

THE WAGWORKER



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NO. 15

THE CARPENTERS.

Interesting Letter From a Lincoln Man Now in Shoshoni.

Shoshoni, Wyo., July 16.—To the Editor of The Wagworker: As I promised to send back word to the several comrades at home, I will address my communication to you for the reason that in The Wagworker it will reach all of them. At any rate it should, for every union man in Lincoln should be a close reader of the only paper in Lincoln that boosts for labor and a square deal. I arrived here Friday night, July 13, at 10:30. My train was late. I got busy and after about thirty minutes of hustling landed myself in a cot beneath a 12x20 tent. Cots cost 50 cents a night, and meals are 50 cents per. This town has about 250 inhabitants who claim it as their permanent home, and about 2,500 transients, most of them "sports." The noble red man, like the black man in the south, does not count as a part of the population. This is really a "white city," being composed principally of tents pitched among the sage bushes, and is in plain sight of Copper Mountains, eighteen miles away, and the view each morning and evening is delightful. It is hot during the day and cold in the evening. At night one needs plenty of blankets. I am feeling fine and dandy.

Now a word to any of my friends who contemplate coming up here to register. If you intend staying a week or longer, club together in groups of three or four and each one bring along about three good blankets, a pillow and such other articles as you may need. Supplies are exceedingly high priced, ordinary cots selling at from \$3 to \$4. Also bring any sized tent that suits you. The group I am camped with has two tents. With these and a hatful of lumber that cost us \$11 we have a place to live. Louie Holberg kindly told us to "squat" on the corner of his lot at Fifth and Main streets. About every man one meets is a carpenter, but two or three good paper-hangers and two or three all-round painters and decorators could easily make \$5 per day for the next three or four weeks. This town is the terminus of the W. N. W. railway, and to Landers, 52 miles, the stage fare is \$7 each way, baggage extra at 2 cents per pound. One must go to Thermopalls by stage, too, the fare being from \$5 to \$7. All prices here are subject to change without notice, so one never knows what to expect. Nearly every one here is looking for "suckers," and there are more of them running around than I had any idea of. Every concession, from saloon and gambling house clear down the list, must have a license. The officials seem to have good control and maintain good order. To date I have not seen a single disturbance, and every evening the respectable women of the city may be seen on Main street without fear of being insulted or disturbed. They are in no danger, as there are no street cars or student employees to run them down or push them off the walks. I expect to stay the limit of my ticket. When you start for this town it would be wise to put up lunch enough for a couple of days. For the benefit of my bibulous friends I will say that beer is 15 cents per glass and from 50 to 75 cents per bottle. Other liquor sells for about the usual price. There are several old-time Lincoln boys here, and they may easily be located at the "Nebraska Saloon," owned by Louis Holberg. If any of you want to get right down close to nature, this is the ideal place, but if you expect all the luxuries of life, don't come here to get them. There are almighty few soft spots in this vicinity, and trees big enough to loaf under are extremely scarce. I haven't seen any grass—just nature.

I registered this morning at an expense of 25 cents. The cost will come just as soon as you make a winning.

E. C. WOODWARD.

Dr. Winnett has a new house in course of construction at Twentieth and C streets which work he has let to Mr. Schaaf, a contractor well known as venomously unfair to organized labor. How does Dr. Winnett expect to obtain either the professional support or the votes of organized labor in his present, or future, campaigns? Councilman Bishop is in the same boat as Dr. Winnett. He is also building a house between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets on M, which work is done by unfair labor. Organized labor, which is rapidly increasing, can be depended upon to remember the disposition of these men. We are advised from headquarters

Free Men or Party Slaves?

Are you a free American citizen, or are you the shackled slave of a party machine?

Are you free from bossism, or are you the pliant tools of a lot of political shysters who use you and your vote to advance their own selfish schemes?

Are you so foolish that you will work and vote against your personal interests in order to maintain that thing men call "party standing," or are you wise enough to tell a lot of political tricksters to go to the devil when they ask you to sacrifice your own personal interests in order to advance their selfish schemes?

The Wagworker asks you these pertinent questions in all sincerity. It urges you as union men to answer them honestly and fairly after due deliberation. If you are a republican union man it urges you to give these questions especial consideration.

Republican union men—republicans faithful to their party and loyal to the cardinal principles of republicanism—asked the party managers to nominate two union men for the legislature in order that the toilers of the county might have representation on the floor and secure the consideration of bills vital to the welfare of the men and women who work for wage.

The answer was a sneer and a total disregard of a large and loyal element in the rank and file of the republican party. Not one union man was nominated as a union republican. On the other hand the interests opposed to organized labor were given representation, and men who earn a precarious livelihood by dark and devious political trickery, managed the caucuses, primaries and the convention, and named the ticket that you must vote for if you would "maintain your party regularity."

Will you submit to such outrageous discrimination against you and your brother toilers, or will you rise above petty partisanship and assert your union manhood? Will you admit by your abject subserviency to the dictates of the machine that you lack the manhood to stand for your rights, or will you step forth in your manhood and assert your rights as a union man, as a free man and as an American sovereign?

It is up to you.

We have asked the dominant party to recognize the union element in the republican party, just as the republican and democratic parties have for years recognized this element and that element—

Irish, German, Scandinavian, Catholic, Protestant, Gentile and Jew. The answer was a slap in the face for union labor.

What shall we do about it

Shall we quietly submit, or shall we look elsewhere for recognition?

Organized labor can not secure at one stroke all that it seeks to secure. It must be patient; it must take advantage of opportunity; it must take one step at a time. It would be a grand thing if we could elect union men to every state office, a union man to congress and a union man to the United States senate. But that can not be done. We must begin at the bottom and work up.

AND NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN!

The dominant party has snubbed us. Now let us turn to the minority party and ask for recognition. If it is given to us, let us as union men stand behind the union men nominated for the legislature and elect them if possible. It will be possible if union men have the political manhood to stand together in their own interests.

The party leaders will tell you that you must not be a "bolter." They will try to convince you that the party's salvation depends upon electing a republican United States senator. They will use every means, right and wrong, to coerce you into voting your ticket straight.

But what difference does it make to you whether John Jones, republican corporation tool, or John Smith, democratic corporation tool, is elected to the United States senate?

Not a bit! 'Don't be deceived!'

But it does make a difference to you as a union man whether you are forced to compete with convict labor. It does make a difference to you when it comes to a repeal of the infamous "fellow servant law." It does make a difference whether your children are forced by industrial conditions to work in mills and factories instead of going to school.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Shall we stand together as union men and endeavor to get what is coming to us? Or shall we split into partisan factions and let the other fellows have all the gravy?

If we have unionism enough we will stand together and tell the machine bosses to go plumb straight to Hades.

ARE YOU GAME?

If we were one half as good union men as we know how to be, we would be twice as good union men as we are.

Get into the political game without any party shackles on your wrists or any bosses' collars on your necks!

that all classes of labor organizations are rapidly increasing their membership in all sections of the country, even beyond the expectations of the most enthusiastic, despite all efforts of the powerful corporations which are continually combating labor organizations. There is a future dawning which looks good to us.

Two candidates were initiated at our last meeting.

Bro. Sutter is reported improving. Bro. Swartz is reported on duty again.

SMOKE 'EM OUT.

If Retail Clerks Will Not Organize, Make 'Em Work.

If the retail clerks of this city have not courage to organize, what's the matter with making them pay for their cowardice? What is organized labor would unite in a concerted demand that the retail stores keep open until 9 p. m. and from 9 a. m. until 12 m. on Sunday? The retail clerks could not justly complain if organized labor did this.

The Central Labor Union might take the matter up and exert a little pressure on the retail clerks and compel them to organize. They ought to be paying their share of expense in maintaining the shorter work day.

MR. THOMPSON PROMOTED.

N. C. Thompson, for several years manager of the Nebraska-Kansas Telephone Co., at Lincoln, has been promoted and will hereafter be connected with the general office at Omaha. Mr. Thompson will leave a big bunch of friends behind when he leaves Lincoln and a lot of them will be union men. He is a splendid business man, a genial gentleman and a fair employer. The Wagworker wishes him success. Mr. Thompson will be succeeded by Mr. Lee Huff of Grand Island.

BERT WILSON.

All Lincoln printers and many other craftsmen will be interested in learning that Bert Wilson, formerly of this city, is now a guest of the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs, and that he is rapidly improving. A private letter from S. A. Hoon conveys the information that Bert is feeling better than he has for many months. Mrs. Wilson is in Denver, but will shortly go to Colorado Springs to reside until her husband is able to return to work.

A GREAT BENEFIT.

Central Labor Union Will Profit by a Special Performance.

Next Thursday evening at the Oliver theatre will be given the second annual benefit for the Central Labor Union, tendered by Mr. Jess Fulton and his splendid company, and Mr. Zehrunge, manager of the Oliver. On that occasion a new society drama will be offered, and will be presented by the Fulton Stock Co. in the best possible manner. In addition to this society drama there will be several unique specialties. Mr. Fulton will sing, the "Mechanics' Quartet" will sing, and another local artist will do a stunt of entertaining. All in all it will be the best thing of the kind ever offered in Lincoln.

Tickets exchangeable for reserved seats may now be had of various delegates to the central body. Union men are requested to call on T. W. Evans at Wohlenberg's cigar store and get a supply of tickets to sell to their friends. The regular prices of the house will prevail and tickets are now exchangeable at the box office. Now get busy and force the genial Mr. Thompson, the genius who presides at the Oliver box office, to hang out the "S. R. O." sign.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Meets Tuesday Night to Arrange Definitely For Labor Day.

The Central Labor Union meets next Tuesday evening, and it is of the utmost importance that every delegate be present. The matter of making definite arrangements for the observance of Labor Day will come up. This matter must be attended to at once, as the great day is drawing near and there is a lot of work to be done. Let every delegate be there. The Locomotive Engineers, the Bricklayers, the Plumbers, the Lathers, the Plasterers and several other organizations have not been represented in the Central body for months. This is not as it should be.

The meetings of the Central body have been short and interesting of late, and they will be more interesting and beneficial if all affiliated unions will send live delegates. Don't be a dead one.

City laborers of Millford, Mass., are working eight hours for \$2.00.

TO COLORADO SPRINGS.

A Lively Bunch of Printers Should Go From Lincoln.

A lively bunch of Lincoln's union printers and their wives should go to Colorado Springs next month to attend the international convention. And of course they should go over the Union Pacific. The lowest possible rates and the best possible accommodations will be offered by this good old line. Let's get up a whole tourist car full and go out in befitting style.

If you are thinking of making this trip—and you needn't be a union printer to get in on the journey—the editor of The Wagworker will be glad to give you any information he can concerning rates, accommodations, etc. Omaha is going to send a goodly bunch, and it would be well, perhaps, for us to figure with the Omahans and make it two or three tourist cars. Say, wouldn't that be a good thing? "On to Colorado Springs!" should be the cry of every union printer who can get a "sub" and raise enough money to pay for the ticket. Board and room? O, thunder! You old "pirates" didn't use to ask that fool question. You trusted to luck, and it was almighty seldom you went hungry or bedless. Brace up and try the old game again if you can't figure out any other way. Let's all go to Colorado Springs.

WILL FIGHT THE UNIONS.

Politicians Preparing to Wage War on Organized Labor.

Washington, D. C., July 16.—(Special Correspondence Milwaukee Sentinel.)—According to expressions by persons who are in position to know the sentiments which exist among the republican leaders, there is a disposition to meet the attack of the labor leaders everywhere in the congressional campaign with energy and fearlessness. This expression comes in connection with a positive denial made here today that Speaker Cannon is to make his coming tour into Maine for the purpose of aiding in the re-election of Representative Littlefield, against whom the labor leaders are making a vigorous contest. It was asserted today that Mr. Cannon's trip to Maine is solely to keep a promise which he made to Senator Frye a year ago to make at least two speeches in Maine in the next congressional campaign.

THEY NEED ORGANIZATION.

Lincoln Garment Workers Need to Get Together for Mutual Benefit.

There are between 150 and 200 garment workers in Lincoln, and none of them is getting what he or she earns. They have no union, they work long hours, and their pay is far below the average union scale in force in St. Joseph and Des Moines. They have no sick or death benefits. They are at the mercy of their employers.

The other day Manager Jones of the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co. took occasion to make a few remarks regarding a check recently given by his outfit to a girl—a fac simile of the check having been printed in The Wagworker. He said that the week the woman was earning the \$2.42 a woman working alongside her earned \$12. That's what Jones says. Perhaps it is true. But The Wagworker dares Mr. Jones to show his books and prove that the average wage of the machine girls in his factory is \$8 per week. If Mr. Jones will show his books, and the books disclose that 10 per cent of the girls running machines in his factory average \$9 a week, The Wagworker will donate \$10 to any local charity Mr. Jones may designate. If he fails to show it he is to donate \$10 to any charity The Wagworker selects. If Mr. Jones' books show that the average wage paid in his factory is equal to 85 per cent of the average scale paid in the McDonald union factory in St. Joseph, Mo., The Wagworker will donate \$10 to any local charity Mr. Jones may select. If not, Mr. Jones is to donate \$10 to a charity to be selected by The Wagworker. Here is another proposition The Wagworker will make to the manager of the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co.'s shop:

The Wagworker believes that the average wages paid in the Jones shop is less than \$7.50 per week. If Mr. Jones will submit the wage roll to a committee of three appointed by The Wagworker, and the roll discloses that it is greater, The Wagworker will donate to any local charity Mr. Jones will select the sum of \$20. If the average is \$7.50 or less per employe per week, Mr. Jones is to donate to a local charity a sum equal to 25 cents per head for all the employes on his pay roll.

Just now Mr. Jones is so busy getting ready for the Epworth assembly that he may not have time to give this matter his attention. As soon as he can take a day off from talking about the future life, and consider the present necessities of men and women in his employ, we trust he will cogitate on The Wagworker's propositions.

A NOVEL PROPAGANDA.

Union Broommaker Advertising the Label with a Big Circus.

F. W. Blosser, the "broom king," was one of the attractions in a show traveling with the big Forepaugh-Sells shows. Blosser made miniature brooms and sold them to the spectators, and every broom bore the union label. As he worked he told the story of unionism and rapped the convict labor system good and plenty. He showed that convict made brooms were not only inferior in quality, but that they had starved out thousands of free broom makers and scattered destitution in many communities.

The exhibit made by Blosser was a novel one, and his campaign for the label is very effective, because he reaches hundreds of people every day with his object lessons.

FAIR.

The Typographical Journal says: "In response to inquiries, the Journal desires to announce that the patterns printed by the McCall company of New York are the product of union labor, though they do not bear the label. This company has issued a circular denying the charge that it is a part of the pattern trust. An effort is being made to have the label placed on the McCall patterns."

STILL WAITING.

The Stage Hands Union is still waiting for their charter, and expect to receive it in a short time. Their international is about to meet and the head officers are almighty busy getting ready for it. When the charter comes the boys will pull off a rousing initiatory meeting.

Central Labor Union Benefit at the Oliver, Thursday evening, July 26, tendered by the Fulton Stock Co. and Manager Zehrunge.