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CAPITAL AUXILIARY NOTES.

(Edited by Mrs. H. W. Smith and Mrs. J. G. Sayer.)
Indianapolis, Feb. 3, 1906.

Mrs. H. W. Smith, Lincoln, Neb.—
Dear Mrs. Smith: The Wageworker is to be congratulated on having an Auxiliary department and also on having such able editresses as yourself and Mrs. Sayer.

I am sure you will find the work interesting and that you will see a great benefit in your Auxiliary from being represented in a paper devoted to the interests of organized labor.

There are so many subjects which can be discussed in an Auxiliary department that will be beneficial, that I must start out on the old reliable one of, Do you ask for the label?

Women, in general, have just begun (you might say) to take up the cause of union labor as a part of their work. It seems they have never fully realized the importance of their becoming interested enough to hunt up a store where union made goods are for sale, such as hats, shoes, shirts and ready-made garments of all kinds. Then we should ask for union carpenters, bricklayers, painters, paper hangers, and so on down the line. We are often met by excuses for not furnishing union labor, but if we insist, union labor will be found.

The members of the various unions are to blame, in a measure, for women not insisting on the label. Many men think if they pay their dues, keep up their assessments and go to a meeting occasionally they are doing their whole duty. But this is not enough. The wage-spender must be enlightened as to the places where goods bearing the union label can be found, and, by the way, an auxiliary is a very good place in which to acquire such knowledge.

As a suggestion, why could not our International body prepare a circular or small book, national in its character, with the various labels in use, and with articles manufactured and names of manufacturers in it? This could be issued monthly, new labels or goods being added as necessary. The expense to be shared by the several unions and manufacturers interested.

A book of this kind in the hands of the wage-spender would enable her to ask for goods manufactured by firms using the union label, and instead of becoming the laughing stock of clerks and floor-walkers, as Mrs. Kennedy has said, the inquiry would suggest to the proprietor the desirability of handling goods bearing the label.

Auxiliary No. 5 is in a flourishing condition, but there is always room for more members and we are always endeavoring to reach more possible ap-

plicants for membership in our organization.

We celebrated Benj. Franklin's birthday with a social and as a souvenir of the occasion, a small picture on cardboard was given to each person attending. The affair was very enjoyable and we considered it quite a success.

With best wishes for success in your undertaking, I am

Fraternally yours,
MRS. JOHN H. KONERSMAN,
2070 Cooper St.

Louisville, Ky., Feb.

Mr. Dear Mrs. Smith: I feel honored to have the privilege of tossing my bonnet in your Auxiliary den. I will stop long enough to say a few words about Louisville and its Auxiliary work, and how we are handling the strike for the eight-hour day for our job men. One of the most effective aids to our men is the efforts we are making to win over the business men, the retailers who supply our household necessities. We have made fine progress on this line. Wherever we go we use the label argument, which we try to impress them is the emblem of fair conditions for us and a larger purchasing power for their customers. As a guarantee that they are with us, we can ask that their printed matter bears the union label. We are also doing work along legislative lines. We have sent petitions to our governor and our legislators calling their attention to our overstocked markets with convict labor made goods. We ask the mto use the power invested in them to stop this great evil as it is a menace and injury to the mechanical classes. We do not know whether it will do much good but will certainly keep it up for we believe in agitation and education as a remedy for such evils. Our members who until recently looked upon us with indulgence and some, I must say, with disdain, as if we were a lot of children, have awakened to the realization that we are in fact an auxiliary with power for good. Kentucky is to have a "home coming," June 13-17, in honor of all her absent children that are scattered over the United States. If any of our "Corncracker" friends in the beautiful city of Lincoln contemplate coming home on that occasion, Mr. Kane told me to tell you to say to them on the quiet, that they need not worry about anything, save the crackers. We have the best in abundance. I told him I would not tell you any such a thing, as I am a White Ribbon woman.

Now let me say we love your city, for the name it bears. The immortal Lincoln is revered in every home in this grand old commonwealth.

I will close with wishes for the success of your column, your Auxiliary,

the eight-hour day for our men and 10c per capita tax for our women.

MRS. JOHN D. KANE,
3rd V.-P., W. I. A.

Capital Auxiliary Notes.

Our meeting with Mrs. Locker was a very pleasant one, and considerable business was transacted.

If the editor is not more careful in his remarks we will have to call him onto the carpet, for we have always found Mrs. Maupin "at home" wherever she might happen to be.

We were pleased to see the item about Mrs. Hoon in last week's Wage-worker, and to know that Mr. Hoon's health is so much improved.

This week the Auxiliary held no official meeting but the visiting committee is working just the same, and those who are sick or unable to attend are thus brought into touch with the regular workings of the organization. This feature of the efforts of the Auxiliary is one of the best arguments for our raison d'etre, and will be a great aid in cementing the printers into a strong, loyal brotherhood.

Mrs. Bert Wilson was sick with a cold and could not attend the meeting last week.

Mrs. Fred Ihringer was threatened with la grippe the past week, but is better now.

Mrs. Freeman has moved from 1240 D street to Thirty-first and U.

Mrs. Uhlman and Mrs. Worley were elected to membership in the Auxiliary at the last meeting.

The last meeting had a larger attendance than we have had for some time. The meetings are more sociable in the homes than in a hall.

The ladies were pleased to have Mrs. Frank Odell with them once more as she has been absent for several meetings.

The Auxiliary has been asked to assist No. 209 with its silver anniversary ball to be held on February 22 at Fraternity hall. The Auxiliary will have the supper in charge and the committee is making preparations for a good one. You will certainly miss something fine if you stay away from this ball.

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held at the home of Mrs. John Marshall, 1523 North Twenty-sixth street. Be sure and come out.

We are pleased to be able this week to print letters from Mrs. John Konersman, of Indianapolis, and Mrs. John D. Kane, third vice-president, Louisville, Ky.

Marguerite Barngrover has been on the sick list the past few days, necessitating the attention of a doctor.

SOCIETY INTERESTED.

Omaha Club Women Looking After Welfare of the Toilers.

If the Omaha merchants are deluged for the next few months with demands for goods bearing union labels they will know that it is the direct result of a meeting of the social science department of the Woman's club Monday afternoon, at which there were many enthusiastic speeches.

A paper on the "National Consumers' League Label" was read by Mrs. Burbank, who gave some incidents of the conditions under which the sweat shop workers labor in the crowded eastern cities. She urged every woman to ask for goods with the consumers' label, which guarantees that the garments were made under perfect sanitary conditions.

Will Maupin, editor of the Wage-worker of Lincoln, urged that the union label be asked for and conceded that the consumers' label was not broad enough. He claimed for the union label that it not only guaranteed that the factories turning out union label goods were in perfect sanitary condition, but that the employees were paid good wages and thus enabled to live under sanitary conditions themselves. He insisted that the union label barred out child labor.

Mr. Maupin said he believed in woman maintaining the home for which the husband worked, and that any condition which forced any woman or child out to take an active part in the industrial conditions of the day, was wrong in principle and vicious in theory. He declared that any industrial condition which threatened the home and its happiness was a menace to the republic.

The trades unions, he said, sought to protect the women and children from the intemperate greed of unscrupulous corporations. Race suicide, he declared to be merely a mother's strike. He denounced the bargain counter craze and the folly of purchasing bargains at the price of a woman's life.

For one of his illustrations he showed a pair of union label overalls which were paid for at the rate of 63 cents a dozen and balanced them by a pair which were made in a sweat shop in Lincoln and for which the employee drew 43 cents a dozen for making. This same employee, a crippled girl, earns \$2.48 per week. African slavery, he said, was clean and mild compared with child slavery of today—the white slaves of debased industrialism.

Following Mr. Maupin, Mr. Lovley of St. Louis spoke of the industrial conditions in the east and described the "open shop system," which he declared to be, instead, a closed shop—closed to all union laborers. He also delivered a slap at convict labor.

Mr. Robinson, of Boston, Mass.; Mr. Pratt, Cleveland; Mr. Sancha, Omaha, president of the Omaha Label league, and F. A. Kennedy, editor of the Western Laborer, Omaha, spoke upon this

subject. Mr. Kennedy declared that women who keep up a good front and provide a good home for their husbands and children upon wages of \$10 and \$12 a week were the best financiers in the world. He urged the club women to demand the union label goods and to stand together upon the question of child labor, adding that all the talk in the world was but wasted breath if they did not have the courage of their convictions and continue to demand better industrial conditions.

A large number of visitors from the woman's auxiliary of the typographical union were present and were much interested in the program and the enthusiasm of the speakers.—Omaha World-Herald.

CLUB WOMEN WORK.

Interest of Toiling Children Arouse Them to Great Activity.

Peculiarly illustrative of the ways and methods by which women are outgrowing their conservatism through the medium of the woman's club, the members of the social science department of the local club were Monday afternoon treated to a liberal presentation of the object and value of labor unions through a program announced as explanatory of the white label of the National Consumers' League. The origin and object of the Consumer's League were presented by Mrs. Clara Burbank in a paper, in which she further pointed out the responsibility of the club woman in creating the demand for the goods bearing the label which is a guarantee that they have been manufactured under sanitary and wholesome conditions, for a fair wage and that no person under 16 years of age has worked on them.

From its small beginning in 1899, the league has grown to include branches in twenty states, and the club women constitute a substantial proportion of its membership. At present the white label is used most on women's wear, particularly white underwear, and women are urged to insist on buying goods so marked as the most practical and surest way of eventually abolishing child labor and overcoming other manufacturing evils against which they are striving.

On invitation of the department, Mr. Will M. Maupin of The Wage-worker spoke of the labels of the various trades unions, what they stand for and why it is to the interest of women especially to lend their support to extending the demand for union label goods. "Any industrial system that necessitates women laboring outside the home is wrong in principle and vicious in theory," he said. "The home is the woman's rightful place, and anything that takes her from it and deprives it of her influence is a menace to that home." And then he told the women that the union label is a guarantee of manufacturing conditions that will correct many of the present wrong conditions and make it possible for women and children to resume their proper and natural places. He found no fault with the Consumer's League label except that it does not guarantee enough and asked the co-operation of the women in pushing the union label by asking for goods bearing it. He condemned the "bargain sale" and the dainty finery in women's wear that is bought by heedless women totally ignorant of the tears and blood and sweat that are sewed into them by their despairing sisters in eastern sweat shops. He described the sweat shops of the large cities he had personally visited, where practically every kind of wearing apparel is made and amid conditions as dangerous to the eventual purchaser as they are hard for the unfortunate laborers. He told the story, now familiar to club women, of the wearing apparel being made in the dark rooms of the New York tenements where all manner of disease, contagious and otherwise, existed and actually worked on by men and women far gone with consumption. He concluded by assuring the women that if the trades unions can have the co-operation of the club women of the country for a few years the battle against the sweat shop, child labor and the other evils will be won. Mr. Maupin illustrated his argument with two pairs of overalls, one made by union labor at 62 cents a dozen and one made by non-union labor at 42 cents a dozen.

Several other men present, representatives of various unions, were invited to speak and each added something to the argument that the greatest possibilities of solving this problem through the demand for labeled goods lies with the women who do so much of the buying. Besides representatives of the labor unions, members of the Woman's Auxiliary to Typographical Union No. 190 were guests of the department. While all of the merchants of the city have been requested to send the heads of their women's white goods departments to the meeting that they might know more of the work of the league, only two stores were represented.—Omaha Bee.

The Danger.

Undoubtedly the greatest danger that threatens labor unions today is the desire of new, inexperienced members for quick and big results. While this may be natural, it is very often disastrous. Some unions may make great gains in wages and hours, but are perhaps not a safe standard for others. A good reserve fund and thorough organization, which will insure permanent strength, should be the aim of all organizations. When this has been accomplished, wages and hours are bound to follow. Let us profit by the experience of others.—Potter's Herald.

Henry Pfeiff

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