

THE WAGWORKER



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

VOL. 2

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, DECEMBER 15, 1905

NO. 36

IKE MARCOSSON'S PIPE DREAM

By Liberal Whiffs at the Dope He Sees Some Wonderful Victories Already Accomplished by the Union Busting Association—When the Pipe Goes Out Isaac Will Wake Up and See Things in a Different Light.

In the December of the "World's Work," a magazine published by Doubleday, Page & Co., Isaac F. Marcossion has a long article entitled "The Fight for the Open Shop." To read the Marcossion Effusion one would imagine that the unions were already out of business. The article is so full of palpable falsehoods, so rife with erroneous assertions and so permeated by prejudice that it can be of little help to the union busting crowd. If the union smashers can not find any better literary geniuses than Marcossion to secure publicity for their cause they are in bad shape indeed.

According to Marcossion the Teamsters' Union of Chicago is only a mere shadow of what it was. According to indisputable facts the Teamsters' Union of Chicago is stronger than ever. Mr. Marcossion goes into detail concerning the Employers' Teaming association and explains that it is a corporation organized by members of the Chicago Employers' association, among them being Montgomery Ward & Co., Marshall Field & Co., and others. He says that this teaming company has made the Teamsters' Union very humble and destroyed its power for harm or usefulness to the teamsters themselves. Then he says that this company has 150 teams. As there are 35,000 teamsters in Chicago one often wonders how much effect a little bunch of 150 "scab" teamsters can have on such a huge organization. Clearly Mr. Marcossion's pipe has a good draught. And then he quotes the managers of the Employers' Teaming association as saying: "We could do three times as much business if we had the teams."

Well, Montgomery Ward and Marshall Field together are worth \$300,000,000, and both are stockholders in the company doubtless they could raise money enough to buy a few more teams. Why don't they do it? Clearly Mr. Marcossion isn't half earning his money.

In another place Marcossion says: "Take the clothing trade, one of Chicago's largest industries, for another example. Three years ago all the shops were closed. Now they are all open."

Mr. Marcossion is evidently a superficial observer or else a very untruthful man. The clothing shops are not all open. Kohn Bros., one of the largest manufacturers of clothing in the United States, are located in Chicago, and their shop is union from cellar to garret—a closed shop. Mr. Marcossion let his pipe go out for a minute or two.

Then this veracious chronicler refers to General Otis of the Los Angeles Times. They all do. He quotes Otis as saying of the strike on the Times: "It was not for wages but for the control of our business and the domination of our property."

The same silly old lie. The men struck because Otis arrogantly refused to give them any voice in the disposition of their labor. And as long as the printers can herd most of the long-tailed "rats" in the Otis office the International Typographical Union will not worry much. Most of the "rats" are in the Otis shop, and as Los Angeles is 500 miles from anywhere the aforesaid "rats" are not doing anybody any particular harm, least of all the Typographical Union.

Marcossion says that "organized labor is now on the defensive instead of on the offensive." We are willing to leave that to the Typothaete.

He further says that "the labor agitator has been taught to respect the law." Labor unionists have always respected the law—they have refused to respect venal courts.

He tells about the schools opened by the Typothaete to teach girls how to run typesetting machines. He neglects to tell what an ignominious failure every one of these so-called schools has been. He fails, too, to state that while member after member of the United Typothaete has deserted that organization, not one Typographical Union has been false to the eight-hour day cause.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Marcossion's article is so full of falsehood and misrepresentation that it is actually humorous when it pretends to be serious.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Will Hold a "Rally Meeting" in January to Stir Up Dilatory Unions.

The Central Labor Union had a larger attendance than usual Tuesday night, and a general feeling of enthusiasm was manifest. On motion of H. W. Smith it was decided to make the first meeting night in January a "rally night" and a committee was appointed to go around among the union men and women of the city and get them out to this meeting. It will be open to all unionists.

It was decided to send a committee around to the various local unions and urge them to send delegates who would attend to business. Smith, Pentzer and Johnson were appointed to do this work and requested to visit every union possible and awaken a renewed interest in the central body.

President Caster presided for the first time in two months, having completely recovered from an illness that kept him indoors a long time. He was warmly welcomed. He criticized the committees that never report and

said that it was time to compel committees to get out and hustle a bit.

The delegates expressed themselves as determined to have an organizer of the Federation in this district, and it was unanimously decided to make an immediate demand for one and ask the other central bodies in this district to join in the demand. The labor temple committee reported progress and was given more time. Some encouraging reports for union labor were made and the delegates present appeared to be well satisfied with the reports.

The following unions were not represented at the meeting: Bartenders, Bricklayers, Plasterers, Lathers, Pressmen, Plumbers, Stereotypers, Bookbinders, Locomotive Engineers, Stationary engineers.

THE CARPENTERS.

Some Brief News About the Knights of the Saw and the Plane.

At Tuesday's meeting the following officers were elected:

President, J. W. Emberson.
Vice President, A. B. Atterbury.
Recording Secretary, C. H. Chase.
Financial Secretary, J. M. Schuler.
Treasurer, Roswell Shepard.
Conductor, Frank Binder.
Warden, L. A. Ilgen.
Trustee to fill vacancy, Ed Dullanty.
Auditor, L. A. Jenkins.
Delegates to C. L. U., G. F. Quick, Charles S. Smith, A. A. Callahan.

Three applications were acted upon and four candidates initiated.

The committee on open meeting and entertainment reported recommending a program which they were given full power to carry out. Particulars will be given later.

The committee on badges introduced samples for inspection of members and gave prices. The matter was again referred to the committee to obtain prices on 75 or 100 badges.

The auditor's report was received and referred to the trustees.

A new steward blank was adopted and the committee on stewards' reports was instructed to have 1,000 printed.

The chair appointed the following members to investigate the expediency of building a hall: J. W. Emberson, G. F. Quick, C. H. Chase.

A permanent sick committee was appointed as follows: John Robinson, chairman, 229 North Twelfth; A. L. Ilgen, 729 North Tenth; Nels Nelson, 1336 O; J. W. Jewell, 1026 Q; H. B. Atterbury, 2005 Vine. Any member knowing of a sick or injured brother will please make the same known to any member of the committee.

The wife of Bro. O. H. Say has recently undergone an operation for appendicitis. She is said to be doing nicely.

The business agent has a few of the Hercules clamps on hand.

We now have a few idle members.

A CONGRESSIONAL FOUR-FLUSH.

Introduces a Bill Calculated to Tickle but Not Help Railroad Men.

The Washington dispatches convey the intelligence that Congressman Norris of Nebraska has introduced a bill to prevent the employment of railroad men beyond a reasonable number of hours at a stretch. His bill provides that any railroad engaged in interstate commerce cannot require or permit any conductor, brakeman, engineer, fireman, train dispatcher or telegraph operator who has worked continuously for twelve hours, except in cases of casualty or unavoidable emergency, to again go on duty or perform any work until after eight hours of rest. The violation of this law is made a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$500 for each offense. The interstate commerce commission is directed to enforce the provisions of the act.

That sounds very good—but it will not deceive the railroad men. In the first place railroad men are not compelled to go out after a long stretch of work, having the right to claim time for rest. In the second place there is no possible chance for the Norris bill to become a law. In the third place, the introduction of the bill will serve no good purpose, but will have the effect of interfering with legislation that would be of material benefit to the employees of railroads. Congressman Norris is mistaken if he thinks that the railroad men in his district are so silly as to be deceived by any such antics.

NEW YORK TRUCK DRIVERS.

Three Hundred of Them Strike Against the Team Owners' Association.

A general strike of truck drivers was begun in New York city Monday last, 320 union teamsters quitting work before noon. The strike is against the team owners' association which employs several thousand drivers and does most of the heavy trucking in wholesale districts and about the steamship piers. It resulted from a resolution last night of the Teamsters' Union calling a general strike unless the owners immediately forced their non-union employees to join the union. Police-men were placed on many wagons with non-union drivers today.

Police Commissioner McAdoo said today he feared 15,000 drivers would go out on strike. In anticipation of this he has ordered all police reserves in Manhattan in their station houses tonight.

MAKER AND EXECUTOR OF LAW

Another Sample of How Federal Judges Enact Laws and Then Act as Judge, Jury and Executive and Send Men to Jail Without Giving Them a Trial by Jury Such as is Guaranteed the Vilest Criminal.

Federal Judge Smith McPherson is another judge who holds office for life and is therefore not responsible to the people but only to big corporations and influential powers that secured his elevation to the bench. In court at Keokuk, Ia., a few days ago he rendered a decision in a contempt case, sending three men to jail for four months and fining another \$25. The convicted men were found guilty of violating an injunction issued by Judge McPherson and jailed like common thieves or murderers, only they were not given the same treatment accorded to the meanest felon. They were denied a trial by jury, but were jailed by a judge who first made the law, then executed it with charming disregard of the guaranteed right of trial by jury.

The history of the case is as follows: In May, 1904, the employees of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad at Fort Madison, Ia., were locked out by the management this action being taken to forestall a strike. Immediately after the lockout the railroad managers appeared before Judge McPherson and secured the usual injunction against the striking workmen. This was a blanket injunction and is familiar to union men long before this. In restrained the locked out men from doing about everything save eating, sleeping and breathing the air that surrounded the plaintiff's shops.

It seems that the locked out men immediately ceased picketing when the restraining order was issued, but immediately employed men of their own number to watch and report the names, etc., of non-union men imported by the company. This was declared to be a violation of the injunction. Accordingly four men, Randall, Neyer, Hult and Morley, were arrested on the charge of contempt. Judge McPherson examined the men himself, but did not give them a hearing before a jury. He merely followed precedent and first announcing himself as prosecutor proceeded to try and sentence. "If judicial proceedings are to be sneered at," said Judge McPherson, "courts ought not to be tolerated, because whenever courts fail to do their duty or have their proceedings respected, they become farcical."

We heartily agree with Judge McPherson on this point. But we, perhaps, go further, and declare that judges like Smith McPherson are responsible for the growing contempt and disrespect for the courts, and that such courts are rapidly becoming intolerable to people who still cherish the old-fashioned belief that men shall not be deprived of their liberty without due process of law. In deed and in truth, such courts are rapidly becoming farcical.

"I know in advance," said Judge McPherson, "how these decisions will be regarded by the ignorant and vicious, and how the court will be misrepresented."

Judge McPherson makes a very pretty plea for support, doesn't he? But if he imagines that only the "ignorant and vicious" are stirred up by the despotic actions of federal judges he is as sadly mistaken as to public opinion as he is ignorant of individual rights under the constitution. Better lawyers than Smith McPherson have denounced "government by injunction," and men as intelligent, as patriotic and as honest as Smith McPherson ever was have expressed their detestation of the un-American idea of depriving men of their liberty at the mere whim of a man clothed with judicial power and anxious to repay his corporation friends for the part they played in his elevation.

In his decision in this peculiar contempt case Judge McPherson said:

"I was in hopes that at this hearing, which occupied nearly a full day, largely by hearing testimony, that it would appear that my admonition, in my opinion, had been heeded, and I am glad to say that in my judgment, Mr. Randall has heeded, in the main at least. There is no showing here, since my opinion was made known, that he has been engaged in any violation of the restraining order, and it is with much satisfaction that I announce that I will only subject him to a nominal punishment of a fine of \$25, while I am compelled to administer something like a substantial punishment on the other three."

This reminds us of the newly appointed Irish policeman: "It is not because of hate yez that Oi hates yez, but 't' show me awtority." After declaring that Randall was not guilty he proceeds to administer a fine of \$25, doubtless for the mere purpose of showing that he has the authority. Judge McPherson then concludes by saying:

"These parties and all others must understand, and they will understand, either by information from this court, or from other sources, that this government of ours is one of law, that the peaceable men shall be protected, and that the lawless men must pay a penalty. It is for others to say whether or not they will take warning, or whether they will interrogate to themselves the pretended right of so conducting themselves as to take, not the law,

but contempt for the law, into their own hands."

We admit that the intention of the republic's founders was that this should be a government of law—a government of laws duly enacted by men chosen for the sole purpose of enacting laws. But it has come to pass that it is a government of the people by ukase of a federal judiciary appointed and controlled by arrogant corporations. Federal Judge Munger gives Bartlett Richards a nominal sentence of six hours in the custody of the United States marshal for stealing 212,000 acres of government land. Federal Judge McPherson gives a laboring man four months in jail for violating an order of his court. It is a greater crime under present day conditions to violate a federal judge's order than it is to steal 212,000 acres of land. For two years the United States has been vainly trying to bring Armour to justice, but it took only thirty-six hours to apprehend, try and sentence to the penitentiary a couple of poor devils charged with trying to blackmail Armour. Armour holds up and robs the public of millions, and can not be brought to book. But a poor devil who tries to hold up Armour for a paltry thousand or two soon finds himself behind the bars.

And yet federal judges like Smith McPherson command respect for their courts and people wonder why there is a growing disrespect for the courts.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY AS AT PRESENT CONSTITUTED IS A MENACE TO OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS.

SHALL AMERICA BE RUSSIANIZED?

A Friendly Daily Paper Calls Attention to a Menace That is Growing.

You are startled at what is taking place in Russia. Five hundred years ago the people of Russia were free. They held district meetings and national meetings. Their czar listened to their demands and granted them. They lost their liberty by being separated—by being beaten in detail. They sank in a condition of slavery that made African chattledom in comparison a delight. Now they are struggling to get back what they have lost.

This injunction after injunction has taken away from the man who toils in the sweat of his face his right to property, liberty and happiness. Labor is his property. Now, in this year the right of assemblage and of free speech are denied to an organization of workmen on the application of an organization of employers after two-thirds of the employers have agreed to what the workers ask.

You destroy the prosperity of the working class and you strike a vital blow at the life of this nation.

These printers want what every other honest workman wants—decent hours and decent wages for all. They are seeking to elevate the standard of living among workmen. They are trying to get away from the conditions that are prevalent when workers wore iron collars.

The result of this injunction is to paralyze one branch of the producing classes for the advantage of a class that buys labor at the lowest possible price and gives to the seller no voice in what he has to offer.

You destroy unions and you break down the last fortification against monopoly that is taking over courts of law, legislatures, congresses, councils, and will have an absolutely free hand if it can break the toilers into a disorganized mob, and thus beat them.

The printers—members of a trade that has made possible the civilization we have and are in danger of losing—are an intelligent, educated class of men. They are good citizens; they obey the law. Against them a rule of law is turned that should go but one jump further to denounce their union as a conspiracy.

It is time that the rights of the man who asks nothing but a right to get a living wage and living hours for his toil be defined in the last courts of appeal.

There should be an appeal from this injunction issued by Judge Holdom.

The people of this nation still stand for the liberty of every man and the right of every man to the full enjoyment of his liberty, labor and property. If the courts have so shaped the law as to destroy any of these things the people will see that the true intent of the framers of the law is carried out.—Chicago American.

WHY WAS IT NECESSARY?

If They are Good Union Men the Passing of the Petition Was Useless.

It is learned from the Cedar Rapids, Ia., Tribune that at a recent meeting of the local Typographical Union a petition pledging every member to purchase nothing but union made goods was endorsed, passed around and signed by every printer present.

We don't see anything in that announcement to arouse our enthusiasm. If those printers are good union men they have been buying only label goods all their industrial lives. If they are good union men it was a waste of time to endorse and sign that paper. The mere fact that they are union men should be sufficient guarantee that they purchase nothing but union made goods. To endorse and pass such a paper in a Typographical Union ought to be a sinful waste of time that would be carefully avoided. The idea of it being necessary for a union printer to sign a pledge that he will purchase only union made goods! It's enough to make a genuinely union printer hang his head in shame.

GREAT TRADES UNION VICTORY

Open Shop Advocates Carry Their Case Into Court and Meet With a Decision That Balks Them in Their Efforts to Legally Crush the Trades Unions—A Decision That Carries Omfort to Unionists Everywhere.

The following interesting account of a court decision favorable to trades unionism is taken from the Philadelphia Trades Union News. The Wageworker calls especial attention to it because it affords a gleam of sunshine in the general gloom of court decisions against the welfare of the producers of the country:

Something over four years ago the Protective Coat Tailors and Pressers' Union of New York entered into an agreement with Morris and Louis Cohen, contracting tailors, to furnish men for their shop, conditions that the Cohens would employ none but members of the union.

The union had previously had agreements with the firm, which the latter had violated as suited their whim, and in order that they might be held to their promise the organization demanded security. The Cohens were unwilling to deposit a cash forfeit, but gave a note for \$200 as a guarantee of good faith.

True to their instincts and their record, however, the firm, after the contract had been in force about a year, violated the agreement by declaring for the "open shop" and employing non-union men.

Suit was brought by the union on the \$200 note and judgment rendered thereon in a special term of the supreme court in Brooklyn, Judge Garretson presiding.

The Cohens appealed, basing their appeal on the claim that the contract was against public policy and therefore void.

The appellate division of the supreme court of New York upheld this contention, reversing the court below and directing a verdict for the defendants.

This decision was seized upon as a sheet anchor by the National Association of Manufacturers and its progeny, the local Manufacturers association, the Citizens' associations, the Trade Associations, and the other combinations of employers. The American Industries devoted columns to the dissemination of the glad tidings that the union shop was illegal; that contracts providing for the union shop were against public policy and therefore void; that contracts for the union shop being unlawful were not binding in morals.

The union-hating newspapers all over the country shrieked their approval of the decision. From a decision that the contract was void and non-enforceable, because against public policy, it was first interpreted by these moulders of public opinion as unlawful and later, by the more rabid of the class, as criminal.

A Chicago judge even went so far as to declare from the bench that the New York decision made a union contract a violation of criminal law and that both members of a union and employers signing such an agreement might be prosecuted criminally.

But the Tailors' Union carried the case up to the court of appeals, the court of last resort in the state of New York. That court has handed down a decision concurred in by the full bench, that the contract was valid and that the Cohens, having violated its provisions, must pay the note and the costs of the suit.

GOMPERS ON CHILD LABOR.

President of American Federation of Labor Chief Speaker at Big Meeting.

Washington, Dec. 9.—President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor was the chief speaker at today's session of the national child labor commission. Mr. Gompers refuted the charge frequently made that the federation is not sincere in its opposition to child labor and acts through selfish motives. He declared that labor organizations were the first and have been the most successful advocates of laws against child labor. Without any outside help, Mr. Gompers said, organized labor succeeded in having such laws enacted in Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and Oregon.

Laws protecting women workers have been championed by organized labor. Mr. Gompers mentioned the attacks which have been made on labor organizations in the south for their advocacy of laws protecting children and discussed the conditions in southern factories, where negro children are excluded and white children are employed exclusively. The result is the negro children are in school while the whites work, Mr. Gompers declared, and the very men who disfranchised negroes are now working great injustice to the whites of the laboring classes.

Elbridge T. Gerry of New York, the leader in the movement to protect children, was quoted by Mr. Gompers as saying that the hope for anti-child labor lies with organized labor, which has been behind all the legislation so far obtained. There is no division of opinion now, Mr. Gompers said, as to the inadvisability and inhumanity of child labor, and he pleaded for a concerted movement on the part of all friends of childhood.

Felix Adler, of Columbia university, chairman of the committee, opened the session with a plea for constant effort to better the conditions of child labor.

The general subject for the day was legislation for the District of Columbia.