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The President to Labor

On March 22 there was an important gathering at the White House—important to the workingmen of this country. Every workingman who has the interests of labor at heart should read what President Roosevelt had to say to the representatives of organized labor who called upon him.

The Wageworker does not purpose analyzing the president's remarks, nor does it purpose commenting on them at any great length. His assertion that workmen concerned merely as citizens favored the anti-injunction bill now proposed is, in the Wageworker's opinion, a gratuitous insult. It is because they are citizens seeking for their just rights that workmen oppose the bill now proposed and mis-called an anti-injunction bill. And to be told in effect that if they were really good citizens they would not oppose it comes with poor grace from Theodore Roosevelt.

The president declared that "if I thought a combination of laborers were doing wrong I would apply for an injunction against them just as quickly as against so many capitalists." That sounds very nice, to be sure. But the trouble is that an injunction against labor is not like an injunction against a combination of capitalists. Under an injunction against labor the workingman is thrown into court if he violates it. The beef packers were enjoined, and everybody will remember, and they paid no more attention to the injunction than if it had been writ in water. The union man is thrown into jail, but the beef packers are discharged as individuals and only the corporation—that soulless, bodiless entity—is held amenable to the law. We very greatly fear that President Roosevelt took advantage of the occasion to make a play to the galleries. At any rate, thoughtful men will give more weight to his utterances after he has given an example of an injunction against a corporation that amounts to something like an injunction against labor.

President Roosevelt's pledge that he would see to the enforcement of the eight-hour law if specific proof of its violation were submitted is all right. There is a law against giving rebates by railroads, and it was proved beyond all doubt that Paul Morton, as vice-president of the Santa Fe railroad, granted rebates. Yet Mr. Morton, after admitting that he violated the law, was appointed secretary of the navy, given a certificate of good character when he retired, and the stand taken that only the corporation was guilty. And you can't imprison a corporation. If it should be shown that some employer was guilty of violating the eight-hour law it might be possible that he would be given a cabinet position. The Paul Morton case seems to present a precedent.

Referring to the protest against abrogating the eight-hour law in the Panama canal zone, President Roosevelt said:

"You speak of the eight-hour law. Your criticism, so far as it relates to the executive, bears upon the signature of the appropriation bill containing the veto of the entire appropriation bill because it contained that proviso. Frankly, I found it difficult to believe that you were writing and telegraphing with any kind of knowledge of the conditions in the case. I believe emphatically in the eight-hour law for our own people in our own country. But the conditions of labor, such as we have to work with in the tropics, are so absolutely different that there is no possible analogy between them; and an eight-hour law for the Panama canal is an absurdity. Everyone of you knows that we can not get white labor, can not get labor of the United States to go down to Panama to work.

Hard to Get Any Labor.
"We are driven to extremities in the effort to get any kind of labor at all. Just at the moment we are working chiefly with negro labor from the West Indies. The usual result in the employment of those men is that Monday and Tuesday they work fairly well, Wednesday and Thursday there is a marked falling, and by Friday and Saturday not more than a half, sometimes less than a fourth of the laborers will be at work. The conditions that make the eight-hour law proper here have no possible reference to the conditions that make the eight-hour law improper there. The conditions

so utterly different on the Isthmus as compared to here that it is impossible to draw conclusions affecting the one from what is true about the other. You hamper me in the effort to get for you what I think you ought to have in connection with the eight-hour law, when you make a request that is indefensible; and to grant which would mean indefinite delay and injury to the work on the Isthmus.

"As to the violations of the eight-hour law, Mr. Morrison, you give me no specifications. At your earliest convenience please lay before me in detail, any complaints you have of violations of the eight-hour law. Where I have power I will see that the law is obeyed. All I ask is that you give me the cases. I will take them up, and if they prove to be sustained by the facts I shall see that the law is enforced."

The Wageworker is not yet ready to admit that Theodore Roosevelt can do no wrong, therefore we decline to admit that just because he asserts that we ought to have just what he is trying to get for us he ought to be supported. The Wageworker asks workmen to ponder thoughtfully over this amazing declaration from President Roosevelt's lips:

"You hamper me in the effort to get for you what I think you ought to have in connection with the eight-hour law when you make a request that is indefensible."

If he thinks we ought to have what he thinks we ought to have, then we suppose we must quietly submit to having what President Roosevelt thinks we ought to have. But it would have sounded better from the lips of Emperor William or Czar Nicholas, wouldn't it?

Referring to the Chinese question, President Roosevelt spoke as follows:

Chinese Exclusion.
"Now about the Chinese exclusion. The number of Chinese now in this country is, if I remember aright, some sixty or eighty thousand. So far from there being a great influx of Chinese, the fact is that the number has steadily decreased. There are fewer Chinese than there were ten years ago; fewer than there were twenty years ago; fewer than there were thirty years ago. Unquestionably some scores of cases occur each year where Chinese laborers get in either by being smuggled over the Mexican and Canadian borders or by coming in under false certificates, but the steps that we have taken, the changes in the consuls that have been made within the last few years in the Orient, and the effort to conduct examinations in China before the immigrants are allowed to come here, are materially reducing even the small number of cases that do occur. But even as it is, the number of cases is insignificant. There is no appreciable influx of Chinese laborers and there is not the slightest or remotest danger of any; the whole subject is a pure chimera. It is my deep conviction that we must keep out of this country every Chinese laborer, skilled or unskilled—every Chinaman of the coolie class. This is what the proposed law will do; it will be done as effectively as under the present law and the present law is being handled with the utmost efficiency.

Good Treatment for Some.
"But I will do everything in my power to make it easy and desirable for the Chinese of the business and professional classes, the Chinese travelers and students to come here and I will do all I can to secure their good treatment when they come; and no laboring man has anything whatever to fear from that policy. I have a right to challenge you as good American citizens to support that policy; and in any event I shall stand unflinchingly for it, and no man can say with sincerity that on this or indeed on any other point he has any excuse for misunderstanding my policy.

"You have spoken of the immigration laws. I believe not merely that all proper steps should be taken to prevent the importation of laborers under any form, but I believe further that this country ought to make a resolute effort from now on to prevent the coming to this country of men with a standard of living so low that they tend, by entering into unfair competition with, to reduce the standard of living of our own people. Not one of you can go further than I will go in the effort steadily to raise the status of the American wage-worker, so long as while doing it, I can retain a clear conscience and the certainty that I am doing what is right. I will do all in my power for the laboring man except to do what is wrong, and I will not do that for him or for anyone else."

That would be all right if it were not so wrong. The Chinaman is a cunning fellow, and the proposed law is full of holes. It would be awfully easy

for a Chinaman to come over as a "student" and suddenly be swallowed up among other Chinamen and become a menace to American workingmen. The present law is all right just as it stands. The proposition for its amendment comes from a class anxious to exploit China and willing to secure the opportunity by sacrificing the interests of American workingmen.

To the last paragraph of President Roosevelt's address every workingman can give unqualified approval.

BRYAN TALKS STRAIGHT.

Tells the Chinese Just What American Laborers Mean.

According to Hong Kong papers, Bryan was entertained by the Chinese merchants at a dinner and declared in a speech that the American people would never consent to a repeal of the exclusion laws. One of the Chinese merchants at the dinner reported the proceedings to the Chinese newspapers. He quoted Mr. Bryan as declaring that the labor party was so strong in the United States that Chinese workmen, skilled or unskilled, would never be permitted to enter, and as drawing a gloomy picture of what would happen to American workmen if the Chinese were allowed to take away their employment. This informant said that, while Mr. Bryan had agreed to support a number of changes proposed by the American merchants of Hong Kong, he had not been able to draw from the American leader any definite assurance of support of the policy which the Chinese would insist upon as the only condition on which the boycott would be withdrawn.

After Mr. Bryan's speech the Chinese became convinced that congress would not adopt the changes recommended by the American merchants and that their best policy was to put on the boycott screws tighter than ever.

THE CARPENTERS.

Interesting Notes from the Men Who Saw and Plane.

To all members of Local No. 1055, U. B. of C. & J.—You are hereby notified to appear and bring your due book for comparison with ledger by trustees, in accordance with Section 158(c) of the General Constitution. Matters concerning the new trade conditions demand your attendance at that meeting which will be held Tuesday, April 3, at 8 p. m., at Carpenters' hall, 139 South Eleventh street. (Signed) C. H. CHASE, R. S.

Five new applications last meeting, and three initiations.

The Saturday half holiday is an assured fact already, and a jubilation meeting will be held at the hall Saturday afternoon, April 7, which will be the first Saturday half holiday ever enjoyed in Lincoln except by the lawyers and other professional men. The reception committee will be Bros. Fallhaber, Dullenty and Acott.

Bro. John Hewitt was elected a trustee to fill the vacancy caused by removal from the city of Bro. Ed. Dullenty, who is reported as being at Butte, Mont.

The following members were elected as a delegation to represent the carpenters in the Structural Building Trades Alliance: Geo. F. Quick, Chas. S. Smith, C. E. Woodard, A. A. Callahan, J. M. Schuler, Fred Kent, H. O. Steen.

TELL HIM WHERE.

Your Dealer Has No Excuse for Remaining in Ignorance.

If your dealer tells you he does not know where to get union made goods, it is your duty to find out and tell him. But the dealer has no excuse for being ignorant. Neither have you, if you do not know where union goods

"doings" if the boy doesn't exchange his overalls within the next week.

Without taking the trouble to investigate the correctness of your statement, and admitting that all you say is true, the offense against the principle of legitimate organized labor is so insignificant as compared with other offenses, which you seemingly neglect to mention in your paper, that comparison seems ridiculous.

A few months ago there was another pressman working for the Woodruff-Collins Printing Co., who not only carried a union card but was at the time or shortly prior president of the pressmen's union. He was loud in his praise of organized labor and doubtless loyal in his selection of union-made goods, but he skipped out between two days, as it were, leaving a bunch of creditors to mourn his absence. A man thus organized can afford to buy the best of everything, and, perchance he is refused credit, the alternative of crying down "scab" goods is his stock-in-trade. Did the Wageworker ever comment on this particular instance? If so I have overlooked it.

The same party referred to went to his employers, and, with a pitiful tale, was advanced money for a period of ten days. The money was spent in saloons and brothels and before the expiration of the ten days drew out his union card, left his employers in the lurch, and has not been heard from since. Did the Wageworker ever mention the injustice or unfairness of this circumstance? Not to my knowledge. The officers of the pressmen's union were notified of the facts in due time and were asked not to issue this man a traveling card, but the pleadings were in vain, and he went forth fully equipped for exploiting other fields.

The Wageworker cannot plead ignorance to these facts, standing as it does as the champion and mouthpiece

He Told About Miners

Last Thursday evening at Carpenter's hall, H. A. Floaten of Denver, late socialist candidate for governor of Colorado, addressed a large gathering on the subject of the recent troubles in Colorado and the arrest of the head officers of the Western Federation of Miners, who are charged with the assassination of ex-Governor Frank Steunberg of Idaho. The meeting was designed as a "protest meeting," and as such was a distinct success. Mr. Floaten is a conservative, logical speaker whose evident earnestness is impressive, and as he went through the troubles of which he spoke he is in a position to deal with the subject first-hand.

A great many people have conceived the idea that union labor is determined to protect Moyer and Hayward regardless of whether they are innocent or guilty. This is, of course, ridiculous, but there are a lot of people who believe it. The fact is that organized labor is determined only that Moyer and Hayward shall have a fair trial. This they will not get if the Citizens' Alliance has its way. This is proved by the illegal method taken to arrest them and then abduct them, taking them from Colorado to Idaho on a trumped-up charge and then indicting them for murder and throwing them into jail without bail or even a chance to consult with their friends. The only evidence against the men is the alleged confession of a man named Orchard, whose confession is so ridiculous that even General Bell had to laugh at it, and a Pinkerton detective named McPartland, who claims to be the same man who broke up the "Mollie Magulres" in the Pennsylvania coal fields a quarter of a century ago. McPartland is very evidently trying to earn his money.

In his speech Mr. Floaten did not venture to prejudice the case against the accused men, but he told, plainly and simply, the condition of affairs in that section of the country. The socialist part of the address was incidental to the main theme, although the speaker took occasion to present the socialist argument in an unusually interesting way.

"The ruling class," declared the speaker at the opening of his discourse, "is the class that lives the easiest. Because of immense wealth, they not only interpret the laws, but they see to their enforcement so that they can continue to live above the people. The big man or capitalist makes his living by owning something. The laboring class must sell their labor every day, or it is useless. The struggle between the capitalistic and the working class is growing fiercer and fiercer every day. This is especially true in the gold and silver mining districts. It may take years, but this condition can be remedied.

"Socialists," further stated the speaker, "uphold trusts. We do not want them like they are being held at this time, but we want all the people to be on the inside of them. When this state of affairs exists, it will bring about better conditions for all classes. If the laborers all over the world become unionized they will be worse off than they are today. Why? Because we will have the scabs in the union, and the workingmen will still be dependent on the capitalists. They must have work to live, and as they don't own the tools, they must look to the owners as they are doing now.

"If the capitalists succeed in crushing one union they will in time crush them all. They have tried their hand at the western federation of miners, but it remains today as strong as it did before the recent strike troubles. Members of this union have shown themselves to be men made of the right stuff, and have also demonstrated that they can and will stick together. A strike is a peaceful cessation of labor, nothing more.

"They talk about the death of ex-Governor Steunberg. It was a great surprise to me how he lived so long. At the time of the recent strike he established a bull pen, and at one time more than 700 men were therein confined. They were held as prisoners in this place for weeks and months. Finally, after many died and others were ill, it was decided to deport a part of the men. This was done, and the remainder were held as prisoners for months.

"Two years ago at Telluride, Colo., the strike was on and I never saw our town so peaceful. The strikers visited all the saloons and saw that the doors were closed promptly at 12 o'clock. The gambling houses were all closed. The western federation of miners furnished funds for the strikers, and everything was as peaceful as ever. The militia was sent to our city to quiet what is termed a riot. The officers of the militia arrested a large number of the strikers and had them arraigned before the police magistrates, where they were charged with vagrancy. They were not vagrants, but they were nevertheless convicted and were forced to work on the rock pile to pay their fines, as they refused to settle. The questions asked each man by the prosecutor were something like this:

"Are you working?"
"No."
"Why not?"
"I don't want to work. I thought I would rest for a while."
"Stand aside, then," commanded the magistrate. The police judge then told the men that if they would secure work within forty-eight hours their fines would be withdrawn.
"Not one of them," continued Mr. Floaten, "secured work. And all worked out their fines on the rock pile. It was finally settled, but not until after the men had undergone the greatest suffering. It is a fight now to organize labor, and it continues to grow more fierce all the time. There is a time coming, and not far away, when there will be a great change in the conditions.

"We have now learned that the only thing that goes with the capitalists is force, and the workingmen must force the owners to time. The big men with a mint of money buy the congress, and take the powers of the ballot box practically away from the common people. There must be a change in the system before we can expect to change the conditions. The ministers pray, and why? They pray because John D. Rockefeller prays. No church can exist with trusts.

"There are just two reasons why we have no more socialists today. The first is ignorance, and the second is that men know that if they support our party they will have to change their manner of living. The capitalists, that is many of them, understand socialism, but know that should they support the party they will lose their easy way of living without working."



STILL UNFAIR.

Lincoln Hotel Bar Has No House Card in Sight.

Attention has been called several times to the fact that the bar in the Lincoln hotel is on the unfair list. This bar used to be fair, but for some reason or other the men on duty neglected and refused to pay their dues and became suspended. On one occasion, when an effort was made to get them squared up it is reported that they said: "Well, this bar is patronized by traveling men and politicians, and they care nothing about union cards." The inference was, of course, that if the house card didn't help them the bartenders were not sufficiently union to keep in good standing.

The management of the Lincoln hotel has been asked to help get the bar squared up, but have refused. When told that unless something was done the bar would have to be advertised as unfair, one of the managers said, sneeringly:

"Well, I guess we can stand that."

Undoubtedly. The Lincoln Hotel Co. has a pot of money, and it can oppose organized labor a long while. But will it pay? The Wageworker for various reasons would like to see the Lincoln hotel bar squared up. It would look good, would help all concerned, and prevent any misunderstandings and troubles.

are to be secured by your merchant, it is your duty to find out.

If your merchant will not make an effort to secure union made goods it is up to you to find another dealer. He can get them if he wants to, and if he wants your trade he will get them.

RICHARD METCALFE MAUPIN.

Born, on Sunday, March 25, to Mr. and Mrs. Will M. Maupin, a son. The youngster has been christened Richard Metcalfe Maupin.

WOODRUFF SCORES A POINT.

Lincoln, Neb., March 26.—To the Editor of The Wageworker: The Wageworker took occasion this week of referring to an employee of the Woodruff-Collins Ptg. Co., and severely criticizing him for wearing a pair of overalls manufactured by the Lincoln Overall Co. I have no desire to rush into newspaper controversy about the labor question, but there are two sides to it, and a man who will not admit of this fact is a blatherkite or a selfish egotist. Inasmuch, however, as the name of the firm of which I am a member was mentioned in your article, there seems to be a forced reason for a few remarks, not in defense of the alleged crime of the employee mentioned, but simply to show the inconsistency of those who threaten great

of organized labor of this city, and if its efforts were directed to some extent in correcting the evils which the employers are forced to endure, organized labor might receive more friendly consideration.

There are worse things than wearing "scab" overalls, and if The Wageworker, in "doing things," will make a clean sweep of the evils which are now ignored by the unions, the Woodruff-Collins Printing Co. will feel like apologizing for harboring criminals of the "scab" overall variety.

Very respectfully yours,
L. D. WOODRUFF.

THE QUESTION OF ICE.

Looks Like a Boost in Prices for the Congealed Product.

Right now it looks very much like a big boost in the price of ice during the coming summer. Practically no ice was stored during the winter, and the sources of supply are limited to the artificial product and what may be shipped in from the far north. In either event the price will soar upwards.

If enough for storage purposes had been put up the price of the domestic product would not be badly inflated. But as it is there is every evidence that people who must have ice will be forced to dig up about any old price the manufacturers or shippers want to demand.

Central Labor Union Meeting

The Central Labor Union met Tuesday evening and again took up the matter of a labor temple. A committee of three, Messrs. Quick, Smith and Evans, was appointed to correspond with secretaries of other central bodies in cities where labor temples are maintained and secure all the information possible as to management, etc. The plan for a Labor Temple Building Association, outlined in The Wageworker some time ago, was again taken up, and it was decided to push along the lines laid down until something better is offered. The chief idea now is to have something tangible to work on.

The matter of non-attendance of delegates was again taken up, and it was decided to immediately inaugurate the plan of notifying each affiliated union of every absence of affiliated delegates. The attendance has been very unsatisfactory for some time, and as a result the work that the central body could do, and is expected to do, has remained undone.

The organization committee was instructed to assist the Teamsters' Union in securing the unionizing of the drivers for wholesale liquor houses.

With one or two exceptions the state of trade was reported from fair to good

in all organized lines. The outlook all along the line is exceptionally good.

Attention was called to the report that the Commercial club is seeking to locate a boot and shoe factory in Lincoln, and arrangements made to see to it that the work of organization be not neglected.

AFTER LOCAL OFFICE.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Wants to Be Councilman.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Burt Bush is a candidate for the Omaha city council, and in case of his election he will doubtless resign his present position and be succeeded by Don Despain, his chief clerk.

The deputy commissioner's salary is \$1,500 a year, while the salary of an Omaha councilman is \$900.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

The union printers of Norfolk, Va., won their strike for the eighth day, and on last Friday every shop in the town was signed up and the strike declared off. The situation grows better every day throughout the country. Less than 3,000 men are now out.