

THE WAGEWORKER



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Has a Very Funny Look

Every day the daily newspapers contain advertisements for help from the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co. This has been going on for months. Either advertising in the daily newspapers is not worth much, or the girls who answer find that they have been offered a gold brick and quit, making room for fresh victims. The advertisement, appearing under the head of "Help Wanted—Female," is as follows:

"Wanted—Twenty-five shirtmakers and twenty-five overall makers. Experienced girls earn from \$8 to \$14 a week on piece work. Can use a few beginners. Apply at once at the Daylight Factory, Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co., Corner Fourteenth and P."

The Wageworker still has the original check for \$2.42 paid by the "Daylight Factory" for fifty-nine hours work on the piece system. It also has a distinct recollection that according to Mr.

L. O. Jones' own figures immediately after the fire in that factory the average wages for the entire institution figured up less than \$7 a week, including foreladies, superintendents of departments, etc. And the hours of work were ten a day when that average was given out by Mr. Jones. Since then the hours have been cut to nine a day. If the average wage has increased since then it certainly is corroborative evidence in favor of the shorter workday.

But is it not strange that the "Daylight Factory" has to advertise continuously for girls to earn \$14 a week? Perhaps the secret lies in the word "earn." It will be noted that the management does not say that the girls receive from \$8 to \$14 a week. It merely states that they "earn" it. The Wageworker will admit that they do. But do they get it?

OPEN SHOP IN FRISCO.

Building Trades Lay Aside Rules in Face of Great Calamity.

There is probably no better organized section of the country, insofar as the building trades are concerned, than the Pacific coast. This is especially true of San Francisco. The building trades unions were in absolute control of the field. But now that San Francisco lies in ruins and the need of haste in rebuilding is manifest, the unions have let down the bars and notified the world that there will be no distinction between unionists and non-unionists in the work of rebuilding the city.

This is a body blow to the wrecking crew that is forever howling that the unions will not allow a "free and independent workman" to earn an honest living. It is also another proof that unionism makes men, not human machines.

Building tradesmen, however, should be in no hurry to go to San Francisco. The immediate supply of skilled labor is adequate. The chief demand now is for unskilled labor in the work of removing the debris and getting ready for building operations. It will be weeks before any adequate supply of material is on the grounds, and in the meantime the resources of the country will be taxed to take care of the destitute now there. Doubtless word will be passed along the line when there is need for more building tradesmen than are now on the ground ready for work.

THE TEAMSTERS.

Plenty of Work and the Wage Scale Shows Increase.

At the meeting of the city council Tuesday evening it was decided to permit the street commissioner to pay \$3.50 per day for a man and team. The old rate was \$3.00 a day, but the commissioner found that he could not get the help at that rate, private contractors bidding \$2.50 and \$4.00. The teamsters are all busy, and the prevailing rate for man and team is \$4.00 per day.

The local Teamsters' Union is getting along in good shape, new members being taken in at nearly every meeting. But the transfer drivers are still holding out. Either they haven't the courage to organize or they are unable to realize that in their present condition they are unable to secure what their services are worth. Union men who contemplate moving should use their influence to secure the unionizing of the transfer men. If you can not get a union transfer driver—and you can not at this stage of the game—call up the business agent of the Teamsters' Union and ask him to find you a man with a team and wagon.

PAINTERS WIN OUT.

Have the Eight Hour Day and an Increase in Wages.

Union painters in Lincoln are feeling good these days. They have secured the eight-hour day and an increase of 2 1/2 cents per hour in the scale. They have, too, signed up a number of shops that were "open" last year. The fair shops in Lincoln are as follows:

Lincoln Wall Paper and Paint Co., A. Cornell, Keens & Sharp, A. M. Davis Co., Hoover & Gladfeller, Carl Meyer, Taylor & Christensen, C. E. Sickle.

Remember this list when you have any painting, paper hanging or decorating to do. Work is better than

good. In fact the union finds it almost impossible to furnish the men needed to do the work, and this is despite the fact that the union is taking in new members at every meeting. The conditions are better than they have been for years, and the outlook never was brighter.

THE PRINTERS.

Will Nominate Officers and Delegates at Next Meeting.

Lincoln Typographical Union will meet a week from Sunday, and it is expected that the meeting will be one of the largest in the history of the local. On that day nominations for officers will be made, also nomination for delegates to the Colorado Springs convention. There are a number of aspirants for delegateship and the race promises to be a spirited one.

There also promises to be a spirited contest over the adoption of the revised constitution, which is the first order of business at the next meeting. There is a fight over the method of electing, and also on some minor details.

IT WAS PRETTY BIG.

Some Interesting Figures on Last Week's Monster Edition.

Last week's edition of The Wageworker consisted of upwards of 12,000 copies of twenty-four pages each. There were six columns to the page, or 144 columns in all. Each column measured 19.5 inches, or 2,808 inches per copy, or a total of 33,696,000 inches for the entire edition. The cover paper weighed a fraction over 1,200 pounds and the twenty inside pages weighed a little over 2,000 pounds. The total weight was approximately 3,100 pounds, or over a ton and a half. There were 300,400 "ems" of composition apart from the advertisements. In the twenty pages of reading matter there were 16,000 lines, each 2 1/4 inches long, making a total line length per copy of 36,000 inches, or 432,000,000 inches in the total edition. This is equal to 36,000,000 feet, or 6,818 miles of line length in the entire edition. Folded flat—quarter-page size—and stacked one upon the other, the total issue would have made a pile 170 feet high, which is higher than the roof of any building in Lincoln.

These are pretty big figures and hard to realize, but they are approximately correct and will give some idea of the enormous issue of The Wageworker's "Friendly List Edition."

VIOLENCE IN STRIKES.

Too Much of It, but Not as Much as Some People Charge.

"The only statistics of strike violence which we have to show that between January 1, 1902, and June 30, 1904, 139 persons were killed, 1,651 injured, and 5,552 arrested in strikes in the United States. This showing is distressing enough, but comparatively speaking, strike violence is insignificant. More lives are taken in lynching bees than in strikes, and in an average year there are probably four times as many arrests in Greater New York alone for assault and battery than in the whole United States for similar violence in strikes.

"The importance of strike violence is the intimidation and coercion whose existence it reveals which almost invariably accompany strikes. The law against intimidation and wrongful coercion, however, is not enforced, and

this is largely due to the fact that the law on conspiracy is unequal, weighing more heavily on trade unions than employers, and penalizing acts which are easily discovered when performed by large combinations of workmen, but are utterly beyond detection when performed by employers."—By T. S. Adams, of the University of Wisconsin, before the American Economic association at its recent meeting in Baltimore.

THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY.

Accurately Located by a Keen Observer of Industrial Affairs.

"When you investigate any one of the evils or abuses which today our country can produce, you will, in the great majority of cases, find as the original source or cause of such evil a business enterprise illegal in its plan of organization or unlawful in its business methods. Behind the political boss, sustaining him in his power, directing his efforts for omnipotence in the legislative, executive and judicial departments of our state, county or city governments, is the industrial boss, the captain of industry, who seeks to profit thereby."—Atty. Gen. Hadley of Missouri.

LABEL LEAGUE.

Roster of Officers-Elect for the Ensuing Year.

Following is a list of the officers-elect of the Woman's Union Label League for the ensuing year:

President, Mrs. E. L. Cook.
Vice Presidents, Mrs. William Wright, Mrs. Jessie M. Baker.
Recording Secretary, A. L. A. Schiermeyer.

Financial Secretary, Mrs. Morris.
Treasurer, Mrs. Fannie Igen.
Doorkeeper, Mrs. F. W. Kent.
The League at its meeting Monday evening voted \$5 for the relief of the San Francisco sufferers. The next regular meeting will be on May 11, and all members are earnestly requested to bear the date in mind and be present. The co-operation of all is needed to make the work a success.

SHEET METAL WORKERS.

Figure on Reorganizing Their Local in the Immediate Future.

The sheet metal workers of Lincoln used to have a strong local union, but

during the panic years it went to pieces. There is now strong talk of reorganizing the local, and it is believed that the men will have the co-operation of the employers. Sheet metal workers are well organized throughout the country, and local employers find it difficult to secure needed help because union men will not come here to work.

It is probable that the local members of this trade will meet in a short time and endeavor to resurrect the local union and secure a return of the charter. The Central Labor Union will give the delegates from a sheet metal workers' union a rousing welcome.

A GOOD RECORD.

How the Cigarmakers Have Spent Money for Humanity's Sake.

During 1905 the International Cigarmakers' Union paid out a total of \$429,019.88 in sick, death, strike and out-of-work benefits. During the twenty-five years ending December 31, 1905, this splendid organization paid out the magnificent sum of \$6,845,540.66 in benefits. The union has never had to exceed 43,000 contributing members.

These figures are worth the study of the opponents of trades unions. They would also prove instructive to Bishop McCabe and other clerical opponents of unionism.

SOLD OUT.

Erstine King has sold his interest in the Ivy Press job shop to his partner, J. K. Jessup, and intends to enter upon the free and happy life of the untrammeled agriculturist. "No more print shop for me," declares King. "I've had close upon thirty-five years of it and that's enough." Mr. King has not fully determined where he will go, but he is determined to till the soil and is casting longing eyes upon Missouri, his native state. No matter where he goes, he will be followed by the hearty good wishes of printerdom.

STILL CRITICALLY ILL.

Lillian Wathan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wathan, is still very ill. Miss Lillian has been suffering from an aggravated attack of inflammatory rheumatism for several weeks, and for a time her life hung in the balance. During the past week, however, a change for the better has appeared, and the little miss is now out of danger although still very ill.

The Fraternal Delegate's Duty

There are about one hundred of a serious purpose among them, he should give it credit in public utterances of the Gospel, who are serving in this capacity.

Among the first to be appointed was the Rev. Warren H. Wilson of Brooklyn, N. Y., who for something like a year and a half has been attending the meetings of the Central Labor Union in his city.

Some time ago I asked him to tell me what he considers the function of the fraternal delegate. In part he answered me as follows:

"The delegate cannot by reason of his membership in a union make converts. This is out of the question. He is of course not restrained from it; but he is not in any way assisted to it by his place as a fraternal delegate. What he can do is, to express to laboring men, in their general parliament of labor in the locality, the brotherly interest in their problem felt by the religious body which he represents. This service is most important; for the time has come when bodies of men act independently of one another, and the community has no longer one forum. Men who are neighbors in person are strangers in reality. Bodies of men come to have group-opinions of one another. It is the business of the fraternal delegate to cultivate among laboring men a cordial opinion of the church.

"His presence in the union is also a sort of publicity. He becomes a party to what is done; and serious, thoughtful leaders of organized labor welcome him, because his presence in their deliberations is an assurance to the public that things are not being planned which are unworthy.

"He should make it his practice to speak well also of the union, if it is deserving of praise, and of its leaders; and they will be found to be men, in most places, better than the public estimate of them. So far as he finds

McCabe on The Unions

Addressing the East New York conference of the Methodist church in Brooklyn, Bishop McCabe declared that his church is opposed to the labor unions as they now exist, and made this statement:

"We are opposed to having a small percentage of labor men run the entire laboring class in a high-handed and authoritative manner. As now constituted, labor unions cannot long stand. Either they must reform themselves or they will cease to exist, as they are now unfair and unjust, and the honest workman cannot long be subjected to oppression without rising in revolt. I want every one of the 300 ministers here to accept this as his creed and preach it. I am stating the position of the Methodist church today at this conference, as the members of the church do not seem to be disposed to state it themselves. I want this statement to be published broadcast, so there can be no doubt as to the attitude of Methodists toward honest labor. I believe this should become part of the creed of every Protestant church."

This is interesting. A great many people, including, we doubt not, quite a number of Methodists, will be curious to know by what right Bishop McCabe, for all his high place in the church, is able dogmatically to align it in open opposition to trades unionism. We are inclined to think many will question his right.

In Omaha, for example, the McCabe creed will come very much as a surprise. One of the leading lay members of the Methodist church is also a recognized and able leader of local trades unionism. Among the fraternal delegates representing the ministerial association in the central labor union and working in harmony with that union to advance the material and spiritual welfare of laboring men is a minister of the Methodist church. And numerous union men are also good

UNIONISTS, READ THIS.

Be very careful of the patronage you bestow upon merchants who advertise liberally in the daily papers, but who refuse to advertise in your labor paper. This is also true of the merchant who will tell you that he believes in union labor and wants the union man's trade, yet persistently refuses to advertise in a labor paper. There is a common understanding among many of the larger merchants that they will not patronize the labor papers, and hope by thus withholding their business from such papers to force their suspension, or at least weaken their influence.—Labor Advocate.

BRING THEM TO TIME.

If the union women of Lincoln can not get union made shoes for their own wear in Lincoln, let them get together and buy them elsewhere. The Wageworker can tell them where to send their orders. The shoe dealer who will not make a special effort to win the trade of union women does not deserve to have that trade. There are plenty of union made shoes for women, from the cheapest to the very best. Ever hear about the bird that could sing and would not? Well, that particular bird was made to sing. Make the shoe dealers carry union made shoes for women by refusing to deal with them until they do.

INSIDE ELECTRICIANS.

The inside electrical workers have organized a local of their own in Lincoln and will hereafter transact business on their own hook. Heretofore they have been affiliated with the Electrical Workers' Union, which included all branches of the business. The two locals will work in entire harmony, and the step was taken because it was thought that better results could be obtained. The Wageworker wishes the new local abundant success.

ORGANIZER MICHLER HERE.

General Organizer Michler of the International Carpenters' and Joiners' Union was in Lincoln the first of the week and spent several days on the local situation. He will be here next Tuesday night to attend the meeting of the local and make a report on what he has seen and done in Lincoln. This will be a special called meeting of the

Methodists. Bishop McCabe, sitting in solitary dignity in an ecumenical council of his own, will hardly be able, without at least a struggle, to read them out of the union or out of the church.

There may be a suspicion that Bishop McCabe's personal interest in the Methodist book concern, which is now engaged in a somewhat acrimonious contest with the typographical union, has helped to color his views and give them a selfish bias. As to this we will not venture to express an opinion.

But the World-Herald does believe, and will say, that the great Methodist church, builded as it is of the very bone and brawn and cemented together with the blood of the common people, the poor people, should be among the last to pronounce anathema upon laboring men who have entered into union organizations for their own protection. These laboring men have no other means effectively to defend themselves. The rapid concentration of capital into a comparatively few hands, the amalgamation of industrial establishments into trusts and combines, leave the workmen helpless unless they, too, combine to meet organization with organization.

The abuse of the power of labor unions, the lawlessness and disorder that occasionally spring from them just as from the capitalistic unions, the folly and short-sightedness that sometimes mar their management, these are all to be deplored and condemned. Intelligent and patriotic union men, as a matter of fact, are among the first to admit and strive to correct these faults.

But the central idea of unionism—that of effective labor organization and labor brotherhood—is something that not even Bishop McCabe and all the bishops of all the churches, will ever be able to crush so long as the present social and industrial order maintains.—Omaha Daily World-Herald.

Carpenters' Union, and all members are requested to be present.

A CHANGE OF BASE.

After twenty years of service with the State Journal company, Fred Brenner has made a change and is now at the George Brothers' printery. Fred has stood in the southwest corner of the Journal job rooms so long that he wore a half-dozen holes through the floor. He made the change merely to break the monotony. But even Fred's record at the Journal job shop is beaten by George Radebach's, for Radebach began there two months before Fred did.

GOOD WORK.

The Wageworker takes pleasure in testifying to the good work of The Western Newspaper Union in getting out the "Friendly List Edition." The work was handled to the entire satisfaction of the publisher, was put out on time, artistically done, and all labor performed thereon done by union men—compositors, stereotypers and pressmen. It is another proof that the Lincoln branch of the Western Newspaper Union is equipped to handle the biggest jobs that can be handed to it.

A POINTER FOR LINCOLN.

The Laundry Workers of Coshocton, Ohio, who were recently organized, and who before their formation into a union, were compelled to work ten and twelve hours a day, have been successful in having their working hours reduced to nine, without any reduction in wages. They were also granted the Saturday half holiday.

UNION MADE COLLARS.

Union men can buy union made collars at the big store of Fred Schmidt & Bro. And when a union man can get union collars and will not, he is not a bit better than the "scabs" who made the non-union collars he is wearing.

BUILDING LABORERS.

Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' Union No. 251 is contemplating a genuine rag time dance. A committee was appointed at the last meeting of the union to make arrangements for the event.

She—"I suppose you read a great deal." He—"No, I haven't time. You see I'm a book reviewer."