

Wall Historical Society

# THE WAGEWORKER



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## Some Union Literature Well Worth Reading

Some writers and orators, who know less about the labor question than they do about the north pole, declare that trade unions destroy personal liberty and keep all the workers down to "a dead level of sloth and incompetency."

This is just as true as to say that the seats in a street-car destroy the liberty of the passengers to stand up. There never was a more shameless fraud than this "right to work" proposition, in the way that it is being put forward by the trusts. The right to work for nothing is not a right; it is a wrong.

When a body of workmen are being treated with gross injustice, when their employer contemptuously refuses to arbitrate, and when they choose to be strikers rather than slaves, the "scabs" who take their places are morally criminals.

It is legal to be a "scab" in such a case. There is no law against the "scab" any more than there is against the monopolist or the Wall street plunger. But the harm wrought to the nation by these three is as great as that done by burglars or counterfeiters.

No man has a right to make himself a menace to the community or nation in which he lives. The man who is beastly enough to be satisfied to live in a pigsty has no right to endanger the public health by his unclean habits.

In everything else except money making and the labor question it is a principle of law that no one has a right to be a public nuisance or a public menace.

Do we not quarantine a man's private house and violate its privacy in a dozen ways if he or any of his family has a contagious disease?

What becomes of the sanctity of the home when the home contains a case of cholera?

How long would we permit a man to play a cornet in an apartment house from midnight until 2 o'clock in the morning?

Would he not hear the peremptory knock of the janitor and a policeman in less than half an hour? And how much would his plea of "individual rights" amount to?

I do not mean to say that a worker who tries, ignorantly or deliberately, to break up a trade union should be treated like a cholera patient or a drunken musician, but only to show that the rights of the individual stop where social injury begins.

Of course, there should be no violence. Violence is advocated only by anarchists and military generals, and neither of these are to be found in the membership of labor organizations.

But there should not be either any public commendation of the "scabs" who place themselves directly in the path of social progress, and who, if successful, make liberty impossible for their fellow workers.

There is a vast difference between the "scab" and the mere non-unionist. Non-unionists are those workers who drudge along like "dumb, driven cattle," taking no part in the general industrial struggles that are being waged around them; but "scabs" are those who take an active part in the fight against the workers of their own trade.

The "scab" in nearly every case is like the horse in a burning stable, who not only refuses to come out, but kicks and bites the brave fireman who goes to his rescue.

The union is battling to benefit every one in the trade, "scabs" included. The increase in wages obtained by the coal miners will be paid to the 17,000 "scabs" who tried to break up the strike, as well as to the 150,000 strikers who went through poverty and hardship for five months to obtain it.

The activity of the "scab" is suicidal. He injures himself as well as his mates. All the millions of the corporation are not as deadly to the union as his obstinate traitorship. If this fact is kept in mind, the hatred of the trade unionist for the "scab" can be seen to have some justification.

What are trade unions organized for, if not to obtain more personal liberty for their members? Can any one seriously imagine that a body of men will stand together and pay dues for

years for the sake of getting less personal liberty than they have?

What does liberty mean? Is a man free who has nothing to say about his wages and his hours of labor? Is a man free who takes the harness and the whip as obediently as a cart horse? Is a man free whose only aim in life is to do what he is told and take what he is offered? If this is freedom, then the trusts must have a peculiar dictionary of their own.

No man is free who has not something to say about the conditions under which he works.

The free man today is he who has some money in the bank, who is out of debt, who works a fair length of time for a fair amount of money, and who can, personally or through his union, remedy any injustice from which he may be suffering.

If the wage workers do not protect their own interests, who will? Will the politician? Will the college professor? Will the supreme court?

As for the trust makers, they are racing to see who shall be the first billionaire, and they have no time to think of the insignificant \$2 a day atoms who wriggle about in their great mines and factories.—Herbert N. Casson.

### FIGHTING FOR TIME.

Directory Company Not Anxious to Push Its Collection Cases.

The Polk-McAvoy Directory Co. does not seem anxious to push its collection cases in this city. Some fifteen or twenty men who subscribed to their directory under promise that the work would be done in Lincoln have refused to pay the bills and the company has brought suit. Adam Schaupp was selected by the company as the one to use as a "horrible example," but somehow or other Schaupp refused to stand for it. He showed unexpected qualities as a fighter, and as a result the company is seemingly afraid to push its case. When notified that it would have to show that it is not a trust it hurriedly took a continuance from May 14 to May 23, and on the latter date took another until June 1. Perhaps it is taking all this time to prove that it is merely a partnership.

In the meanwhile Mr. Schaupp is smiling a series of broad smiles, and seems well satisfied as to what the outcome will be. He is ready for trial, and as he does not anticipate being called upon to pay the costs of the suit he is content to let it drag.

### FULTON STOCK COMPANY.

Resumes After Three Days' Vacation and is Warmly Welcomed.

The Fulton Stock Co. resumed Thursday evening after three days' vacation, caused by prior engagements of the opera house. "Dora Thorn," a dramatization of the famous novel, was the offering for the last half of the week, and will be given a final performance Saturday evening. The company needs no words of commendation from The Wageworker. Its place in the affections of the Lincoln theatre-going public is well fixed.

During the remainder of the summer new and popular plays will be presented, the bill being changed twice every week, with splendid specialties between acts. The company is stronger than ever, and has a better repertory of plays than ever before. There is no better place to spend an evening than at the Oliver, witnessing the presentation of a clean drama by the Fulton Stock Co.

### NEW DIRECTORY COMPANY.

North Printing Company Will Get Out the Next One.

The next city directory will be printed in Lincoln by Lincoln men. This is an assured fact. Jacob North of the North Printing Co., has interested himself and others in the matter, and as a result a local company has been formed for the purpose of keeping Lincoln supplied with city directories. It will be printed at home by union men.

The Polk-McAvoy Co. has contracts with a number of local advertisers, but it is claimed that the company violated its pledges, thus invalidating

these contracts. At any rate the advertisers will act on that supposition and if the Polk-McAvoy people want to go to law about it they will be given a legal tussle that will be worth going miles to see. The publication of a directory by home people means that several thousands of dollars in wages will be paid to Lincoln craftsmen, and the total receipts of the business kept in the legitimate channels of trade in Lincoln.

### ORGANIZE A UNION.

Some of the later additions to the train service of the Lincoln Traction company have started the organization of a union among the employes.

## Street Railway Men Organize

The car men in the employ of the Lincoln Traction company have at last decided to organize. For several weeks past quiet but effective work looking to this end has been going on, with the result that a majority of the conductors and motormen have signed the charter roll and the new local is as good as organized. The charter has been sent for and temporary officers have been elected.

The matter has been kept very quiet owing to the known opposition of some of the men to forming an organization, but with the growth of the charter list the opposition dwindled until it is now confined pretty much to a half-dozen men.

"We have not organized for the primary purpose of making any demands on the company," said one of the new union men to The Wageworker editor Thursday evening. "Our first object is to get closer together and have the benefits and protection that have come from organization. As matters have stood we have had neither sick, accident nor death benefits, and we thought it high time to

remedy these conditions. Later we will undoubtedly ask the company to right what all of us believe to be wrongs. These conditions are not serious, however, and there is no possible chance for trouble."

### LEGITIMATE AND BENEFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Trade unions are authorized by our statutes and are approved and supported by the enlightened sentiment of all right thinking men, and their benefits, both to their members and the general public, are seen and appreciated by every unprejudiced mind.—Judge Bland of Missouri Appellate Court.

## What Stern Saw in In This Big Burg

A couple of weeks ago S. J. Stern, special label promoter of the United Garment Workers of America, spent several days in Lincoln. A report of his visit here was made in The Wageworker. After leaving here Mr. Stern seized his trenchant pen and wrote a few burning thoughts for the official organ of the Garment Workers—the Weekly Bulletin of the Clothing Trades. The letter, which is printed below, indicates that Mr. Stern is a keen observer, for he put his finger directly on one of the chief evils in this and other college towns. Mr. Stern wrote as follows:

"Lincoln, Nebr., May 14.—(Special Correspondence for The Bulletin.) Since my last letter to the Bulletin I have visited Cheyenne, Wyo., and Lincoln, Neb. Here in Lincoln the labor unions are getting along fairly well. I found two overall factories and one shirt factory, all non-union. I did not take up the question of organizing these factories, as I had no time during my short stay here, but I feel that if a man was sent here who could put in a little time, one and perhaps all of these factories could be organized."

"There was one thing here in Lincoln that struck me very forcibly. I found that there was no union of cooks and waiters. After making several inquiries, I learned the reason for this. The city is overrun with universities and colleges; consequently there are a great many students, some of whom are working their way through college. Others are the sons of well-to-do parents. These boys are allowed a certain sum of money by their parents, but it does not appear to be sufficient for their wants, so they apply to the various restaurants and take positions as waiters."

All the restaurants in Lincoln are filled with student waiters from 6 a. m. to 8:30 a. m., from 11:30 a. m. to 1 p. m., and from 5:30 p. m. to 8 p. m. Oh, glorious American youth who is so desirous of learning as to work his way through college! Oh, grand American youth who is not satisfied with the allowance his parents set aside for him; grand American youth who works for his board, his paltry three meals, and then uses the money his parents send him for sporting and immoral purposes!

"This is the youth that our historians rave about; this is the man that our newspapers continually point to as the 'self-made man'. But is he? Here in Lincoln you can get the evidence.

"There are a certain number of working people who follow the restaurant business for a livelihood. Only a few of them can get employment here, and those at such small wages that it is absolutely impossible to support a family on the income. The student works for his three meals, and the restaurant keepers don't feel disposed to pay the few regular help that they employ very much more."

"Result, our noble American youth who is becoming a self-made man is doing so at the expense and suffering of the other American citizens who follow a certain line of business for a living."

"Question: Is it good Americanism to rise above our fellow-citizens at such an expense to our fellow-men? Does the American constitution teach us to tread upon our fellow-men? Is it the best interest of this country that a handful of people should rise at the expense of many? I hope some college professor will see this short outline of what I saw in Lincoln and take the matter up, for I feel positive if such matters were given more consideration a great amount of good would result."

S. J. STERN.

## The Union Buyer's League

It does not cost a cent for dues to belong to this League. The initiation fee consists of a 2-cent stamp, which is to be placed on the envelope which contains the following pledge signed by you and to be sent to the editor of The Wageworker. As soon as 250 have sent in their names a meeting will be called and formal organization perfected. Then will begin a union label campaign that will make a lot of retail merchants sit up and take notice of the demands of union men and women. It is going to be the simplest and best plan ever drawn for the promotion of union interests.

Remember that the plan, which will be outlined in full at the proper time, does not require the payment of a penny of dues. It only asks a little work such as every union man and woman who is in earnest is always ready to perform in the interests of unionism. All preliminary expense of organization will be borne by The Wageworker, and when the plan is in operation the expense will be too small to require any particular thought. How shall even this small expense be paid? Well, The Wageworker will attend to that. That's one of the little secrets that will be made public at the proper time. Just rest easy in the assurance that the 2 cents you spend for a postage stamp is all that you will have to pay to become a charter member. The plan has been outlined to a few enthusiastic unionists, and they are ready to make affidavit that it will be a winner.

Now, if you are a genuine unionist, just fill out the subjoined pledge, cut it out, put it in an envelope and mail it to "The Wageworker," 1216 G St., City. Let's get this label campaign started in time to make it influential before the fall season opens up.

Get busy and make your unionism felt!

## The Union Buyer's League

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 handle the products of fair labor.

Name.....  
St. and No.....

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

### CAPTURING THE CHURCH.

Rev. Charles Steizie Gives Workingmen Some Valuable Pointers.

When some working men denounce the church because of its supposed lack of interest in their affairs, intimating that if the church were to fulfill its duty in this respect, there would be a decided change in their economic condition, these workingmen unconsciously pay the church something of a tribute. The natural inference is that the church is really a great factor in the social and industrial life of the community.

Few thinking men will deny this statement. If the church were to commit herself to a definite proposition, there is no doubt that the thing would come to pass.

There are many reasons why it is not always possible to work out the plans which are submitted by impatient reformers. And, usually, these reformers are outside the church, assuming the position of dictators. They seek to whip into line the men whom they profess to scorn. Sometimes they are men who have gotten out of the church because they felt that the church moved too slowly. They seem to forget that in leaving the institution they forfeited all right to demand of the church those measures for which they stand, for no man outside the church has a right to dictate a policy for its guidance, because the church is purely a voluntary organization. This must be self-evident.

The wiser and fairer thing to do is to remain within the church, even though it does not always follow readily, and seek to mold the thought and the life of those who have influence and power. Why cannot the God-fearing, man-loving Christian workingmen capture the church? This is altogether within the realm of possibilities. Then they will be in a position to say just what the church shall stand for. Then they can make the church whatever they choose.

### PRINTERS' MEMORIAL DAY.

Fellow Unionists Asked to Join with Them in Its Observance.

At St. Mark's Reformed church next Sunday afternoon, Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 and Capital Auxiliary No. 11 will observe Memorial day in honor of the union's dead. A cordial invitation is extended to all trades

unionists and their wives to attend these memorial services. The memorial address will be delivered by the pastor, Rev. P. M. Orr.

The members of the Typographical Union and Auxiliary are requested to meet at the Western Newspaper Union building at 2 o'clock p. m., and be ready to march to the church promptly at 2:15. All visiting trades unionists and their wives are requested to proceed directly to the church. Immediately after the services at the church the printers and the Auxiliary members will take the cars at Sixteenth and O streets and proceed to Wyuka, where special services will be held at the Typographical Union's burial lot.

### CHANGE OF BASE.

It Leaves the Pressmen Without a Delegate to International.

At the last meeting of the union pressmen and assistants of Lincoln, Ike Dean was elected delegate to represent the local at the international in Pittsburgh next month. Last week, however, Mr. Dean, who has been foreman of the Western Newspaper Union's press room for a number of years, was promoted to the position of foreman of the press room of that concern's Omaha plant—a promotion well deserved. W. D. King, for a long time assistant foreman in the local office, takes the position vacated by Mr. Dean.

The removal of Mr. Dean to Omaha leaves the local without a delegate, although Mr. King was elected alternate. It is now believed that the local will make no effort to be represented at the international.

### THE EFFECT.

At the Toronto convention of the International Typographical Union a couple of Cincinnati's delegates voted to expel a labor editor. A few weeks ago the Cincinnati union asked labor editors to pull a lot of its chestnuts out of the fire, "but for God's sake don't say we asked you to do it." The bump that Cincinnati union got from the labor press was terrific. But it was a good bump. The Cincinnati boys got wise and immediately began giving their home labor paper support instead of trying to starve it. As a result Frank Rist's Chronicle has enlarged and now looks prosperous. Least we forget.