

THE WAGELER

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Published Weekly at 137 No. 14th St., Lincoln, Nebr. One Dollar a Year. Advertising Rates on Application.

Entered as second-class matter April 21, 1904, at the postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879.

WHERE THE REAL MENACE LIES.

The Wageworker has read with great interest what President Gompers had to say about Chinese labor in his recent speech before the American Federation of Labor convention at Pittsburg. It has read with equal interest all that he and other labor leaders have written upon this same subject. And after having done so The Wageworker still refuses to grow hysterical in the face of the so-called yellow peril. We cheerfully admit that we are opposed to admitting the Chinese in unrestricted numbers. We are opposed to the repeal of the present Chinese exclusion laws. But we are not among those who tremble with alarm at the mere mention of a Chinaman or grow pale with fright at the sight of a coiled queue.

During forty years of time only 106,000 Chinamen have come to American shores, and yet there are those who stand aghast at the presence of this little horde of Chinamen in this great country. We are not one of them. We strenuously refuse to keep our eyes toward the Golden Gate for the purpose of being frightened at the "yellow peril." We are too busy watching a peril of another color in the opposite direction.

Now, do not mistake The Wageworker's position. This paper does not belong to the "Know-nothing Clan." It does not take a bit of stock in the silly cry of "America for Americans." But it does stand pat on this proposition: That no man shall be admitted to these shores who is unwilling or incapable of becoming imbued with American ideas and American aspirations. We do not care a fig what flag a man was born under—but we do insist that the American flag become his flag when he makes his home beneath it.

And while President Gompers and other leaders have been throwing fits about a "yellow peril" that embraces only 106,000 Chinamen, a hundred times that number of white men have come in on the other coast and present a "white peril" infinitely more dangerous to the American republic. While the leaders in the labor movement have been busy denouncing the "yellow peril" the captains of industry have been importing filthy, diseased, ignorant, vicious Huns, Finns, Slavs and Lithuanians by the hundreds of thousands, and these hordes that can never be assimilated, never Americanized, are a menace to American institutions. These hordes live like wild beasts, are driven like beasts and are used by conscienceless capital to beat down the standard of American wages and living to the level of the downtrodden laborers of the most benighted and besotted sections of Europe. If you think that The Wageworker is exaggerating just take a jaunt through the mining districts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia; go slumming on the East Side in New York, and investigate conditions in the mill towns of New England. Even if they could be Americanized and unionized, the captains of industry can and do import them faster than we can do it. That is their object and aim. And they will make a success of it as long as they can keep us in a hysterical frame of mind over the so-called "yellow peril."

The real menace lies not to the westward, but to the eastward. It is not a yellow menace, but a white one.

WHY BERGER AND HAYES SHOULD QUIT.

Elsewhere in this issue J. C. L. Wisely takes exceptions to The Wageworker's remarks about Berger and Hayes, who are supposed to represent the International Typographical Union in the American Federation of Labor conventions. We are glad to give Mr. Wisely space, for he writes interesting communications. But in this instance he mistakes The Wageworker's position. Messrs. Berger and Hayes have a perfect right to preach socialism if they want to, but for decency's sake they ought to resign as delegates to the A. F. of L. before doing so on the floor of that union. They have no more right to advocate socialism on the floor of the American Federation of Labor convention than the editor of The Wageworker has to preach democracy or some other trades unionist to advocate republican principles. Berger and Hayes were elected to represent the International Typographical Union—not to represent any political party. If they will represent their union as it should be represented they will have no time left to preach their socialistic doctrine. For one the editor of The Wageworker is growing almighty tired of being compelled to share in paying the expense of a pair of delegates who neglect the union's business to further the cause of a political party. And that, too, in spite of the fact that the editor of The Wageworker leans well towards socialism. If Berger and Hayes were to devote their time, and take up the Federation's time, in boosting Bryan or Roosevelt, Mr. Wisely would doubtless be among the first to object. And yet it is just as proper to advocate republican or democratic principles in a meeting of that kind as it is to advocate socialistic principles. We know our socialistic friends will deny this, but their denials will not change the fact. The truth is, the Federation is no place for politics anyhow.

Perhaps some socialist in Lincoln will be kind enough to answer this question:

"If the socialist national ticket, including congress, should be triumphant tomorrow, what would be the first thing on the program?"

CHIVALRY OF THE NEW SOUTH.

We hear a great deal about "chivalry" in connection with the south, and we also hear a great deal about "the new south." And in view of what we see all that we hear makes us weary.

By a majority of six the southern gentlemen composing the senate of Georgia has defeated a bill prohibiting the employment in factories of children under 12 years of age. These Georgia gentlemen of "honah" think a whole lot more of dirty dollars than they do of human souls. That's the southern "chivalry" you hear so much about. What is a child's life when compared with the little old dollar that can be wrung from its tears and sufferings? These Georgia gentlemen would scorn to steal. They would fight for the honor of women, and they talk loud about their chivalry, but they are willing to sacrifice the children in order to get a few paltry dollars.

And Puritan New England, who owns most of the stock in these Georgia factories, lifts its eyes to heaven and thanks God that it is not as others are—and while doing it bribes the aforesaid chivalric gentlemen to permit a continuation of child murder.

This talk about "southern chivalry" gives us a pain.

GOT THE UNION BUSTERS GUESSING.

The International Typographical Union has got the Business Men's association guessing. The union has framed up a proposition that the union busters are not acquainted with. The printers refuse to violate the law, and as a result the union busters can not throw anybody into jail. The printers obey the orders of the courts, no matter how unjust those orders may be, and as a result they secure public sentiment in their favor. Having grown wise by experience the printers make no effort to entice the "blacksmiths" away from the print shops, but take the competent men and leave the incompetent ones to make further trouble for the employers. They have met the employers' blacklist with a boycott that is as effectual as it is within the bounds of law, and they are giving up money so cheerfully and so abundantly that even the Post crowd of millionaire manufacturers find themselves pinched to meet it dollar for dollar. And the printers are organized, too—organized far better than any union that the Post crowd ever went up against before. There never was a better planned fight than the one now being waged by the International Typographical Union. The printers have been planning for it and drilling for it every day for three years past. They have overlooked nothing that would benefit their cause.

Winning? Don't you ever doubt it! They are 50,000 strong, and 45,000 of them are making good wages and furnishing the sinews

of war, while less than 5,000 are affected by the battle. They are making the eight-hour fight for the whole body of organized labor, and organized labor, 3,000,000 strong, is backing them up solidly. They'll never beat that combination. Post may rant and rave, Job may fume and fret, Parry may weep and wail, and every Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart of the union busting crowd may bay and growl until it sours on their stomachs—and yet the printers will win. They will win because they are fighting for their rights.

Some of these days the Typothaete dupes of the Post crowd will become wise to the situation, and then the battle will be over.

The average citizen of Lincoln pays more for riding on the Lincoln Distraction company's lines than he does for gas. The Wageworker is waiting for some daily newspaper to open up a campaign for a "six-for-a-quarter" fare to accompany its dollar gas crusade. The Wageworker would like to see both.

Judge Holdom issued an injunction that went farther than any injunction had ever gone before—and then went to St. Louis and made a speech before the Perry Union Busting association in which he bitterly attacked the labor unions. Laboring men are denounced for having no respect for such judges.

John S. Bishop, the councilman who got into trouble by acting as the legal representative of a railroad in a case that was before the council of which he is a member, is the same John S. Bishop who grew facetious when the union printers presented their label ordinance to the council.

The plans for the "Rockefeller Temple" have been drawn. Mr. Rockefeller will draw his dividends from it just as soon as the gift begins to lull the conscience of the American people to sleep. The acceptance of the Rockefeller "gift" is a blot on the fair name of Nebraska.

The rich men who form the Anti-Child Labor League ought to wake up and get into the game. Union men have been fighting child labor for half a century, and all that has been accomplished along that line has been accomplished by union men and women.

Havelock is moving to secure a Carnegie library. Carnegie's money was wrung from the blood and tears and sweat of toiling men and women. He may give millions away in his boasted philanthropy, but all his millions can not make us forget Homestead.

Pat Crowe held up Ed Cudahy for \$25,000 and is a hunted man. Ed Cudahy has held up the American people for millions and is a "captain of industry" and welcomed into high sassiety. "Funny old world, isn't it?"

You can never make a good union man out of the fellow who believes that the work that will pass muster is good enough. A good union man will insist on doing his best.

The Wageworker feels so good, and so at peace with all the world, that it honestly and heartily wishes Charles W. Post a Merry Christmas.

The 1907 session of the American Federation of Labor should be held in Lincoln. And now is the time to begin laying the plans.

Santa Claus will leave more in it if you are wise enough to hang up a union made stocking. Santa Claus is no sweat-shopper.

United States Marshal Matthews should have violated the interstate commerce law and secured a cabinet position.

Wouldn't it be glorious if Santa Claus should leave a labor temple in Lincoln's Christmas stocking?

Imagine Santa Claus trying to cover all that territory on a diet of Ghostum Squerrial and Gripe Guts!

It is a little early, but The Wageworker wishes its 2,500 readers a Merry Christmas.

"TALKING POINTS" FOR ORGANIZED LABOR.

Rev. Charles Stelzle Gives Some Sound Advice to Unionists About Their Arguments.

In arguing for the value of trade unions, the average friend of organized labor frequently makes the mistake of discussing questions which are debatable, and concerning which there will probably always be a difference of opinion. No doubt these debatable questions have their place in a full discussion of trades unionism, but for the sake of a better understanding of the aims and objects of organized labor, it would seem to be more tactful and more logical to first talk about what it has accomplished. There are many matters with which organized labor has to do, concerning which there can be absolutely no dispute. Trades unionists would make more friends for their cause among the public, if they presented more frequently the ethical value of their organizations.

For instance, one might proclaim the fact that labor halls have come to be important social centers. Here helpful lecture courses on moral and economic subjects are frequently given. The labor press has its educative value. Many of the labor journals, especially those published by Internationals, give courses in technical training. A real moral uplift comes through the regular meetings of the union, because a man must present his facts in a definite, tangible form, if he hopes to win over his associates to his beliefs. Every man has a fair chance to preach these views, no matter how unpopular they may be. Nowhere does a man get a more patient hearing than at a labor union meeting. Here, too, he learns the lesson of subordination to the wills of others. He learns the value of "team work"—of co-operation.

In the labor movement the workingman learns the lesson of thrift. Rarely does a trades unionist apply to organized charity or any other form of charity for relief. Talk about the value of the trades union as a force for temperance. You can easily make a strong argument in this direction. The question of the education and the Americanization of the immigrant must be discussed in favor of the trades union. The report of the labor commissioner in the Bulletin of January, 1905, clearly proves this.

Child labor, the sweat shop, unsanitary conditions in shop and home, are all questions concerning which trades unionism need not be ashamed to speak.

Having clearly established these points, it will be easier to discuss the measures through which these ends have been and shall be secured.

An intelligent presentation of the broader work of organized labor must win to its support the thousands of impartial men and women whose endorsement will be of great value to the cause.

THE NON-UNIONIST'S DEBT TO UNIONISM.

(William J. Bryan, in The Commoner.)

Just now the employers association is trying to create friction and antagonism between union and non-union labor. There should be no antagonism, for the benefits of unionism are enjoyed by all labor. Nearly all the increase in wages, nearly all the reduction in hours, nearly all the improvement in the conditions surrounding employment can be traced to the efforts of organized labor. Take away the labor organization and the condition of the artisans of the country would soon become unbearable. That the labor leaders make mistakes can not be denied—but can we expect perfection of human beings? Strikes have been called for insufficient reason and have some times been accompanied by violence, but the remedy is not to be found in making the employe fight his battle single handed but in the selection of more discreet and more reliable leaders. We do not despair of self government because some public officials are convicted of "grafting" and "boodling"; we punish the guilty and exercise more care in picking pub-

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IS

A Home Full of Love

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The Moral:

Use a Gas Range for Cooking.

A Contented Housewife Maketh a Home Full of Cheer.

The Moral:

Give Her Modern Kitchen Conveniences.

Brighten up the home with new Gas Fixtures. A Gas Range is cheaper and more convenient than a coal range. Gas is cheaper and cleaner than kerosene—and safer. A Gas Range never explodes. A Gas Water Heater saves time and money. Economy in health is better than Economy in Money Matters. The use of Gas Saves Time and Labor.

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