

THE WAGEWORKER



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The Man With The "Muck Rake."

Some men are so constituted that they cannot see all sides of even the simplest proposition. This is often so not because they are insincere nor because they desire to be contrary, but it is due to the fact that previous environment or training has taught them to take a narrow view of things.

To the eye specialist, a man frequently seems to be all eye. The shoe-maker is most concerned about man's feet. The architect wandering through the great exhibit sees only the strength and the weaknesses of the buildings. The machinist notices, principally, the engines and the tools.

But there is another kind of narrowness which is almost unpardonable. The narrowness of the specialist may be excused, but that of the pessimist—well, it at least deserves our pity. Recently, our attention has been called to the "muck-rake." Read again that story of Bunyon's Pilgrim's Progress, in which is told the incident of the man who was so taken up with his filthy occupation, that he failed to see just above him the most beautiful things.

There is good in every man. In most cases there is more good than even his best friends suspect. But his enemies are searching for the evil, and a man usually finds what he looks for. It is not surprising, therefore, that the best intentions sometimes meet with contempt and opposition. This has its

compensations, for opposition puts a man to a test, which not only brings out the best that is in him, but it develops the finer virtues. The fellow who handles the muck-rake—he who slings mud—will find that he has soiled his own hands. And in most cases it will be discovered that the filth failed to reach his mark.

It is unfortunate that the rank and file among workmen are often too ready to believe a lie concerning the men who for years have been fighting their battles, sometimes during periods when, to be known as an "agitator" meant only hardship. The thousand and one victories vanish in the contemplation of the single error—granted that the story of the enemy is true.

There is need in the labor movement, as in other movements of a breadth of spirit which will seek to know the best things about men, and not the worst.

This was the spirit of Christ. To Peter, who knew only too well his own fickleness, Jesus said: "Thou shalt become a rock"—sturdy, strong, firm. So He dealt with men, always. Never excusing meanness, for He had only words of contempt for the hypocritical Pharisee, but seeing and loving the good that was in men, He made even the sinner realize that in Him might be found a friend and brother, who was tempted in all points like as he was, and yet without sin.—Rev. Charles Stelzle.

A "SCAB" CIGAR.

The Wageworker Apologizes Humbly for Having Advertised It.

The Wageworker owes an apology to every union man in the country, and especially to the union cigarmakers, for having advertised a "scab" cigar in its "Friendly List Edition." On the rear cover page on the left hand of the stalwart union man, will be found the advertisement of the "Royal Highlander" cigar. There were two reasons why this "scab" cigar advertisement slipped in: The Royal Highlanders is the name of a fraternal insurance company having headquarters in Lincoln. The name of the cigar led the publisher to believe—and very naturally—that it was made in Lincoln, and therefore union made. Again, the advertisement came in at the last minute and was secured by a solicitor who was criminally negligent because he did not ascertain whether the cigar was union made.

The "Royal Highlander" cigar is a "scab" cigar and under no consideration should it be smoked by any union man or friend of unionism. If the Capitol Cigar Co., the firm handling the cigar in Lincoln, and who gave the order for the advertisement, will present either the contract for the advertisement or the receipted bill, the money will be refunded by the publisher of The Wageworker.

The management of the Royal Highlanders owe it to themselves and to the union members of that great organization, to immediately disclaim all responsibility for this "scab" cigar and take immediate steps to have it either made by union men or the name changed. As it is now the cigar will antagonize union men and women and have a bad effect on the fraternity.

TWO TEAMSTERS.

And the Difference Between Them Shown by Their Actions.

Teamsters in Lincoln just now find plenty of employment on the excavations for new buildings, and it is interesting to watch the men who drive the teams, either to the wagon or the scraper. Last week we saw a teamster who is not a member of the union, sit on a heavily loaded wagon and brutally beat his team to make it pull the wagon from under the dump and up a short and horribly steep grade. The poor horses strained and struggled their best, while the brutal driver lashed them with a heavy whip and cursed like a pirate. When the load was on the street the horses stopped, flanks quivering, knees trembling and nostrils blood-red.

On the same day, on another job, we saw a teamster with a union button bring his team out from under the dump and up an equally steep grade.

But he never used the whip, never swore an oath, and he not only did not ride on the heavy load but he put his shoulder against the wagon and pushed. He encouraged his team with pleasant words, and when the load was on the street he pulled them down, then walked around and patted them, talking to them all the while as if they were little children. When he was ready to go he shook the lines, and the horses stepped off without a protest.

It's dollars to doughnuts that this pretty well illustrates the difference between the union and the non-union drivers as a rule the world over.

STREET CAR STRIKE AVERTED.

Omaha Street Railway Employees Win Their Main Contentions.

For a couple of days last week Omaha was threatened with a street car strike that would have paralyzed business. But the employers side-stepped, the employees dodged, the business men argued and common sense prevailed. There will be no strike. The men got a readjustment of the scale, better conditions and recognition of their union.

There were numerous conferences, and every conference was marked by good will and a disposition on all sides to be fair and reasonable. The greatest rejoicing among the men is over the fact that their organization was recognized by the conference. That's enough to make the Mahoney-Martin bunch of union busters jump in the river.

IT WAS A MISTAKE.

Barber Shops Still Remain Open the Same Old Hours.

Last week The Wageworker announced that hereafter the union barber shops would close at 7 p. m. instead of 7:30 p. m. The announcement was made on the strength of a notification to that effect by a committee of union barbers who called at the office.

The announcement was premature. The half-hour was clipped off at a special meeting, and restored at the next regular meeting after a warm debate.

OMAHA PAINTERS WIN.

Score a Splendid Victory and Make One Little Concession.

The painters and decorators of Omaha whipped the unfair employers to a standstill, notwithstanding Tim Mahoney and his union busting bunch of business men got behind the employers.

It took the painters and decorators less than three weeks to turn the

trick, and it cost them less than a hundred dollars. When the bosses refused to sign up the men quietly went to contracting on their own hook, and left the bosses up in the air. Then came the conferences and a speedy agreement. The union men made one concession. They promised the bosses they wouldn't tell the Business Men's association how badly they had been licked.

UNION MEN IN POLITICS.

Time That Unions Consider This An Important Question.

Trades unionists are generally agreed that the time has come for the unions to participate in the elections as unions. The method of participation is likely to cause some difference of opinion, and in some cases may result in the unions failing to secure that which might be theirs.

When the question of the method comes up, there will be, first, the demand of the socialists that the unions shall "go into politics" through the socialist gate. And so insistent are the advocates of that cause, so skillful in the presentation of their theories, so entirely earnest and apparently sincere are they that there is likelihood in many cases of their carrying their point and in lining up the trades unions of a locality for the socialist ticket. In some communities even the election of socialist candidates to legislative and even congressional seats may result.

In other locations political parties will be coquetting with the unions for indorsement. Platforms will be drawn more carefully than ever before with a view to satisfying the demands of the unions—before election. The unions will be called upon to carefully avoid the indorsement of any political party that merely offers a platform acceptable to union men. The candidates must be acceptable if the unions are to gain their desires. A man in a legislative office who has failed to support the measures demanded by organized labor should be carefully remembered. The men who have been openly hostile or secretly treacherous to the interests of organized labor should be opposed, no matter what his platform, his promises, or his party.

But President Gompers advises that the unions shall secure, wherever possible, the election of members of the unions to legislative positions. In the Federationist for May he says:

"Elect clean cut, straight out trade unionists to congress and the state legislatures wherever you can, and never waver in your unionism."

Again, referring to those who have been tried and found wanting:

"Defeat labor's known enemies, even if you have to elect those who are not straight labor men. If we can not use the 'other man' as a staff to lean upon, for temporary purposes he may be just good enough to use as a stick to beat the enemy."

It is time that the unions commence the consideration of these questions—Philadelphia Trades Union News.

GOOD FOR FENNESSY!

Gets a Big Boost From Union Buster Otis of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Times says: "Tom Fennessy, the blatant walking delegate of the printing trust—than whom no more perniciously active nor pugnaciously meddlesome strike purveyor exists in Los Angeles—is being boomed for 'trust' of the trust's boneyard in Colorado. No greater dis-organizer of the peace than this worthy has existed in the annals of California. That he is a true type of the incompetents he represents is manifest by the utter abandon with which they follow him in his diabolical effort to coerce the employing printers of this city to pay nine hours' wages for eight hours' work. This man Fennessy possesses genius for devilry in organized form. He is a veritable Beelzebub in this City of Angels, and, like his prototype, could destroy the peace of Heaven itself. His followers swear by him because he is the embodiment of their hellish demands, doing everything and anything the 'boys' desire. He is from the ranks; the rankest of the rank. If his election as a 'trust' will remove him from our midst, for once we can truly say we regret we cannot help him along. When he is gone, a long

stride toward peace will have been made in this community."

A FATAL OBJECTION.

One of Bolton Hall's Little Fables From Real Life.

Labor was wild. He found his work very hard, his head was swelled, and he didn't know his place, and he was unreasonable and violent; so they took him to the Social Reform Clinic, and considered his case.

When he was stripped, an iron collar appeared embedded in his neck, and Doctor Lord explained that many years ago, when Labor was a child of wandering habits, he had put the collar on him, and that it had never seemed to do him any harm. He said also that, anyhow, there was plenty of room for Labor outside of the collar.

Doctor Legie suggested compulsory arbitration to decide what was really Labor's place. Doctor Ateower said: "I think that to shorten his days would lengthen his life." Doctor Malitia said that his system needed stimulation. "Now," said he, "if we could get him into a fight, so he wouldn't think about his own condition—"

Doctor Boness said a share in the profits of exploiting would do Labor good.

Doctor Status said an old age pension would help Labor very much if he lived long enough, but that if he should die sooner, what he needed was an Association for the Reduction of Funeral Expenses.

"A law against sweating," said Doctor Statute. "And against drinking," said Doctor Prohib; "if he didn't drink he wouldn't sweat." "And against gambling and other excitements," added Doctor Nosey. "Not forgetting," said Doctor Vigilant, "a law against immorality (of the cheaper grades)."

"Why not remove the iron collar?" asked an orderly.

"My friends," said Doctor Conservativa, "we have had many excellent suggestions here today from my learned colleagues; all of which will try again, if the patient can be kept quiet; but we are not here to consider the revolutionary theory of this Radical." So they discharged the orderly. Labor had another fit that night and cut Doctor Conservativa's throat.—Life.

COURT UPHOLDS UNIONS.

Legal to Peacefully Persuade Non-Union Men to Come Out.

Members of labor unions may use peaceful persuasion and argument to induce non-union workmen to leave the employ of persons antagonizing the unions, and to unite with their unions, so long as no contract is violated and no violence or veiled threat is used, and the parties accosted are left free to act, by going on with their work or joining the union, which would mean to quit.

The above is a concise syllabus of the decision handed down by the Superior Court in general term yesterday, in the matter of the Iron Molders' Union of North America against the I. & E. Grenwald Company, taken up on appeal from the finding of Judge Hosea in special term. The opinion was handed down by Judge Howard Ferris, Judge Harry M. Hoffheimer and Judge William Littlefield concurring in supplemental opinions. The case of the Grenwald Company against the striking iron molders has attracted national attention in the labor world, and the decision of the Superior Court has anxiously been awaited by organized labor throughout the country. In the evidence adduced it was shown that the men had been peacefully induced to leave the employ of the Grenwald company and join the ranks of the Iron Molders' Union, who took charge of them and their families and furnished them transportation to Cleveland, O., from whence they came.—Potter's Herald.

PLUMBERS ON STRIKE.

Nashville, Tenn., May 6.—Sixty-five union journeymen and union plumbers employed in nineteen shops will strike here tomorrow for higher wages. The union is affiliated with the Nashville council of the Structural Building Trades of America, and any attempt of the employers to work non-union men will result in all the unions in the alliance quitting work, the men declare.

Boosting For The Good Old Label of Unionism

S. J. Stearn, of Chicago, a prominent official of the Garment Workers' Union, and general promoter of the label, was in Lincoln several days this week. Mr. Stearn is traveling over the country in the interests of the union label in general and the label of the United Garment Workers of America in particular. He is on his way back to Chicago after an extended trip to the Pacific coast, and reports a gratifying growth of the demand for the union label by union men and women.

"I am taking a great interest in the organization of the retail clerks," said Mr. Stearn. "I find that a lack of organization among the clerks hinders us very much in our efforts to advance the labels of all trades. If we can get the clerks interested in unionism we have made a long step forward."

In his investigations in Lincoln Mr. Stearn found a lamentable lack of union made clothing on sale. He declares that this is due to two reasons—the failure of union men to demand the label, and the inclination of clothing merchants to slight the labeled goods in order to sell something else.

"I wish I could tell every mother and father of the conditions in the sweat shops in which thousands of garment workers are employed by unfair contractors. But I would not dare to tell one-half the truth to a mixed audience. I would hesitate to tell it to an audience made up wholly of men. The horrible immorality, the foulness, the disease, the filth that exists in these sweat shops where the daintiest lingerie, the finest skirts and waists and the daintiest of clothing for children is made in almost past belief. When we hint at these things unthinking men and women charge us with drawing on our imaginations in order to advance the interests of our union. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We are fighting these conditions, not in the interests of our organization wholly, but in the interests of the poor, starving victims of sweat shop greed. Our trade, more than all others, is carried on in these iniquitous

dens, and garment workers, more than any other class of skilled workmen and women are the victims of this vicious and un-American system. We are fighting it because it is beastializing our mothers, our wives and our children. Our organization can do much as an organization, but unless the people who believe in fair play, honest wages and sanitary conditions come to our aid, we can never win a complete victory.

"There is just one method of wiping out the sweat shops, and that is to patronize the union label. The mother who insists that our label appear on the suit she buys for her little boy, is doing her share towards preventing the boy of some other mother from being sentenced to a life of unrequited toil in a foul sweat shop and a tearless funeral and a grave in the potters' field. She is helping to give honest employment under fair conditions to an adult man or woman and to drive out the awful evil of child labor. If we could impress these facts upon the public mind with enough force, we would soon drive out the sweat shops and have our children in the schools instead of the mills and the tenement workshops."

On Tuesday evening Mr. Stearn delivered a "label talk" to the Carpenters' Union, and on the same evening addressed the Central Labor Union. Wednesday he visited many Lincoln business houses and acquainted himself with conditions. His stay in Lincoln was necessarily short, but he was promised to return in the fall, or send some one else, and take the lead in an active propaganda in the interests of the label. He reports two or three business men who express themselves as favorable to an organization of the retail clerks, and several business men who will increase their stocks of labeled goods and push them out instead of holding them back in order to sell something else.

Mr. Stearn is well acquainted with the work he has in hand, and there is no doubt that his visit in Lincoln will result in much good to the unions of the city.

GOOD WORK.

The president's idea is that if a man looks upward and onward while he is wielding the muck rake the work will proceed on a more elevated plane. A practical man who has ever had to stand over a stable boy knows that the only way to wield a muck rake is to keep the eyes on the muck until it is out of the way. The result of some muck raking in the senate will be seen in the result of the railway rate bill as it was seen in the passage of the pure food bill. The senate has become at last a little more afraid of the people than it is of the corporations.—Sioux City Union Advocate.

A SAD BEREAVEMENT.

Last week The Wageworker announced that Walter Brown, foreman of the Free Press press room, had been suddenly called to Chicago by the illness of his mother. With sorrow The Wageworker reports that his mother passed away shortly after he arrived at her bedside. Mrs. Brown was 63 years of age, and the immediate cause of her death was pneumonia, although she had for several years been suffering from heart trouble. Mr. Brown will have the sympathy of his fellow unionists in his great bereavement.

CIGAR MAKERS STRIKE.

Boston, Mass., May 6.—It was announced at the headquarters of the cigar makers' union tonight that arrangements were complete for the strike tomorrow of cigar makers to enforce a demand for an increase in wages. It is thought about 1,200 men will go out.

TRUST CIGARS.

According to a circular issued by President G. W. Perkins, of the Cigarmakers' Union, the annual production of cigars in the Philippines amounts to \$200,000,000, and the wages paid in Manila vary from 25 to 37 cents a day. Of the seventy-nine cigar factories in Manila, forty-eight are owned by Chinamen, who employ Chinese coolie labor, and with the exception

of two, the other factories are owned by Europeans. Union workers should remember all goods sold in stores of the United Cigar Stores Company are trust, scab, coolie and child labor goods.

STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS.

After an interval of some five years, the building trades in Chicago were again disturbed by a strike on the 2nd—one of the largest of the May-day strikes. The immediate cause of this strike is a wage dispute, the men demanding \$5 for an eight-hour day, and the contractors offering \$4.60 for four months and \$4.80 for the remainder of the year. The men voted for the strike 3 to 1. In behalf of the strikers' demand it is said that the average of life in the trade is only ten years.—Chicago Public.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

Memphis, Tenn., May 9.—The seventh biennial convention of the International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers met here this afternoon in the Grand opera house. The sessions will extend through a series of four weeks and many important matters will be disposed of. The city is decorated in honor of the delegates and visitors. Today's session was called to order by Chief Engineer W. F. Stone and was merely preliminary.

If They Only Would.

If some of the union men would take as much interest in getting members into the union as they do in the various lodges they belong to, the unions' membership would be greatly increased. We know two good union men who were so anxious to get a brother unionist into a lodge that they made out the application papers, signed them and paid the initiation fee. They are now wondering whether their friend will pay them the amount of the initiation. How many of them would do this to get a man into the union?—Easton, Pa., Journal.