

THE WAGEWORKER



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

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Catering To Mammon

The Methodist Book Concern of New York City, of which Revs. Eaton and Mains are the agents and managers, locked out its fifty union printers on January 1, 1906, and became an advocate of the "open shop." For a number of years Revs. Eaton and Mains have been members of the New York Typothete, of which William Green, printer of the notorious "Town Topics," is president. Of all the religious printing establishments in New York City the Methodist Book Concern is the only one which refuses to grant the shorter work day. The publishers of "The Christian Advocate" and "Town Topics" are fighting side by side for the "open shop" and the longer work day.

The local book committee of the Methodist Book Concern are three millionaire laymen of New York, and naturally are not in sympathy with the labor organizations. The publishing agents declare now that they stand for the "open shop" but prior to the lock-out they agreed to sign up for a "closed shop" and the fifty-four hour week. It will be seen, therefore, that they are not so much interested in the "free and independent workman" as they are in the longer week. But it is not of these things that The Wageworker desires to speak, but of the business course of Revs. Eaton and Mains, the publishing agents.

The avowed purpose of the founding of the Methodist Book Concern was to furnish good literature to the membership of the Methodist church at prices within the reach of all, the profits of the business to go to the support of superannuated ministers of that denomination. The Wageworker desires to call the attention of loyal Methodists to some of the "good literature" published by the Methodist Book Concern. One of its publications is a book entitled "Story of the Riot," among the negroes in New York in the summer of 1900. This book contains language so vile that no newspaper would dare to print it. Another publication is a pamphlet entitled "Record of Events," a miscellaneous collection of police court news, prize fights, etc. The introduction states that the contents of the book "are of importance to all who desire such information," and among other information "for all who desire it" is a list containing the names and location of all the dives of New York. This book and this pamphlet were printed by the Methodist Book Concern from the same type and on the same presses that print the publications pointing

men and women the way to heaven. On February 23, 1905, "The Christian Advocate" denounced an advertisement in a daily paper of New York exploiting a certain brand of whisky. That advertisement was set up and electrotyped by the employees of the Methodist Book Concern. On November 9, 1905, "The Christian Advocate" bitterly denounced Bernard Shaw's play, "Mrs. Warren's Profession." The play was suppressed by the police. A few days later the Methodist Book Concern put into type and made the plates for "The Author's Apology for Mrs. Warren's Profession," by Bernard Shaw, with introduction by John Corbin.

The employees of the Methodist Book Concern put into type and made electroplates of the advertisement of Mount Vernon Pure Rye Whisky, Golden Lion Cocktails, and other liquors, and these advertisements, made from the same types that point men and women the way to heaven, have appeared in thousands of papers throughout the country. Lying before the editor of The Wageworker is the "contents page" of a book printed from plates made in the office of the Methodist Book Concern from types set by employees of that concern. The book contains fifty pages. The contents page referred to mentions thirty-one dealers in liquors and gives the particular brands handled by them.

How do the God-fearing Methodists of the country like it? How must they feel when reading the religious publications coming from the presses of the Methodist Book Concern, knowing that the same types are used to set up liquor advertisements, lists of New York's foul dives with their location and defenses of salacious plays like "Mrs. Warren's Profession"?

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely, but he that perverteth his ways shall be known." The New York Typographical Union which Revs. Eaton and Mains, publishing agents of the Methodist Book Concern, are fighting, has about 5,000 members. In the four years between July, 1901, and July, 1905, this Typographical Union paid \$175,221 to its superannuated members. It paid \$54,580 to families of deceased members, and it paid \$28,500 towards the support of the Union Printers' Home—a grand total of \$258,301 spent for humanity's sake in four short years. Can the great Methodist church beat that average, even with the help of the Methodist Book Concern, founded for the purpose of furnishing good literature and perverted to the base uses of Mammon?

THIS FITS LINCOLN.

Same Condition of Affairs Prevails in This City.

It is just as well that certain unions should not be represented at all in the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly. They select men to represent them who do not attend. Why not cut these out and elect men that will attend? Else give up entirely the practice of electing delegates. It grows more and more remarkable every day to all active unionists how the movement thrives as it does considering the bull-headed ignorance and indifference of so many individual unionists. A few men are sacrificing themselves night after night for the good of just such fellows. Fortunately there are ten good men in the movement for every one of the lame ducks, and it becomes the duty of the unions not represented to pick out the men who shall talk and act for them.—St. Paul Union Advocate.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Some News Concerning the Better Halves of the Printers.

A goodly number of Auxiliary members responded at the last regular meeting at the home of Mrs. W. E. Moore, on South Eleventh street. Mrs. Moore proved herself an admirable hostess. The business session was full of lively interest. Two more printer's wives were elected to membership.

Mrs. Wathan's little daughter has been quite ill. Mrs. H. W. Smith and husband and Miss Hazel Smith visited Mrs. Smith's mother in Omaha over Sunday.

Mrs. Bustard is visiting relatives in Wahoo. Mrs. C. S. Hoyt and Mrs. H. C. Peat are members-elect.

Printerville has captured the president, the Norton family having moved in opposite Mrs. Righter this week.

Mrs. A. L. Compton will venture into suburban life at 29th and J. Mrs. Norton will entertain at the next regular meeting, Friday after-

THE CARPENTERS.

Items from the Big Union That Will Be Interesting.

Word comes from Laramie, Wyo., that Sidney J. Kent is worse. The injuries resulting from his recent fall are not improving as expected.

Bro. Faulhaber is reported on the improved list, but he will hardly be able to go to work before next week.

Bro. Dickinson of University Place went to work Tuesday after a sick spell of some length.

Hereafter The Wageworker will be the official medium for notifying the Carpenters of all special meetings.

The Carpenters will stand up for the Saturday half-holiday, and it is now up to the other labor organizations, as well as the Commercial Club, to follow suit. We opine, however, that when it comes to a show down that the labor organizations will be found in the van, considerably ahead of the Commercial Club, working for the interests of humanity. The Saturday afternoon off means an opportunity to keep up the home chores and less of fence and chicken house building on Sunday.

One application for membership was handed in last Tuesday.

The issuing of permits to would-be members will be less promiscuous in the future.

SAVING THE COUNTRY.

Wonderful Work of Our Servants in the National Congress.

Do not become discouraged. The country is safe in the hands of our present congress. Ship subsidy grafters may get in their work, and the tariff barons may add a little more to the burdens of the people. The trusts may soak it to us without let or hindrance, but congress is watching out for our interests in matters of grave concern. Last Tuesday the house spent an hour wrangling over an important matter. It was whether a stationary engineer employed by the government in Washington should receive \$750 per annum or \$520 per annum. In order to avoid the appearance of being too extravagant with the people's money it was decided to give him only \$720 per annum.

While they were engaged in saving the country \$100 per year the congressmen consumed time which costs Uncle Sam an even hundred dollars a minute. Tell with the wage earner—congress has to look out for the interests of the trusts and corporations. No common, greasy mechanic is entitled to any \$820 a year. A dollar a day is enough for any workman to live on. If he made more than that he would spend it in the dramshops.

BEHIND THE TIMES.

Black Hills Club Women Talk on Musty Topics.

Inquiry among the Lead members of the Woman's Club reveals the deplorable fact that the worthy ladies who make up the membership of that organization have dropped woefully behind their sisters of the Nebraska capital in the subjects they discuss at their meetings. Instead of considering the nation-saving problem of teaching the working people of Lead how to care for their priceless Oriental ne-

cessities, they have dawdled away their time on such frivolous subjects as "How to Tame An Irritable Husband by Proper Cookery," "The Care of Sickly Children," "How to Save Unsophisticated Farm Girls from the Green Front" (theatre), and hundreds of other equally absurd and frivolous subjects without the airing of which the world would be better off. As an indication of the indifference of the Lead club woman to weighty and refining problems, it is reported to the Register that during the past year the members have spent much time and money in the demagoguing pursuit of seeking out and sending to their friends headstrong girls who have left eastern homes with a laudable ambition to shine before the footlights of various places of amusement which (dis)grace the twin cities of the Black Hills. Of course, the foolish parents of these brands snatched from the burning have become sentimental and have even thanked the club women of Lead for their kindly (but misguided) efforts, but the proprietors of the "free-and-easies" have properly condemned the said women for their meddlesome propensities. Verily, the Black Hills club woman has a deal to learn from her effete and cultured sister of the land of sand hills and fleas.—Lead, S. D., Daily Register.

LET THE MAN DIE.

Would Cost Too Much to Rescue Him From Threatened Death.

Frank Miller, a Polish lock tender working on the Hudson river tunnel in New York City, became imprisoned in the big steel air lock of the caisson. The mechanism refused to work, and the unfortunate man could not work his way out. When asked what would be done about it the superintendent replied:

"I don't know. But I do know that we do not want to smash any valuable apparatus until we have to."

Certainly not. Apparatus costs money, and human life doesn't cost a cent. The cheapest commodity on the market is human life. Even the mules in the mines receive more consideration than the miners. If the mule dies the company has to buy a new one. If a miner dies a new one can be imported from Lithuania without costing a cent. Of course no costly apparatus should be smashed merely to save the life of a common laborer. The idea would be absurd.

DEATH OF AN OLD FRIEND.

Robert A. Clapp, a warm personal friend of the editor of The Wageworker, died at his home in Fairbury last week, and was buried in Wyuka cemetery in Lincoln. Mr. Clapp was formerly mayor of Fairbury and served two years as attorney for Jefferson county. He was a splendid young man, a graduate of the Nebraska University law school and a worthy member of the legal profession. For almost twenty years he and the editor were almost as close as brothers, and a better-hearted, cleaner, more upright young man is seldom met with. He leaves a wife and two children to whom the sympathy of a multitude of friends is extended.

Rev. Mr. Stelzle on Socialism and the Church

When the average socialist speaks of the church he becomes hysterical. To his mind, no other man has a right to an opinion which differs from his own. If that opinion does differ from the one which he holds for the time being, the holder of it is, according to that socialist, a "grafter," a "tool of the capitalist class," a "weakling," a "hypocrite." When discussing such an unfortunate, the average socialist writer will dip his pen in vitriol and figuratively burn him at the stake. Granting for the moment that the man he is abusing is intolerant, he himself is too intolerant to tolerate intolerance, although he expects to find that virtue in the man whom he is "roasting."

If the reply is made that the socialist who does these things is not representative of true socialism, then I answer that neither is the churchman who practices similar methods, representative of the church, although there are occasions when both the socialist and the church-man may be justified in vigorously protesting against the words and actions of a particular individual who may be on the other side.

Just as the socialists insist that their movement today must not be judged by the mistakes of their predecessors, so the church of today has a right to demand that it shall be judged by its present attitude towards particular problems, and not by its past errors. The church has made mistakes. To deny this, would be absurd. But some-

social reformers are asking the church to stand for a specific social system which may some day be accepted by the majority, as slavery once was, thus again subjecting herself to the ridicule of a future generation, which shall have outgrown that system.

But, it is insisted, the world is on the verge of a crisis, and the church must declare herself with regard to socialism. The world has always been on the verge of a crisis. It always will be, because the world is moving. To say that even the introduction of socialism will at once settle every social question is a sign of egotism. If socialism should ever be accepted, it would simply be a step in that process of evolution which will never end, for the labor question will never be settled until the last day's work is done.

It has been said that the church should recognize and endorse socialism because there are so many socialists. There is no particular point to his argument, for there are probably as many people in this country who are directly and indirectly interested in the saloon business as there are socialists. Must the church therefore endorse the saloon, even though some saloon men are just as sincere as some socialists?

It is true that certain churches of today have taken action with reference to socialism. Let these churches be held responsible for their own decrees. Socialists are careful to accept as authoritative only such statements as are issued by their particular branch

WHAT WOULD HE DO?

The Wageworker Ventures an Answer to the Pertinent Query.

The Methodist Book Concern is one of the few printing offices in the country which refuses to grant the printers an eight-hour day. Wonder what Christ would do if he should happen to step into the Methodist Book Concern some day?—Fairbury (Nebr.) Journal.

It was Patrick Henry who said, "I have no way of judging the future but by the past." We have no way of telling what Christ would do under the above circumstances, save as we read how he acted under similar circumstances some 1900 years ago. We quote from Holy Writ:

"And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting; and when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my father's house an house of merchandise."—The Gospel According to St. John, 2:13-16.

If this does not answer our esteemed Fairbury contemporary's question we admit our inability to answer it.

THE PAINTERS.

Getting Ready for Another Effort to Secure Better Conditions.

The Union Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators of Lincoln are just now engaged in another effort to secure recognition, fair wage and the shorter work day, and they are making splendid progress. The committee feels greatly encouraged by the developments of the past two or three weeks, and just now it looks very much like a substantial victory for the men.

Nothing definite can be given to the public just now, but the committee hopes to be able to publish some good news in the very near future. The sudden return to winter has had the effect of greatly retarding work, but there is every indication that business will soon open up in good shape, and that work will be even more plentiful than it was last year.

"THE STRUGGLE."

"A romantic story of the disease that is eating away the heart of the American republic. It is to the commercial, corporate and trust evils of the times what Uncle Tom's cabin was to the slavery question, and Thomas Dixon's Leopard's spots is to the present race issue. It should be read by every patriotic American citizen." Published by Wessells of New York and on sale at newsdealers.

THANKS, AWFULLY.

There are mighty few cities in the United States that has such a good defender as the union men of Lincoln have in the Wageworker. We venture to say not a town of its size in America has as good a labor paper. The union men of Lincoln have everything to gain and nothing to lose by staying with Maupin for keeps.—Omaha Western Laborer.

Bits of Union History

Here is a little bit of union history that may be new to a lot of union men in this section of the country. It relates to the defeat of James G. Blaine in 1884, and while there were several causes leading to Mr. Blaine's defeat, the truth is that the printers of New York were responsible for it.

In 1884 the Typographical Union was engaged in a fight with the New York Tribune. The Tribune's editor, White-law Reid, was one of Mr. Blaine's warmest friends, and the Tribune was looked upon as Mr. Blaine's personal mouthpiece. Soon after Mr. Blaine was nominated he went to New York, and while there was waited upon by a delegation from "Big Six" Typographical Union and asked to use his personal influence to secure an adjustment of the difficulty. Mr. Blaine absolutely refused, saying that the fight was none of his business, and that he had no interest in it whatever. He was then asked if he would not endeavor to get Mr. Reid to agree to a conference, but he again refused. Then "Big Six" went to work. A majority of the members of New York Typographical Union were then—and probably now are—republicans, but on election day they showed their resentment towards Mr. Blaine and their detestation of White-law Reid, by voting almost unanimously for Grover Cleveland. As "Big Six" then had upwards of 5,000 voters with in its ranks it cut a big figure in that campaign. New York went democratic by about 1,150 votes, and the electoral vote of that state made Grover Cleveland president. Had Mr. Blaine merely used his good offices to secure a meeting between the representatives of the New York union printers and the editor of his personal organ, White-law Reid, the republican printers would have voted for him, he would have carried New York, and his ambition to be president of the United States would have been realized.

In 1892 the republican party slapped union labor in the face by nominating White-law Reid for vice-president. The Tribune was a "rat" sheet and Reid was responsible. Before the campaign was well begun the republican leaders realized their mistake and forced the Tribune to become "square." But the mischief was already done. Union men refused to vote a ticket with Reid's name thereon and again Grover Cleveland was elected. Unionism has nothing to boast of concerning its support of Cleveland, but union men at least knew that Cleveland could not be more of a union hater than Reid. They merely took what they thought to be the least of two evils.

Illinois has an election law that union men should endeavor to secure in every state. It is known as the "minority representation" for "cumulative voting" system. It enables a minority to secure representation in the state legislature. Briefly the system is this: Suppose a legislative district is entitled to three representatives. If the district is safely republican the democrats can nominate one man and every democrat can then cast three votes for that one man for the office of representative, or vice versa. In this way the minority is always assured of a representation, and it serves to keep the majority from becoming too partisan. With such a system in vogue in Nebraska union men could elect at least one representative from Douglas and one from Lancaster every two years.

The Typographical Union is fortunate in that it is patronized by every other union. A union that would put out a job of printing without the labor

mands, and when they were refused, quit work, as they had an undoubted right to do. They have asserted their rights, but they have done so in a manly, law-abiding fashion. They have respected the rights of others, and they have thereby won and deserved to win the consideration and respect of the public.

We earnestly hope that a fair and just and reasonable settlement of their troubles will be speedily reached. We did not hesitate a moment to grant their demands; in fact, we voluntarily met their wishes before they were formulated into demands, and we do not feel that we have lost a penny by having done so.—Richmond (Va.) Evening Journal.

Rockford Carpenters have adopted a new scale calling for 35 cents an hour after June 1, and the eight-hour day after April 1. Under the former scale the Carpenters received 30 cents an hour for nine hours.

It was most properly dissolved, as we generally thought it would, and ought to be. The striking printers made their de-

cn it would be denounced from one end of the land to the other. Last week Sherlock Holmes, Jr., The Wageworker's famous sleuth, visited seven different printing offices in Lincoln and found "scab" soap used by the printers in all seven of them.

Here's a bet if you want to take it. The Wageworker offers to bet a good union cigar that if you will stop the first five railroad men you meet who are dressed up in their "Sunday best," three of the five will be wearing "scab" Stetson hats.

The trouble with the railroad brotherhoods is that they are selfish. Each brotherhood is looking out for its own members and neglecting the members who belong to the other brotherhoods. If there is any class of workmen who ought to be standing solidly together it is the railroad employees. They ought to have a central council, just like the building trades and the printing trades. The variation in the wage scale of railroad employes is greater than in any other line. Engineers, who boast of their good wages, permit themselves to be endangered every hour they are on duty by underpaid boys who are entrusted with the handling of train orders. And the maintenance of track upon which the lives of millions depend is entrusted to foremen who get the magnificent wage of \$45 a month and section men who get the magnificent wage of \$135 a day. Railroad managers have always been shrewd enough to keep the different classes of their employes divided, playing one against the other. It is up to the engineers, the firemen, the conductors, the switchmen and the brakemen to get together, fight together and remain together through thick and thin.

Speaking of the engineers naturally recalls the great Burlington strike.

Speaking of the engineers naturally recalls the great Burlington strike. The lesson to both the Brotherhood and the Burlington management. The Brotherhood would have won that strike hands down if it had not been for one fatal mistake made by its leaders a short while before the strike. The engineers on the Reading road used to be Knights of Labor and not Brotherhood men. The Brotherhood endeavored to secure control of the Reading engines, and with that end in view gave the Knights the worst of it. When the Burlington strike was pulled off the Knights of Labor engineers saw their opportunity, for revenge, and once more the fatal jealousy that is always cropping out in labor circles got in its deadly work. The Reading engineers came west in droves, and it was through their assistance that the strike was made a failure.

The railroad managers have been pursuing a very smooth game with the engineers all these years. They have been woefully strict in enforcing the rules, and the rules are made as numerous and as difficult as possible along all minor lines. The result is that there are hundreds of engineers without jobs all over the country, and the railroad managers are relying on them in case another engineers' strike is pulled off.

There is not a big city in the country that could not be officered by union men or the staunch friends of unionism if union men would quit their partisan foolishness and vote together in their own interests. And the same thing is true of more than one state, and scores of congressional districts. What's the matter with keeping politics out of the unions, but taking unionism into politics?

THE HISTORIAN.

THIS EMPLOYER SATISFIED.

Commends Dissolution of Injunction and Praises Printers.

The opinion of the supreme court, sustaining the decision of Judge Grinnam, of the chancery court, dissolving the injunction against the striking printers, has met with general approval.

It is the province of a court to enjoin against a violation of law, and restrain all unlawful attempts to attack and interfere with the rights of others, but this injunction was so broad in its scope, so sweeping in its character that it trampled upon common rights of the citizens. Moreover, the striking printers have borne themselves with decorum and self-control, have been guilty of no disorders, and have given no ground for any such injunction.

It was most properly dissolved, as we generally thought it would, and ought to be. The striking printers made their de-