

# THE WAGEWORKER



## Organize a Union Buyers' League in Lincoln Now!

The Wageworker has been making a quiet little investigation into certain lines of business during the past three weeks, and the state of affairs found therein are a disgrace to unionism. It shows that the union men of this city are criminally negligent in the matter of demanding the union label.

It is a fact, and a scandalous fact, that not one suit of clothes in twenty sold over the counters in Lincoln bears the label of the United Garment Workers. One of the largest clothing stores in Lincoln—the B. L. Paine Co.—admits that it has not got a union made suit of clothing in stock. A search through another clothing store revealed the presence of a few union made suits, and they were stuck at the bottom of huge piles of "scab" clothing.

"Why don't you get it out where it can be seen?" was asked of one of the proprietors.

"We don't want to push it," said he. "We have only a few suits of union made clothing and we don't show it unless the customer absolutely demands the label."

Three fourths of the clothing sold in this city ought to be union made. Union men have it within their power to compel this state of affairs, and if they fail to exercise that power they are untrue to their obligations.

The Wageworker proposes the organization of a "Union Buyers' League," the membership of which shall pledge itself to purchase only union made clothing, hats, caps, shoes, shirts, collars, cuffs, brooms, and other articles that are made somewhere by union labor. The 2,500 union men and women of this city spend not less than \$2,500,000 a year with the merchants of this city. As long as they spend it without regard to the union label the merchants will continue to offer non-union goods for the reason that non-union goods can be bought cheaper and sold at equal prices. This gives the merchant a better profit—and the merchant, like the rest of us, is looking for the best of it.

Take the matter of union made shoes for women. It is next to impossible to get them in Lincoln. "Scab" shoes are offered in plenty, and when the merchant is asked why he does not carry a larger line of union made shoes for women he replies: "We can't get them." But merchants in other cities can and do get them. They are made in all sizes, styles and qualities. The merchants simply do not want to be put to the trouble of getting them. That is the reason. And as long as the wives of union men consent to take the "scab" goods there is no reason why the merchant should exert himself to get the union made articles.

But the union men and women of the city have the power to compel Mr. Merchant to go to the trouble. If we refuse absolutely to buy the "scab" goods, and form a "Union Buyers' League" and send away for our union made goods until such time as the merchants awake to the situation, it will not be long until the merchants get busy to head off the business of buying elsewhere.

The Wageworker asks every union man and woman into whose hands this paper may fall, to sign the following pledge, a proper blank being found elsewhere, and send it to "The Wageworker," 1216 G St., Lincoln:

"I hereby promise that under no circumstances will I purchase any non-union clothing, shoes, hats, caps, shirts, collars, cuffs, brooms or other non-union made articles of common use, such as are made somewhere by union labor, and that I will become a member of the Union Buyers' League, and join with my fellow unionists in buying these articles union made of some dealer in this or another city who handles the product of fair labor."

If the merchants of this city continue to put the union made goods at the bottom of the stacks and push non-union goods, let them sell their non-union stuff to non-unionists. If the \$2,500,000 spent annually by union labor is not worth the effort to get union made goods, let us spend it with merchants elsewhere who do want the trade bad enough to cater to it.

Go into a clothing store and ask for a suit of union made clothing. The chances are that you will be shown a union made suit, and that the clerk will immediately begin telling you that it is "not well made," that it "hasn't the style or the quality," and that it is not as good as another suit ("scab" made) that he can sell you for less money. Of course, if you insist on it he will sell you the union made goods, but he is quite sure it will not give the satisfaction that another suit ("scab" made) will give you. And as long as you allow yourselves to be "conned" by this sort of palaver you'll find 95 per cent of the clothing sold here is non-union, the product of unfair shops.

If we as unionists do not exert ourselves to the utmost to remedy this state of affairs we are not worthy of being called unionists. Take the matter of hats. Three-fourths of the hats manufactured in the United States are union made. Yet less than one-half that hats offered for sale in Lincoln are labeled. Why has the Stetson hat such a run in Lincoln? It is difficult to answer that question. The impression that the Stetson is such a superior hat is a mistaken one. Of course a \$6 Stetson will last longer than a \$3 union made hat, even if it is no better. Why? Because a man who pays \$6 for a hat will take better care of it than he will of a hat he pays only \$3 for. That is natural. The editor of The Wageworker has a union made hat for which he paid \$4. He has worn it almost constantly for four years, and he will put it alongside the highest priced Stetson ever made that has been subjected to the same wear.

How many union men in Lincoln are wearing union made shirts and collars? Not one in ten. They can't find the union made articles in Lincoln and therefore quietly submit to being forced to take the "scab" goods. The merchants have learned that the unionists will not go to the trouble of walking an extra block or two for the union made article, and so they will not handle the union made goods, preferring to handle the non-union product and make a little more profit. Last week the editor of The Wageworker took a shoe dealer to task for not having a larger line of union made shoes for women. "We can not find them," said the merchant. The editor immediately pulled out a list of manufacturers who make shoes for women and put the label on the shoes, and said: "What's the matter with looking for them in the right place?" There are a score of firms manufacturing ladies' shoes and putting the label in them, and making shoes of all grades and prices. If the shoe dealers of Lincoln will not put in full lines of labeled shoes, let us join together and buy our shoes somewhere else. If we will do that for ninety days we'll have the shoe merchants of Lincoln searching the country with microscopes, looking for the kind of shoes we want to buy.

Less than two weeks ago a union man in Lincoln tried to buy a union made dress shirt. He could not find one in the city of Lincoln. He found "scab" dress shirts in plenty. He wrote to a friend in Omaha and got the union made dress shirt inside of forty-eight hours. If 2,500 Lincoln union men will send away for the union made goods they can not buy in Lincoln, it will not be three months before it will be easier to find the union made article than it now is to find the "scab" article.

The pocketbook nerve is a mighty sensitive thing. When it is hit two or three times the owner gets busy to protect it. Let us quit talking about it, and go to hitting a few mercantile "pocketbook nerves." It is safe to say that there are 8,000 cigars smoked in Lincoln every day, and that 6,500 of them are "scab" made—made in the tenement factories of the east by Chinese, children, consumptives, scrofulitics and syphilitics. If the union men and union sympathizers would simply quit buying cigars of dealers who refused to help push union made cigars, they would have the dealers making a hot-foot to the Lincoln manufacturers. But the dealers is wise. If he can sell a thousand "scab" cigars at 35 per cent profit instead of a thousand union made cigars at 25 per cent profit, he'll push the "scab" cigar to a finish.

The 2,500 union men of Lincoln can reverse present conditions if they will. Are you game? Are you willing to go to some extra effort and make some personal sacrifices in order to advance the sale of union made goods? If you are, join the "Union Buyers' League" and get busy. Call your fellow unionist's attention to it. Ask him to sign it. Cut out the coupon printed on this page, sign it, giving your name and street address in full. As soon as 250 names are received by The Wageworker they will be printed, and the list added to week by week. An organization will be perfected, meetings held and a systematic label campaign begun and pushed to a finish.

The Wageworker is going to lose some advertising business by this campaign, and it doesn't give a continental. The Wageworker is one newspaper that is not edited in the business office. As a matter of fact, The Wageworker has no business office. If 1,500 staunch union men will get into line with their subscriptions The Wageworker will gleefully tackle the job of "showing up" a few business firms that make "heap talk" about their friendship for organized labor and discriminate against union made goods for the purpose of pushing "scab" goods at a wider margin of profit. Sign the roll and get to work!

each of the old favorites upon their appearance, and this welcome was especially hearty to Jess Fulton, Miss Enid Jackson, Miss Belle Jackson, Mr. Castlebury and Miss Bowman. There is no doubt about the place this splendid stock company has won in the hearts of Lincoln people.

During the summer engagement a number of entirely new bills will be rendered together with such of the old favorites that have improved by the lapse of time. The specialties between acts will be new and pleasing, and nothing left undone that might add to the pleasure and comfort of the patrons of the Oliver. The unionists of Lincoln will remember with pleasure the successful benefit tendered the Central Labor Union last season by this company. Mr. Fulton has already announced himself as ready to repeat the benefit performance at such time as the central body and himself can agree upon. The Wageworker is glad to welcome the old favorites back, and hopes that this season will be a record breaker in point of patronage.

**TO ALL UNION MEN.**

Invited to Help Printers Observe Their Annual Memorial Day.

Every union man and his family is invited to meet with the Union printers of Lincoln in their annual observance of "Printers' Memorial Day," which will take place at 2:15 p. m., Sunday, May 27, at St. Mark's Reformed church, 1519 Q street. The memorial sermon will be delivered by Rev. P. M. Orr, pastor of the church, who is a union man and in hearty sympathy with the objects and aims of trades unionism.

While the printers will have charge of the services, they cordially invite all their union friends to meet with them. Unionists who are not printers are requested to proceed directly to the church, the Typographical Union having arranged to march to the church in a body, accompanied by Capital Auxiliary No. 11. It is to be hoped that St. Mark's church will be crowded to the doors by unionists on the occasion of this memorial service.

**HE IS AWFULLY SLEEPY.**

And it looks as if he will never become awakened.

What did you tell that man just now? I told him to hurry. What right have you to tell him to hurry? I pay him to hurry. What do you pay him? A dollar a day. Where do you get the money to pay him with? I sell brick. Who makes the brick? He does. How many bricks does he make? Twenty-four men can make 24,000 brick a day.

Then instead of you paying him he pays you six dollars a day for standing around and telling him to hurry. Well, but I own the machines. How did you get the machines? Sold brick and bought them. Who made the brick? Shut up. The fools may wake up.—Nashville Advocate.

**HERE'S A CHANCE.**

Why Not Have a "Labor Headquarters" That Are Creditable? Pending the discovery of ways and means for the erection of a Labor Temple, the unions of this city should have some central meeting place where business may be transacted, friends entertained and men sought when needed. The old Commercial Club headquarters in the Free Press building are vacant and may be rented at a very reasonable figure. There are two large halls, a smaller hall, a fine parlor and a large rotunda with office for a secretary. A cigar stand, together with billiard tables, would go a long way towards paying the running expenses. If the unions would take the halls and pay as much for them as they now pay for less desirable halls, the needed revenue would be secured.

The Wageworker suggests that the Central Labor Union take hold of the matter and see what it can do. The quarters indicated would serve well in lieu of a Labor Temple.

## A Workingman Gives Some Very Sound Advice

Lincoln, Nebr., May 16.—To the Editor of The Wageworker: I was reading last week an article in your paper on the eight-hour and Saturday half-holiday subjects, in which you gave Bishop McCabe some good advice. But it seems to me you omitted one of the strongest arguments for your plea.

The greatest need of the working class today is competent, intelligent leaders, and the fact that such men as McCabe, Elliot of Harvard, nearly all the judges, capitalists, trusts, mine operators, etc., are bitterly opposed, not to the mistakes of the unions but to the principle of unionism when practiced by the workers, though they regard it as all right for the employers, shows that the leaders of the working class must belong to the working class, and those mechanics and others who have the eight-hour day owe it to their fellows to employ their leisure time, not in fun and social enjoyment, but in reading and study and mental improvement. When workingmen get their eyes open they will cease to vote

all legislative power into the hands of their opponents. It has been a hard fight for the last twenty-five years to get the improved conditions which they now enjoy, but as long as all legislative power is in the hands of their employers those conditions are constantly in danger. In England the working classes have sent nearly fifty of their members into parliament, and the results are already seen and felt. In the United States congress there are none. Lawyers and capitalists have it all to themselves. A mechanic, however, to be eligible to any legislative office must have not only trained hands but a trained mind, and the eight-hour day gives him a chance to get it. The plea that after eight hours of good honest work a man cannot study, but must have play, is all nonsense and is a disgrace to the man that makes it. Our conditions today call for manliness, and men who would be free must not only claim freedom but fit themselves for it, and then take it. J. H. MARSH.

### LIST OF UNFAIR MAGAZINES IN NEW YORK.

- American Inventor (M.)
- American Machinist (W.)
- American Museum Journal, Museum of Natural History (M.)
- Automobile Topics (W.)
- Beniger's Magazine (W.)
- Bookman (M.)
- Burr-McIntosh (M.)
- Century, The (M.)
- Christian Advocate, The (W.)
- Country Life in America (M.)
- Cuba Review (M.)
- Delineator (M.)
- Designer (M.)
- Engineer and Mining Journal.
- Forum (Q.)
- Garden Magazine (M.)
- Gentlewoman (M.)
- Homilistic Review (M.)
- Journal of the Telegraph (M.)
- L'Art de la Mode (M.)
- Literary Digest (W.)
- Magazine of Mysteries (M.)
- Marine Engineering (M.)
- McClure's (M.)
- Mode and Review (M.)
- My Business Friend (M.)

- Nautical Gazette (W.)
  - Navy League Journal (M.)
  - New Idea (M.)
  - Outdoors (M.)
  - Paragon Monthly.
  - Photographic Times (M.)
  - Power (M.)
  - Power Boat News (M.)
  - Rudder, The (M.)
  - Smart Set (M.)
  - St. Nicholas (M.)
  - Tales (M.)
  - Tom Watson's Magazine (M.)
  - Town and Country (W.)
  - Town Topics (W.)
  - Trust Companies (M.)
  - Typewriter and Phonographic World Vogue (W.)
  - World's Work (M.)
  - Brooklyn Reporter.
  - Brooklyn Weekly News.
  - Seaside Publishing Co.
- And the following patterns: Banner, Butterick, La Belle, New Idea, Martha Dean, Standard, Home Dressmaker, Metropolitan Fashions and Little Folks.
- \*Abbreviations used—M, monthly; W, weekly; Q, quarterly.

## Printers Memorial Day

In accordance with established custom, Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will observe the last Sunday in May as "Memorial Day" in honor of the Union's dead. In order that there may be no excuse for non-attendance at this memorial service, it will be held in the afternoon at St. Mark's Reformed church, 1519 Q street, on Sunday, May 27. Union printers and their families will please make note of the following arrangements:

The memorial sermon will be delivered by Rev. P. M. Orr, pastor of St. Mark's, himself a union man. The Typographical Union and Capital Auxiliary are requested to meet at the Western Newspaper Union building, Fourteenth street, between O and P, and be ready to march in a body to the church promptly at 2:15 p. m. A cordial invitation is extended to all union men affiliated with other unions, together with their families, to attend this service, and they are requested to proceed immediately to the church. Following is the program of the church service:

- PROGRAM.**
- Song, "America" ..... Assembly
  - Invocation ..... The Pastor
  - Song, "Nearer, My God, to Thee" ..... Assembly
  - Scripture Reading ..... Fred W. Mickel
  - Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209.
  - Song ..... Assembly
  - Memorial Sermon ..... Rev. P. M. Orr
  - Pastor St. Mark's Reformed Church.
  - Song, "Doxology" ..... Assembly
  - Benediction ..... The Pastor
- Immediately after the church services the members of the Typographical Union and Capital Auxiliary will proceed to Sixteenth and O streets and take special cars to Wyuka cemetery, where services will be held at the Typographical Union lot. Following is the program at the cemetery:
- Song, "Refuge" ..... Assembly
  - Prayer ..... C. E. Mayne
  - Address, "Memorial Day" ..... L. L. Ingraham
  - Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209.
  - Song ..... Assembly
  - Address, "Our Union Dead" ..... H. G. McVicker
  - Charter Member Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209.
  - Roll Call of Union Dead and Decoration of Burial Lot ..... Assembly
  - Song, "Doxology" ..... Assembly
  - "Taps" ..... Miss Walters

All who can are requested to bring flowers to strew upon the graves of the union dead. The graves of printers not buried in the Union lot will be decorated by a special committee, and all services at the cemetery will be held at the lot. Let every loyal printer make it a point to set apart a few hours on this day to pay a tribute of love and respect to his union comrades who have gone before into the Great Beyond.

## The Union Buyers League

**I HEREBY PROMISE, that under no circumstances will I purchase any non-union clothing, hats, caps, shoes, shirts, brooms, or other non-union made articles of common use, such as are made somewhere by Union Labor, and that I will become a member of the UNION BUYERS' LEAGUE and join with my fellow unionists in buying these articles Union Made from some dealer in this or another city who handles the products of fair labor.**

Name.....

St. and No.....

Cut this out and mail to Wageworker, 1216 G St. Lincoln, Nebraska.

### FAVORITES RETURN.

Fulton Stock Company Opens Summer Engagement at Oliver.

Fulton Bros. Stock Co. opened the third summer engagement at the Oliver last Monday evening, presenting "Camille." The audience that greeted the company at the rise of the curtain was enough to make each member feel proud. A welcome was extended to