

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 Reason His Unionism is Strong

"Where a man's treasure is, there his heart is also," says Holy Writ.

And truer words never were written. The union man who hasn't some financial interest in the welfare of his union hasn't much heart interest in it. Just look around and see what unions are the strongest from every standpoint, and you will find that they are invariably the ones with the highest rate of dues and the largest assessments. Why? Simply because their members have put enough of their toil and sweat into them to make them a part of themselves. Men are not apt to think very highly of those things which cost them nothing in the way of toil or money, but that which must be labored for is appreciated.

A few weeks ago a Lincoln union man was heard to complain because his union had tacked up an assessment of 10 cents a month to help out some strikers, in addition to the 40 cents a month dues he was already paying. The total of his union dues and assessment was 50 cents a month. And there are union men here in Lincoln who make no more and pay from \$1 to \$2.50 a month and are glad to do it. The union to which the first man belongs is weak financially and has had to concede the open shop. The unions to which the latter belong are strong financially and have the closed shop by agreement and contract.

Do you grasp the idea? The men who pay the most dues secure the greatest benefits. It has always been true, and will always be true. Take the Typographical Union as an instance. The per capita is 40 cents a month. The death benefit is \$70. It takes seventeen years for a printer's per capita tax to equal his death benefit. But the printer pays 1 per cent on his gross earnings, and in addition he is now paying one-half of 1 per cent additional into the defense fund, to say nothing of frequent assessments for local purposes. The average printer of Lincoln is paying \$1.50 a month, outside of local assessments—and when they come they are usually a dollar per. But the printers pay it, and the result is they have a strong union, splendid working conditions and an agreement for the closed shop.

The cigarmakers have another union where the money is used freely. The cigarmakers pay well for their unionism, and the result is that they have a union that is in many respects the best in the world. They secured the 8 hour day years ago. Their death and sick benefits are large, they have a loan fund, and their international always has money to meet emergencies. Every time you strike a union cigarmaker you strike a man who appreciates his unionism and makes the most of it because he has good money invested in it. The union that is forever trying to keep its dues down to a low notch is making two mistakes—it is always cramped for funds and it is not making unionism worth something because a financial interest its membership should have is lacking. When union men stop to think of what their unions have done for them in the way of shorter hours, better conditions and higher wages, it seems strange that any union man should kick on 1 to 2 per cent in the way of dues. But there are such union men. They are quick to take advantage of the benefits accruing to themselves by reason of their union connections, but they are forever kicking when asked to pay their share.

There is an example of this sort of foolishness right here in Lincoln. Three years ago a certain union secured an increase of wages amounting to \$104 a year per member. Inside of eight months after the increase was secured a lot of the members dropped out of the union because the dues were raised from 35 to 50 cents per month. Today those men are working for from \$104 to \$150 a year less than they were when they quit the union. Why? Because the union couldn't wield the requisite influence on account of a loss of members. For the paltry sum of 15 cents a month—\$1.80 a year—these so-called union men lost \$104 a year each. And they did not deserve anything else, either. It does seem strange that there are men calling themselves unionists who will kick an paying a couple of dollars a year for the privilege of drawing \$100 a year more wages.

After you have made some sacrifices for your unionism you will be a better union man than ever. After you have invested a few more dollars in it you will have the cause of unionism more at heart. Commend us to the union man who never kicks about his dues and assessments. We know that he will do to tie to when the time comes.

General Items Gathered From Here and There

For union made shoes go to Rogers & Perkins.

Central Labor Union meets next Tuesday evening.

Rogers & Perkins carry a full line of Union Made shoes.

The Woman's Union Label League meets in regular session next Monday evening.

Every time you smoke a union made Lincoln cigar you are aiding to the volume of home industry.

The Nebraska Printing Co. has not yet deceived anybody by its claims to being an "open shop." And it will not, either.

Herman Bros. are kicking on their taxes. They are so used to paying sweat shop wages that they want to sweat taxes.

Unionists are requested to remember the merchants who so generously aided in making the Central Labor Union benefit a success.

The Commercial club could do something tangible by starting a "home industry" campaign, and making its first move by selling only Lincoln made cigars from its case.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner returned to Lincoln last week. The Wageworker was in error in stating that they would no longer make this city their home, and it is glad of it.

The Carpenters' Union has reached the 300 mark, an increase of one-third inside of a year. This speaks well for the hustling abilities of the carpenters and makes their union the largest in the city.

"Deacon" Donham, who will be pleasantly remembered by a number of Lincoln people, and who is now publishing "Donham's Doings" at Downing, Wis., writes that he is going to re-publish the editor's Fourth of July speech at the Lincoln Country Club celebration, and adds that it is

a corker. The "Deacon" knows a good thing when he sees it.

Mrs. Frank Coffey arrived in Lincoln from Oklahoma last week, and will remain here during the summer, accompanying her husband to Toronto, where he represents the Lincoln Typographical Union at the international convention.

The Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co., which made such a pitiful plea for public charity right after the Halter block fire, is erecting a costly brick building on Fourteenth and P streets. A lot of money that should have gone to paying decent wages is going into that building.

USEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL.

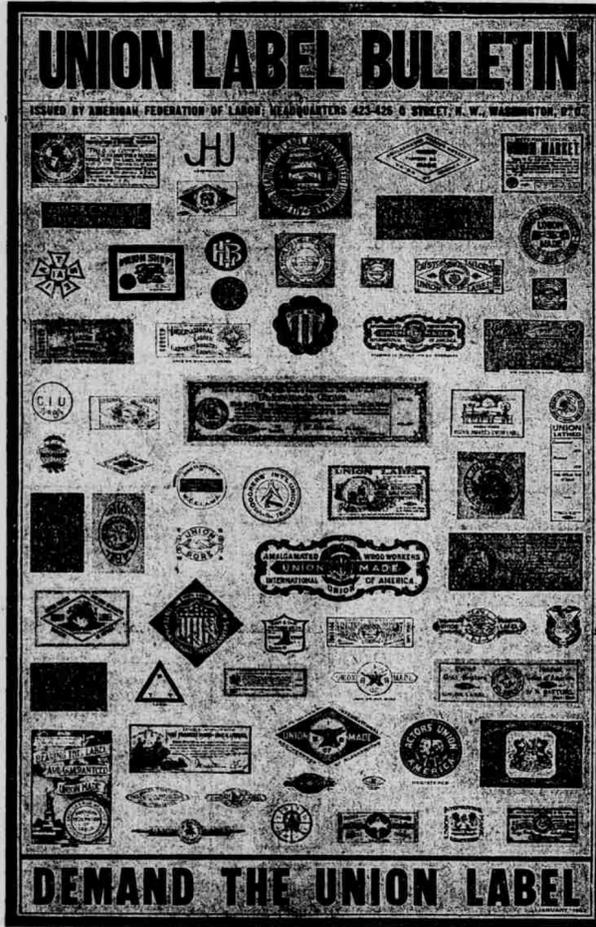
The Union Pacific Railroad has just issued an illustrated booklet on the Lewis and Clark Centennial, which is a complete guide to Portland, the Exposition and the Pacific Northwest generally.

It is eminently a pocket manual for visitors to the Centennial. It contains a map of the United States; large Birds-Eye-View map, in several colors, of the Exposition grounds with directory; colored map of Portland, beautiful half-tone illustrations of the Exposition buildings; and much general information concerning hotel rates, street car lines, and other things which strangers to Portland will want to know about.

It tells you of the shortest way to reach the Exposition City, what is to be seen en route, and of the return trip through California.

Those who intend to visit the Great Western Fair will find this publication a rare fund of information.

Send two cent stamp in your request, and the book will be mailed you promptly. Address E. L. Lomax, G. P. & T. A., Omaha, Neb.



HERE'S A GREAT SCHEME

The Wageworker is in receipt of the following letter, to which the close attention of its readers is called. It is written on the official letterhead of the "Omaha Union Label and Home Industry League" and tells a story that is interesting and profitable:

Omaha, Neb., July 18.—To the Editor of The Wageworker: Omaha unions have adopted a plan which I would like to call especially to your attention—a plan to boost the sale of the products of union men.

Now, the old way has been boycotted the unfair and say nothing about the fair product in a practical way. It is a well known fact that union men do not patronize the label goods. There must be a reason for this, and from a little "Sherlock Holmes work" we think we have found the reason. From inquiries from union men and women we find they will not ask for the union label, and particularly the women. A few enthusiasts will, of course, but the majority do not and will not. If they did conditions would be different.

We have organized a Union Label and Home Industry League with five delegates from each union. Some seventeen unions have been visited by our organization committee so far, and practically all have sent delegates and are "dead stuck" on the proposition. Each union pays dues of \$2 per month to the League. We have decided to use the Western Laborer and it has been made the official organ. We buy advertising space to publish the directory in, and the plan is to try to get all unions to subscribe in a body for the Laborer.

The idea of this list is to make it easy for union men and women to buy union goods. If anyone has any compunctions about asking for the label they can simply ask for the brand without saying anything about the label, but at the same time they are using up the union goods that are on sale. The merchants were visited and asked for their line of label goods. When we got the list we checked it up and then compiled the list as published in the Laborer. We will revise the list from week to week and keep it up to date. If a man wants to buy a union made shirt he sees in that list that the Elgin shirt is on sale at such and such places. He knows the shirt is on sale at a particular store and the price, so in

that way it is made easy for him—he does not have to ask for an Elgin shirt and then trot somewhere else if it is not on sale at the first store. In a nutshell, our scheme is to "Make it easy to buy Union Made Goods."

We would like to see Lincoln, St. Joseph, Sioux City, Denver, Kansas City and other cities take up this idea and boom our own goods, letting the other fellow take care of himself. We publish the list without any expense to the merchant. Fraternally yours, J. M. HOGAN.

The plan outlined above is a practical one, and The Wageworker is happy to state that it has already been taken up in Lincoln. The Woman's Union Label League is preparing a list of union made goods and the names of merchants handling them, and in a short time the plan will be in practical operation. Lincoln, however, has not followed the Omaha plan to the letter. The Woman's Union Label League is an independent organization, and up to date it has not received proper support from the labor unions. But so far as the idea of unions subscribing in a body to the local labor paper is concerned, Lincoln adopted that plan when The Wageworker first started. Today practically every union in the city has subscribed for this paper, and those which have not are just now in difficulties. This may be a coincidence, but it is a fact.

"Make it Easy to Buy Union Made Goods," is a slogan that should arouse great enthusiasm. That union men and women will not ask for union made goods is a fact that can not be disputed. If they would the fight would be won in a walk. Any plan, therefore, that is calculated to boost the label should be taken up by out-and-out unionists whose unionism is something better than the mere mouth and card variety.

The union men and women of Lincoln spend \$1,000,000 a year, or more, with Lincoln merchants. If that vast amount of patronage could be consolidated for union made goods the local merchants would remain awake at night framing up schemes to get label goods. As it is they do not worry themselves at all, for the simple reason that they can sell "scab" goods far easier and at a great profit. It is safe to say that not 5 per cent of the clothing, shoes and hats worn

today by Lincoln unionists bears the union label—and this, too, in spite of the fact that union made goods in all of these lines may be found with very little effort.

Carelessness that is little less than criminal is responsible for this state of affairs. If any kind of an organization or plan can remedy it, then in the name of consistent unionism let us get together and form the organization or frame up the plan.

The Woman's Union Label League meets next Monday evening, and it is expected that the committee appointed to list union made goods will be ready to make at least a partial report. The Wageworker will keep its readers posted, and in the meanwhile it is going to keep right on boosting the label.

THE LABEL LEAGUE

Social Session Enjoyed and Arrangements Made for Future Work.

The Ladies' Label League met with Mrs. Binder at 730 North Tenth street. A very pleasant afternoon was spent. There being only a few there, nothing of importance was done, only to talk and arrange for work to be done as soon as we increase in numbers sufficiently to do so. We had a blind buff writing contest, which proved to be quite an amusing feature. Mrs. Elgin won the royal prize and Miss Binder the booby. Delightful refreshments. The League adjourned to meet with Mrs. M. T. Astor, August 2, at 2042 S street. MRS. S. J. KENT.

THE STENOGRAPHER'S HUSBAND

Charles W. Post has broken loose again, and is using big space in the daily newspapers to tell what brutes union men are. It might be well to remind the public again just what kind of a man Charles W. Post is. He is the millionaire manufacturer of imitation food who treated his wife cruelly because he had been smitten by the charms of a young stenographer in his office. So cruel did his treatment of his faithful wife become that she had to secure a divorce. Before the ink on the decree was dry Post married his stenographer and hiked off to Europe, leaving the wife who had helped him make a fortune to ponder on the frailty of men, and watch another woman spend the money she had helped to earn.

Eight-Hour Day Has Come to Stay

Despite our warning and pleading—despite every honorable effort that could be made by the Typographical and Pressmen's Unions to avert trouble—about twenty-six employing printers out of nearly two hundred have locked out their employes for refusing to work backward or return to the nine-hour day. The other printing houses—among them some of the largest in the city—will abide by the spirit of their agreement, made two years ago, with the Unions, and continue on the eight-hour basis.

This lock-out is "worse than a crime; it is a blunder." It is worse than a blunder; it is a shameful breach of faith. It is worse than a breach of faith; it is a conspiracy, hatched by certain members of the Citizens' Alliance and Typothete, to create strife between employers and employed.

We believe that a majority of the firms whose employes are locked out were coerced into playing so dishonorable a part by the threat that if they did not do so, patronage would be withdrawn from them and their business ruined. We know that such is the case as to some, for they have personally so informed us. They will find, too late, that they have been deceived, and that their cowardice will cost them dearly. Not only will they suffer financial loss, but, unless they speedily relent and repent, the loss of self-respect and the respect of their fellow-men. Even the Citizens' Alliance will have contempt for them, and leave them to "root, hog, or die."

As we have stated before, the eight-hour day was not forced, or thrust, upon the employing printers by the Unions. It came about by mutual agreement and gradually, a reduction of fifteen minutes being made every six months during two years. It was a compromise measure, proposed by the employers themselves, when the Typographical Union respectfully asked, not for shorter hours, but that the scale of wages be increased fifty cents per day. The Union accepted the proposition, not thinking for a moment that any employer would seek to abrogate it as soon as it had gone into effect.

There is no reason for a return to the nine-hour day, and the only two excuses offered by those who want to so return are of the flimsiest character.

The first excuse is that they are not making a fair profit with the eight-hour day. As we have hitherto pointed out, they did not make any more profit with the nine-hour day or the ten-hour day, and wouldn't with a fifteen-hour day, unless they charge a fair price for their work, which they could easily get if they had a scale of prices, as the Unions have a wage scale, and live up to it, instead of cutting each other's throats.

The second excuse is that they cannot successfully compete with the East, unless they have the nine-hour day. They complained that they could not compete with the East when the ten-hour day prevailed here. If their claim were well founded, the Eastern employing printers would not have sent their "walking delegate" here to insist upon the nine-hour day. Eastern employing printers are just as hungry for trade as are the employing printers of the West, and would not be apt to help a cause which would take any of that trade from them.

Once more we tell those employers who have locked out their employes that, do what they may, the eight-hour day has come to stay.

We have made our last appeal to those who are bent on strife—with whom justice and fair play and cordial relations between themselves and employes count for nothing. There are others, however, who mean right, but have been led astray. We have always been pleased to be numbered among their friends, and to number them among ours. To them we now appeal to consider carefully what they must have done without consideration. They have nothing to gain, but everything to lose, by permitting themselves to be catspaws for designing, selfish men, who have no regard for anybody's welfare but their own. In the name of honorable manhood, we appeal to them to call back their locked-out men and let all be peace and good will once more. In the end, even those who have sought strife must yield to the power of right, supported by the might of public opinion, which is unanimously on the side of the Typographical and Pressmen's Unions and the eight-hour day.—San Francisco Star.

The Central Labor Union Benefit a Huge Success

The Central Labor Union benefit at the Oliver Wednesday evening was the most successful affair ever pulled off in Lincoln, and that is saying a good deal. By 8 o'clock not a seat was left in the house—boxes, loges and gallery being sold out—and not less than 300 people were turned away. It was a demonstrative audience, too, and it applauded every point brought out in the plan. Especially was this true in the great strike scene in the second act, when Swartz, the blacksmith, stood up for the rights of labor as against capital, and Warner, the young superintendent, turned his back on the scene of his early struggles and walked out with the workmen in whose cause he had enlisted. "Lost Paradise" is a magnificent play, and when, in the last act, the daughter of the mill owner, seeing her duty after personal investigation took the side of the strikers and ended the battle, the audience vented its appreciation in round after round of applause.

The thanks of the Central Labor Union are due to Mr. Jess Fulton and the splendid stock company under his direction, and to Manager Zehring of the Oliver, for their kindness and liberality. They enabled the Central Labor Union to clear a neat sum of money, and their kindness will long be remembered by the unionists of the city. In this connection it is only just to the Fulton Stock company to say that it has scored a splendid and deserved success during its long summer engagement, giving the best of dramas in a style that would well become the much vaunted "eastern successes." It is only once in a long while that a theatre-goer is permitted to witness such a uniformly good company at anything like the prices that are charged during this engagement. It would be only just to make individual mention of each member of Wednesday evening's cast, but this can not be done at this time. But

it will be said, and truthfully, that there was not a poorly taken character in the entire play, and the play itself was presented with a wealth of scenery and detail that marked it as a triumph for the company.

The unionists of the city who toiled so earnestly to make the benefit a success are amply rewarded for their efforts. Several of them sold large blocks of tickets, and there was a good natured rivalry started that added largely to the profits of the benefit. The thanks of the Central Labor Union are also due to the following business firms, which purchased large blocks of tickets: Miller & Paine, Armstrong Clothing Co., Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co., H. Herpold Clothing & Co., and the Lincoln Clothing Co. It is only right and proper that the unionists of the city bear these firms in mind and show by increased patronage their appreciation of their enterprise and liberality.

The exact financial results are not yet known, but it is safe to say that the Central Labor Union will have \$100 more in its treasury as a result of Wednesday night's performance of "Lost Paradise."

"THERE'S A REASON."

Charles W. Post did not oppose his wife when she sued for a divorce. "There was a reason." The reason was a pretty stenographer in his office.

The first Mrs. Post secured a divorce on the grounds of cruelty. "There was a reason." Mr. Post married the reason just as soon as his first wife secured her divorce.

Conservative

"Is Biggs a conservative man?" "I should say he is. Why, Biggs still rides one of those old-fashioned ordinary bicycles and has his hair cut around the edge of a bowl!"