navy, and more millions spent in irrigation, good roads, and the development of agriculture would be a great benefit to American citizens.

But Mr. Brown stands for some things that vitally interest the wage-earners of this country. He believes in the doctrine of collective bargaining—which means that he believes in recognizing union labor and maintaining the "closed shop." He believes in the shorter work-day. He believes in labor's right to organize for its own protection and benefit, and being a fair-minded business man he prefers to deal with men through their union organizations. He emphatically refused to join an association having for its object the destruction of the "closed shop" and openly declared his friendship for labor organizations. Every skilled laborer in his employ is a union man—and must be to secure and retain employment.

If elected to congress Mr. Brown will do all that one man can do to protect the interests of labor—not by "protective tariffs" but by laws that will protect the workingman's life, widen his opportunities and shield him from the aggressions of dishonest capital. He will seek to strengthen the alien contract labor laws; he will seek to secure a better enforcement of immigration laws; he will seek to secure better and stronger laws for the protection of life and limb.

Frank W. Brown is not a politician. He is a successful business man, and in the whole of his business career he has always shown his friendship for organized labor. He did not seek the nomination for congress. It was forced upon him. He has no selfish interests to serve. He is under no obligations to any trust, corporation or selfish interest. As a congressman he will be free to act as he sees fit, and his actions as a congressman may be judged by his acts as a business man and employer of labor.

The Wageworker doesn't care a rap whether Mr. Brown is a "gold bug" or a "silver bug." It doesn't care a rap whether he is a "free trader" or a "standpatter." It doesn't care a rap whether he is a "big sticker" or a "no sticker." But it does care a lot about his friendship for organized labor—and that friendship has been demonstrated often enough to be convincing. It is because Mr. Brown is a friend of organized labor that The Wageworker is supporting him.

A LITTLE PRIMER LESSON IN POLITICS.

The other day a business lot in Lincoln sold for \$12,000 spot cash. It had an old, dilapidated building on it that was worthless except for kindling. Fifteen years ago the man who built that building on the lot bought the lot for \$1,200, and spent \$1,100 on the building. The property cost him a total of \$2,300.

The rent paid the taxes and a fair interest on the investment. When he sold the lot and building for \$12,000 the owner cleared \$9,700.

What made that lot worth \$12,000?

The growth and development of the city.

Who developed and made possible the growth of the city?

The men who worked and toiled and sacrificed, spending their wages in Lincoln, building little homes, supporting good schools and elevating the moral standard.

To whom, then, should the increased value of that lot belong? To those who gave it the added value, of course.

Stop and consider this long enough to let it soak in good and deep.

If no one had worked, if no one had settled in Lincoln, if no homes had been built, if no merchants had prospered—that lot would be worth only the price of farm property.

Do you grasp that idea?

The man who bought the property for \$2,300 did not add one dollar to its value. You, and you, and you—all of us—added the \$9,700 value to that lot.

Do we get the benefit?

Not on your life!

Every time a workingman builds a little home he is taxed on his frugality and enterprise, while the speculator who holds up occupied lots profits.

The men who build up Lincoln pay for the privilege. The men who do nothing sit still and wait profit from the increased value of real estate.

What's wrong?

Here's the answer—our tax system.

Now study the Georgian ideal of taxing land values instead of taxing enterprise.

The workingman who owns his own home and fails to study the single tax system is foolish.

That will be all for this lesson. The class is dismissed.

TOTE FAIR, GENTLEMEN.

The Wageworker, as every reader knows, has a mighty poor opinion of the management of the Lincoln Distraction company. But the Wageworker believes in toting fair. That's why this modest little labor paper unhesitatingly declares that the attempt to prevent the construction of the depot loop is founded on something more than appears on the surface. This thing of damning the Distraction company for not making needed improvements, and then seeking to enjoin it when it undertakes to make an improvement is unfair. That depot loop is needed, and needed badly.

The idea that the construction of the loop would deprecate certain property makes us smile. Perhaps it would. Not for the world would we put ourselves in an attitude of contempt by seeking to venture an opinion before the honorable court makes the first guess. But just the same the idea makes us laugh.

Give the Lincoln Distraction company a square deal, gentlemen. Then make the Lincoln Distraction company do the same thing.

When the farmer learns the benefit of organization, and when the trades unionist learns the benefits of united political action regardless of partisan lines—when these are well learned the professional politician will be out of a job and the pampered capitalist will have to either go to work or live off the principal.

If Andrew Carnegie had paid fair wages to his men, and given them decent hours, he would not now be so badly worried about dying rich.

Union men have been restrained from striking. They have been restrained from asking higher wages. They have been restrained

from trying to show non-union men the results of their non-unionism. They have been restrained from walking along the public highways. And now a San Francisco judge has restrained them from refusing to patronize a firm that sells "scab" hats. But, thank God, no judge has yet restrained us from breathing the same air that the trust magnates breathe—although we expect to be served with such a restraining order almost any time.

An old friend of the editor, Mr. I. J. Copenharve, has started a labor paper in South Omaha, the Labor Gazette. The best we can wish for the Gazette is that the laboring men of South Omaha will give it as good support as the laboring men of Lincoln give The Wageworker. And as long as Copenharve runs the Gazette it will be worthy of undivided support, for he is so choke-full of unionism that he talks about it in his sleep.

There are two classes of men who howl loudly in advocacy of "protection for American labor"—the skilled mechanic who is glad to get a job at \$2.50 a day and the multi-millionaire who spends a million a year on private yachts and game preserves. Which of these two men is the premium sucker?

Banker Bigelow stole \$3,000,000 and was sent to the pen for ten years. Frank Stevens of Columbus, O., stole a \$40 bicycle and was sent to the pen for eight years. But the workingman who insists that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor is an "anarchist."

Mr. John B. Farwell of Chicago appears to be one of those bull-headed gentlemen who believe that a laboring man has no rights which a big capitalist is bound to respect. Men of the John V. Farwell class are always the first to howl against "appeals to class prejudice."

Andrew Carnegie is one of the men who advocated a protective tariff in order to "protect American labor." Andy is now worth \$300,000,000 after giving half as much away. Can it be possible that Andy failed to make an honest division of the profits of the protective system?

The biennial elections law having been knocked out we will have to elect a bunch of county officers this fall. And right now is the time for union men to get into the game. The ranks of unionism in Lancaster county contain fit material for any old political office in sight.

Funny creatures, women. When they were little girls they loved to put on long skirts because they thought it made 'em look like women. Now they want to put on short skirts because they think it would make 'em look like girls again.

When laboring men learn to vote for the men who demonstrate their friendship for labor, instead of voting for men who appeal to partisan prejudice, the laboring men of the country will come into their own.

Police Judge Cosgrave says he will fine every man who spits on the sidewalk. That's right, judge. And if he spits "scab" tobacco juice fine him twice.

The man whose mouth is talking unionism under a "scab" hat is merely a liar—that's all.

A LAST APPEAL TO THE TYPOTHETE.

A Member Shows the Organization Where It is Going to Make a Very Serious Mistake.

It is to be regretted that the Typothete, an organization of employing printers of San Francisco, is determined to invite trouble with the Typographical Union, by insisting upon a return to the nine-hour working day on July 1st.

The Union cannot concede the demand without taking a step backward, which it is not likely to do.

The eight-hour day, as we pointed out in last week's Star, came gradually, as a compromise measure by mutual agreement between employers and employed. The latter wanted it two years and a half ago, but, being reasonable men, accepted the suggestion of the Typothete that instead of at once reducing the day one hour, which would be a hardship to employers, they reduce it fifteen minutes every six months, which would give employers two years to regulate their business accordingly.

Could anything have been fairer?

That a majority of the employers are satisfied with the eight-hour day, and would "preserve the peace" that now exists between them and their workmen, we are convinced; yet some of them, through pressure of one kind or another—which will yet be made clear—have been inveigled into signing the agreement to return to the nine-hour day.

A number of offices—including the Star—will abide by the eight-hour day. All of them will be compelled to come to it in the end. Progress cannot be held back by a few malcontents.

Years ago we told the employing printers of this city, when many of them objected to granting the nine-hour day, that it had come to stay until superseded by the eight-hour day. They did not believe us then, but not many moons had passed before they realized that we had spoken the truth.

We now tell them that the eight-hour day has come to stay, no matter what they, or any power behind them, may do. They may doubt us as they did before, but only a short time will pass when they will once again admit that we were right.

But, in the meantime? Ah, "there's the rub." The action of the Typothete will engender strife; long-standing friendships between employers and employees may be broken; and it may take years to obliterate the bitter memories of only a few days or hours.

Once more, gentlemen and fellow members of the Typothete, we ask you to think of these things; and we make a last appeal to you to reconsider what you have done, and be guided by reason and right.—San Francisco Star.

SOME RED HOT STUFF.

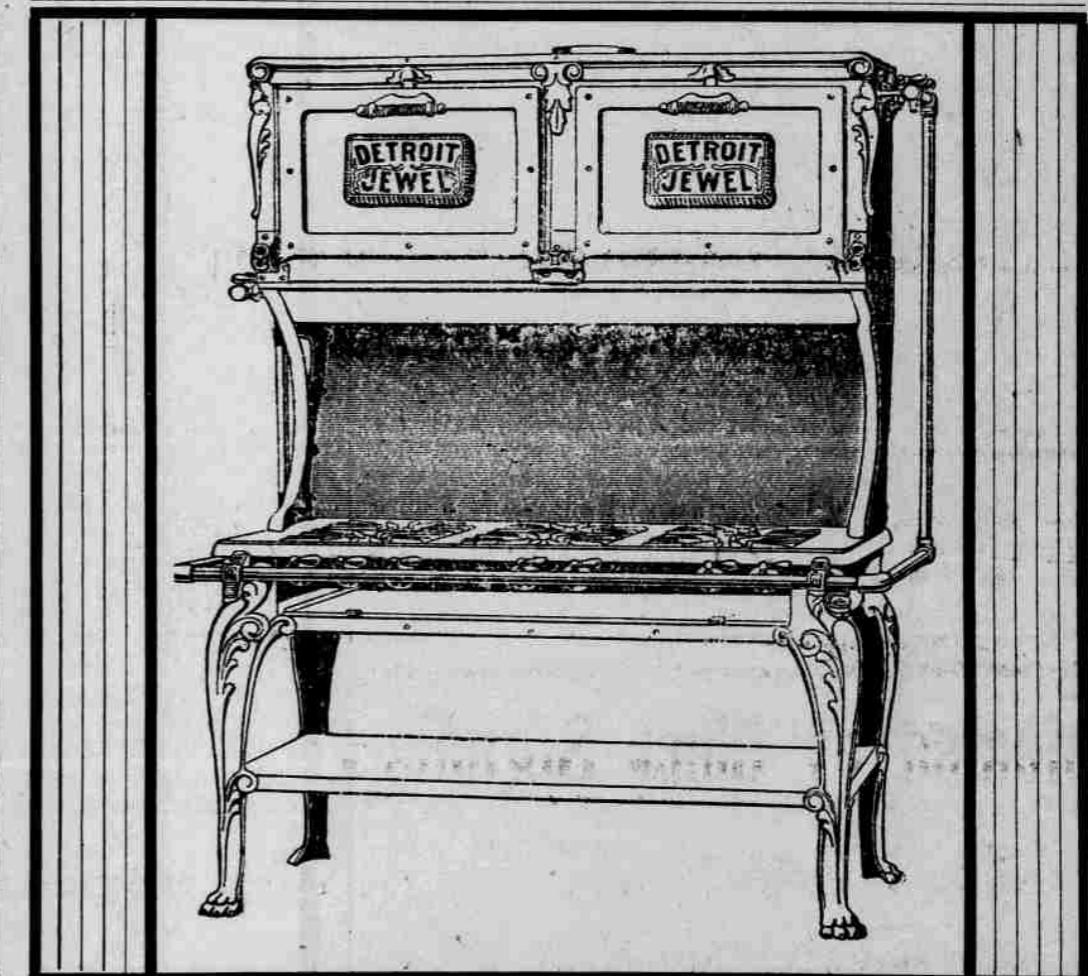
A Missouri Populist Who Talks Right Out in Meeting About the Great Labor Movement.

Will Crittenden Thornton, editor of the People's Banner, knows what he knows—and he knows a lot. Crittenden prints a paper on a farm, two miles from Belleville, Mo., setting all the type himself and writing every blooming line that goes into his paper. And it is a red-hot little paper, too. He is a populist, and he calls attention to a few things that every populist should consider. Filled with supreme disgust with some of his fellow populists, Crittenden sat down at his rural editorial desk the other day and ripped off the following. It is good reading for every trades unionist in the country:

The People's Banner has no patience with those pretended populists who make no effort to keep abreast with the labor movement. Some of the alleged populist papers have been run by the most contemptible scabs that ever disgraced our country, as in the case of Herb. George, of the old Denver Road, and there are a few of his ilk still engaged in driving the organized labor vote away from us. A true populist is a trade-unionist to the core, and could not be induced to print union-hater Post's contemptible scab drivels at any price, nor would he patronize a "patent" house that is unprincipled enough to thus prostitute his columns. A decent populist editor would rather starve and die than plead the cause of union smashers, scabs and strike-breakers under any circumstances. The news reports in the patent sides of the populist local papers concerning the present strike in Chicago are damnable lies the insertion of which is paid for by the villainous Employers' association for the purpose of prejudicing the rural population against unionism. And yet, some of these ignorant yap editors are wondering why Tom Watson didn't get the organized labor vote of any city in America. Go to, now, my beloved country brethren, and apply to your simple minds enough of this anti-scab ointment to cure you of the citizen's alliance itch and make true and consistent populists of you.

A WISE WOMAN NOW USES A GAS RANGE

If she has none, she immediately sets about getting one. The modern housewife seeks for labor saving appliances just as the husband seeks for labor saving machinery or labor saving business devices. Here is the greatest labor saver the American housewife can find:



It Saves all the work of carrying coal, dumping ashes, splitting kindling, etc. No waiting for the fire to get hot enough to cook with. No waste of heat after the cooking is done. The heat is all there right on the very moment it is wanted. When no longer needed both heat and expense stop.

The Expense A Comparative Trifle

Fuel Gas costs less than coal or wood—to say nothing of the saving in health and time. No waste of time; no waste of heat; no waste of strength.

A GAS RANGE means a comfortable kitchen. Surely the health and comfort of the housewife is worth considering. Increase her health and comfort and the meals are better cooked, better served and more thoroughly appreciated. There is as much difference between a modern Gas Range and an old-fashioned cook stove as there was between the cook stove and the old-fashioned fireplace with its swinging crane and kettle oven.

INVESTIGATE FOR YOURSELF Don't take our word about the economical, healthful and comfortable features of a Gas Range. Just ask those who are using them. We'll abide by the decision of our customers. We carry a full line of Gas Ranges and Water Heaters, and will take pleasure in showing them to you and giving a clear demonstration of their utility and cheapness.

OPEN EVENINGS

Lincoln Gas & Electric Light COMPANY BELL 25 1326 O ST., LINCOLN. AUTO 2575