

THE WAGEWORKER

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

VOL. 2

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, AUGUST 25, 1905

NO. 20

The Real Meaning Of Labor Day

One week from next Monday in every state in the Union, with but four exceptions, Labor Day will be observed as a legal holiday, and organized labor, representing over two hundred crafts, will march and parade and make merry. It is labor's own holiday, and as such should be enjoyed to the utmost by the men and women whose hands and brains have built the republic, whose skill has put America in the forefront of human progress, and whose loyalty and devotion to republican principles has been the chief defense of the republic since its foundation. It will be the day on which organized labor parades in solid phalanx to testify to its collective devotion to the principles of fraternity—a fraternity that has no equal in any other organization. It will be the day on which will parade the principles that have stricken the shackles from human toilers, made labor honorable and curbed to a remarkable degree the arrogance of organized capital.

But as the union man marches along to the music of bands and the shrill and ruffle of fife and drum; as the union woman marches side by side with her brother, as happy children freed from thralldom cheer and shout as the parade of fathers goes by—as all this takes place let earnest and thoughtful men look deeper into the day's observance and ascertain if possible a better understanding of the day's lesson and the day's opportunities. It is a grand sight to see the Grand Army of Toil marching in solid phalanx. It is a grand sight to see the men whose brain and brawn have built deep and wide the foundation of the state marching by with stalwart step and shining eyes. It is a grand sight to see millions of men who are actuated by the feelings of fellowship marching shoulder to shoulder. It is a grand sight to see this magnificent army that is actuated by the spirit of brotherhood keeping step in time to the music of the bands. But there is something more to Labor Day than marching and parading, than bands and flags, than shouts and games, than merry makings and rejoicings.

If the strength of organized labor can be made manifest on Labor Day, what might not be accomplished for humanity and justice if those same men marched and voted together on election day as they march and cheer on Labor Day.

Stop and think of it, brethren! Marching on Labor Day will never enact a law protecting life and limb and safeguarding home and loved ones. Marching in solid phalanx on Labor Day will never relieve a pale-faced boy or girl from sweat shop, mill or mine. Keeping step to bands on Labor Day will not provide for the widow and orphan, wipe out injustice or make possible the ushering in the millennium of labor. None of these things on Labor Day will accomplish good for organized labor. But in the parade and in the close associations of the day will be found a lesson teaching thoughtful men the possibilities that lie in concerted action. And in that lesson lies the real essence of the day. Organized labor will never come into its own until its individual members free themselves from the cunningly forged chains of partisanship and stand forth free men, actuated only by a love for one's fellows and a desire to see even-handed justice dealt out without fear or favor. Greed and selfishness as exemplified in modern capitalism can afford to help organized labor make Labor Day a magnificent holiday as long as organized labor is lulled to sleep by the siren song of partisanship to allow that same greed and graft and selfishness to profit at the expense of human effort. While organized labor marches in solid and swinging column through the streets of the cities on Labor Day, capital stands on the curbstones with cheers on its lips and contempt in its heart. Capital knows that the cheering men who go marching by will fly at one another's throats on election day, and out of the wrangle and the bitterness engendered by partisan politics capital will grab more than it deserves and labor will continue to take less than that which it owns and should enjoy. Solid columns on Labor Day means less than nothing in the face of divided ranks at the ballot box. Long parades on Labor Day and divided ranks at the ballot box mean only the perpetuation of unjust rule, the perpetuation of the notorious perversion of justice, the perpetuation of gang rule, corrupt legislatures and venal judges. United ranks on election day mean the substitution of justice for injustice, right for wrong, triumph for defeat, respect for contempt, recognition for indifference. One grand united effort at the ballot box will make every day a day of rejoicing.

To the swelling and cheering and marching men who will march on Labor Day. The Wage-worker sends its warmest greetings. It would rather stand before them on the terms of equality than to stand before kings and thrones. Their interests are its interests, their hopes are its hopes, their aspirations its aspirations. And may the day soon come when partisanship is lost sight of in the grander spectacle of unity, and the slave of party shall stand forth a free man with a ballot in his hand that will mean something for labor instead of something for the oppressors of labor. The real lesson of Labor Day is not in the parade, but in the power that lies within reach of the marching millions, and who have but to reach forth their hands and take into their keeping that which through all the ages has been their own.

VOTING BY MACHINERY.

An Improvement Upon the Australian Ballot That Commends Itself to Thoughtful Attention.

Mr. A. C. Powers of Omaha, is in the city, acting as agent for the Standard Voting Machine company, and is endeavoring to sell the city enough of the machines to serve the municipality. The machine is almost as great a marvel as the linotype, and it acts with almost human intelligence. By its use voting is facilitated to remarkable degree, and the result of the poll is obtainable within ten or fifteen minutes after the balloting ceases. The machine is so simple in its operation that it is easier than the Australian ballot, and it is impossible to work fraud in its use. Mr. Powers has a machine on exhibition at the Capital hotel and will take pleasure in showing it to interested visitors.

The machine will decrease the cost of elections fully 30 per cent. So confident are the manufacturers of the machine that this is true that they offer to sell the required number of machines to the city and take in payment the annual saving in the expense of elections. Under such a contract the city can not lose. Mr. Powers has submitted this proposition in writing to the council and a committee has been appointed to investigate the machine and report on the advisability of purchasing a number that will do the business.

The union men of the city will be interested in knowing that Mr. Powers is a union man. He is an ex-printer and was for many years a prominent member of the Typographical Union, representing the Kearney union at the Atlanta convention in 1890. He and the Wage-worker have been warm personal friends for nearly twenty years, and have had enough experiences together as "journeymen printers" to fill a big book. Since abandoning the printing business he has developed into a successful business man, but he still has a fondness for the print shop and a fellow feeling for his old companions of the stick and rule.

At the Toronto convention President Lynch said that the editors of labor papers were "vipers," and that their subscribers were "dupes." Any labor editor who has had his picture turned to the wall in any public office or fire station of Syracuse or elsewhere, will please accept the cognomen without protest. All others will proceed to hand President Lynch a few bouquets.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE

The Evening Star Misinformed Concerning the Celebration of Labor Day.

The following article appeared in the Lincoln Star of August 16, and has been the means of creating considerable dissension and misunderstanding among local union men:

"Considerable difference of opinion exists among the laboring men who expect to celebrate Labor Day. The Structural Workers intend to go to Beatrice, while some other organizations want a local celebration.

"A decision may be reached at the next meeting of the Central Labor Union, a week from Tuesday. At the last meeting it was decided to have a picnic and barbecue at Lincoln Park. In the meantime the Structural Workers—including carpenters, bricklayers and other craftsmen engaged in building—decided to go to Beatrice. "This division of strength is not going to benefit unionism in Lincoln," said a member this morning. "Many of the members of these unions who voted to go to Beatrice are dissatisfied and may not leave the city. It will have to be settled in a short time.

"The labor picnics in Lincoln have usually been successful, but the presence of every member who can attend is necessary. Of course it is commendable in these organizations to lend a little force and example to the unions of Beatrice, but we need all we can get in Lincoln, without dividing with sister cities. Every cent we take out of the city for the benefit of Beatrice or any other town, will be as good as lost."

It is difficult to find a reason for this seemingly deliberate effort to create trouble in the ranks of organized labor. The statement that the Central Labor Union decided upon a picnic and barbecue at Lincoln park on Labor Day is absolutely untrue. The Central Labor Union never took this issue of The Wage-worker closes a contract made with it by the any action relating to Labor Day further than to announce its opposition to a parade and appoint a committee to look about and get propositions from parks for a picnic. Before this committee reported a movement was started for an out-of-town picnic, and committees from several organizations met and formed a general committee. The Central Labor Union quietly stepped aside and took no further action. In the meantime it was decided to celebrate in Be-

atrice. A few are "bucking" on this proposition, but sentiment is vastly in favor of the Beatrice excursion and those who oppose it will merely write themselves down as "knockers."

The talk about depriving Lincoln of benefit is the purest rot. No such talk was heard when the railroad Brotherhoods went to Seward, and no such drivel was made public when the Burlington shop men held their annual picnic at the same place. Those who do not want to go to Beatrice on Labor Day can remain at home, but they should have enough unionism not to attempt to spoil the plans that have been made by an overwhelming majority.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY.

At the meeting called for last Sunday only a few of the Juniors were present and they were all boys. While both boys and girls (junior or non-union) are cordially invited and heartily welcome. Those present promised to bring out many others next Sunday. The meeting next Sunday will be 3:30 instead of 3 o'clock, as there is Sunday school conducted in the same hall until 3 o'clock and we do not desire to crowd them.

In reply to many requests as to the object of the Junior Auxiliary I desire to make the following brief statements: First, to bring the children together and instill in their minds: (a) The spirit of unionism, the ethics of organization and the principles of economics; (b) To give them experience in purely democratic government, by letting them elect officers at regular intervals and make and annul laws by majorities.

Second, to carry unionism with all its accompanying benefits and advantages into the homes, which in the past has been sorely neglected.

A more complete program will be published as soon as a permanent organization has been formed. Remember that all are welcome and both boys and girls are eligible to enrollment. I again extend a cordial invitation and a hearty welcome to all, in the interest of wage-earners everywhere.

Remember the time and place, 3:30 p. m. Sunday, August 27, 1905, at Westerfield hall, 127 So. 10th st.

Fraternally,
A. L. A. SCHIERMEIER.

ON STRIKE.

The composition roofers of Kansas City are on strike and all local unions are warned to keep away from the city on the Kaw. The Kansas City roofers demand better pay and better hours.

AUXILIARY ELECTS OFFICERS.

Ladies Select Mrs. McDougall, Toronto, Among Their Executive.

Officers were elected by the International Ladies' Auxiliary of the Typographical Union at the Rossin house yesterday. In connection with this ceremony Mrs. Duncan McDougall, president of the Toronto Auxiliary, was presented with a chair, pedestal, gavel, and a handsome cut-glass bowl. Mrs. Kennedy, the retiring president, and Mrs. McDonnell, the former secretary, were each given by the members cut-glass rose bowls and bouquets of flowers. The former also received a pretty gold brooch.

The election of officers resulted as follows:
President—Mrs. Ed. D. Donnell, Cincinnati, O.

First vice president—Mrs. Duncan McDougall, Toronto.

Second vice president—Mrs. H. W. Smith, Lincoln, Neb.

Third vice president—Mrs. J. D. Kane, Louisville, Ky.

Fourth vice president—Mrs. John A. Aul, Nashville, Tenn.

Secretary-treasurer—Mrs. Charles E. McKee, Indianapolis, Ind.

Chairman—Mrs. A. W. Bowen, Washington, D. C.

Guide—Mrs. Stanton, Syracuse, New York.—Toronto Mail and Express.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION

Committees Appointed and Preparations Made For Better Work in Future.

President Castor presided over the deliberations of the Central Labor Union last Tuesday evening and pushed business along rapidly. Mr. Ingraham of the Printers was elected vice president to succeed J. E. Mickel, who has removed from the city. By consent of the delegates the president appointed the standing committees, and on motion also received authority to appoint a special committee to draw up articles of incorporation for a Labor Temple. Mr. Galosowsky, an organizer of the Pressmen's Union made a brief talk and was listened to with considerable interest.

The outgoing executive committee asked for more time in which to audit the treasurer's books and the request was granted. Delegate Greenley of the Typographical Union explained the trouble at the Nebraska Printing Co. plant and the central body gladly endorsed the request made by Mr. Greenley. Business men who send out printed matter without the label will get it back with a notice that until the label appears they will not receive the patronage of union men and women.

Printers and Wives In Old Toronto

The 1905 convention of the International Typographical Union was in many respects the largest and most successful in the history of the organization. There was but one dark spot, and that is referred to in another article elsewhere in this issue.

If there is anything anywhere that can excel Canuck hospitality we'd like to have a sample of it for curiosity. We couldn't stand the whole thing. From the time the delegates and visitors landed on the docks or at the depots until they said goodby and started home, they were in the hands of friends who not only knew how to entertain but took a delight in doing it. There was something in the way of entertainment going on all the time, and it required an iron constitution to stand all of it. But printer men and their wives are noted for their ability to stand a lot of entertaining.

With the western delegates and visitors the entertainment began at Chicago. The Chicago Union opened up its portals and the sign "Welcome" was writ large in letters of flame. Old 16 more than made good her reputation for hospitality and enterprise. Headquarters were opened at the Briggs house by the Ex-Delegates' Association, and every visitor received a badge that was the open sesame to any old thing the local union could supply. Secretary McGowan was the busiest man in the city—and every man in Chicago is full of business. He came as near as any man could to being everywhere at once. Thursday afternoon, August 10, the visitors were taken out in automobiles and shown the city and its parks. It required a string of machines six blocks long to carry the 300 visitors. At Jackson Park a photograph of the crowd was taken. The visitor who didn't have a good time in Chicago will be an awfully lonesome individual in Heaven.

The Detroit Union, too, made good with the visitors. The crowds arrived there Friday morning and were escorted to the Wayne hotel and made the guests of the union. Then followed a boat ride to an island resort with a handsome lunch and the never-failing photograph. The visitors reached Detroit the morning of the walk-out, and as a result 300 job printers formed the committees on reception and entertainment. It was a great and glorious day, and if Detroit needs any help it knows where to get it. Friday night the visitors resumed their journey to Toronto, most of them going by rail, but a number going to Buffalo by steamer. The writer and his better half, together with Bert Cox and wife and Frank Kennedy and wife of Omaha, and Charley Kennedy of Chicago, made the trip by boat—an experience long to be remembered with pleasure. Frank Kennedy's only complaint on the whole trip—including the sojourn in Toronto—was that everybody referred to him as "the husband of Mrs. Kennedy, president of the International Auxiliary."

The better part of Saturday was spent at Niagara Falls, and then off to Lewiston on the George railroad down the famous Niagara gorge—a spectacle once seen never to be forgotten. At Lewiston the steamer Chippewa was boarded and sail set for Toronto. "Sail set" is merely a concession to the poetical. It wasn't a sail boat, but a steamer built on up-to-date lines. Down Niagara river, across Lake Ontario and into Toronto bay, and then came the warm handclaps of the Toronto committee on reception, and after that deliverance into the hands of friends who have laid awake nights for a year planning how to make life pleasant for the visitors.

Toronto Typographical Union is the seventh largest union in the organization, having a membership of 850. They have already secured an 8-hour contract and have also secured shop conditions that are enviable in the extreme. The week after the St. Louis convention decided on Toronto as the place for the 1905 convention, the Toronto Union levied an assessment of 25 cents a week on each member to raise an entertainment fund. The assessment was by unanimous vote, too. Other unions and enterprising citizens helped, and the result was an ample fund that was spent to the best possible advantage. It was just a case of "ask for anything you want and don't happen to see." If ever a body of men won everlasting honors it was the local entertainment committee of the Toronto union.

The sessions of the convention were held in Labor Temple, and a few words about this magnificent structure will be of interest to all unionists in every line of industry. They will also be especially instructive to Lincoln unionists, and possibly be the means of awakening interest in a local Labor Temple project.

The temple was built entirely by money furnished by union labor. It is a three story structure with a high basement, making it practically four stories. It contains two convention halls capable of seating 1,000 people each, with an adequate supply of committee rooms, union rooms, gymnasium, baths, toilet, offices and buffet. The buffet handles only union made goods, of course, and intoxicants are not allowed in the building. The temple is managed by a board of trustees elected by the stockholders, and the shares are worth \$1 each. No one is allowed to hold more than 100 shares of stock, and the stock was taken up by individuals as well as by unions. All told, the temple cost, with furnishings, about \$70,000. It has been occupied just one year and has already paid 7 per cent interest on the investment. In the "rest rooms" are four billiard and pool tables, card tables, all the newspapers and magazines and many beautiful pictures contributed by unionists and their friends. Each convention hall has a gallery, the stairways are wide and the landings broad, and the temple faces upon a principal street and is within easy reach of the business centers. One hundred fifty-three labor organizations are represented among the stockholders, and a majority of these organization use the building. It is a credit to a city famous for its magnificent public buildings and a monument to the enterprise of the trades unions of Toronto.

Toronto's city hall is the equal of any on the American continent, and it was built without the suspicion of graft. There is not a contract stick or stone in the building. It was built by the city and by day's work. It is union from the mortar between the stones to the slate upon the roof. The labor unions of Toronto have learned their political lesson and they no longer divide on party lines—for they have political parties in Canada. They disregard politics and vote for their friends, and they control Toronto. To their everlasting credit be it said that they have never abused their powers, and the citizens are as proud of the labor organizations as the labor organizations are of their accomplishments.

The festivities opened Sunday afternoon with a boat ride to Hanlon's Point and a concert by the Royal Highlander band. Later the crowds were taken to Island Park by boat and refreshments served in a huge marke pitched upon the lawn. Then back to Hanlon's Point for an evening band concert and home for a night's rest. Monday afternoon came a street car ride around the city and a visit to the famous Cosgrave brewery, where lunch was served. Here and now the writer testifies to the merits of the Cosgrave brew. It was fine and there was plenty of it. After the car ride the visitors went to the Yonge street wharf and took boat for Island Park, where a sumptuous lunch was served, and the evening spent in dancing and social pleasure in the great pavilion. Tuesday afternoon everybody went to the immense O'Keefe brewery and had more lunch and more of the famous ale and parter. Once more the writer is ready to testify that the O'Keefe brew deserves the reputation it has acquired. And then came another photograph. Wednesday afternoon the steamer Chippewa and the steamer Turbinia carried 2,500 delegates and visitors to Hamilton, forty miles away, where there was a ride around the city, a trip up the inclined railroad and a banquet on the lawn of Highland Park hotel. The Hamilton printers were wonderfully successful in entertaining the big crowd, and showed themselves equal to the occasion, even if the crowd was about twice as big as expected. Thursday night there was a moonlight voyage on Lake Ontario, and Friday afternoon visits were made to the city.

(Continued on Page 4.)

...LABOR DAY CELEBRATION...

BEATRICE, NEB.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

A program of entertainment pleasing to young and old, is in preparation, full text of which will be published later. Prepare for a day's outing and enjoyment with your family and friends.

REDUCED RATES.

ALL ARE INVITED

LINCOLN UNIONISTS TO BEATRICE

Every union man and woman who can do so should have a part in the great Labor Day excursion to Beatrice. It will afford a pleasant day's outing, will be change from the usual order of Labor Day arrangements, and will be the means of establishing better and more cordial relations between the workers of Lincoln and the workers of the beautiful little city on the Blue.

Everything that will conduce to a good time has been arranged for, and all the minor details are being cared for by committees having a heart interest in making the project a success long to be remembered. The business men of Beatrice have taken hold of the matter with characteristic energy, and as a result many handsome prizes have been hung up for contestants in the sports that have been arranged for. There will be foot races, ball games, tugs of war,

jumping contests, potato races, and other sports galore. Music by bands and glee clubs will be furnished in abundance, and the Beatrice Labor Unions are working day and night to make their end of the affair a booming success.

The excursion will be run over the Burlington, the special train leaving the Burlington station at 8:30 in the morning, and returning leave Beatrice at 7:30 in the evening. There will be ample accommodations for all who care to go. The fare for the round trip is 90 cents for adults and 45 cents for children over 6 years of age. The Union Pacific has made a similar rate for its regular train leaving the Union Pacific depot at 7:25 in the morning, and returning leave Beatrice at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Unless different arrangements are made there will be no attempt at a

parade in Lincoln, but on arrival at Beatrice the excursionists will be met by bands and local unions, and a monster parade will be had through the streets of Beatrice. Carriages will be furnished free to convey visiting women and children direct to the Chautauqua grounds immediately after the parade. At the grounds the visitors will be welcomed by the mayor of Beatrice and a response will be made by some Lincoln unionists. Then will follow a short program of speeches, band music and singing. At 12:30 a grand basket dinner will be spread under the trees, and it is to be hoped that it will be spread in common. Let everybody take a basket well filled, and be prepared to make Labor Day at Beatrice an occasion to be remembered with pleasure as long as they are permitted to celebrate the holiday.