

THE WAGEWORKER



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Fighting a Common Foe --Some Sound Advice

Christianity is largely responsible for the social unrest which characterizes the present generation. For centuries it has been presenting to men the high ideals which are resulting in nobler aspirations. The people have responded to the appeal made in the name of its founder, and we dare not now repudiate the resultant demands which have become so insistent.

Christianity has been teaching the value of the individual. The practical application of that teaching is found incarnated in the labor union's insistence upon the right of every man, woman and child to live the life which God intended should be lived by them.

Because of the church's teaching it must stand by the workingman in his fight for the child. It must fearlessly support him in his endeavor to relieve the almost unendurable condition of the woman who toils.

Because of its repeated messages in respect to cleanliness it must champion the workers in their struggles to secure for themselves better sanitary conditions in the home and in the shop. It must fire volley after volley into the accursed sweat-shop, and into everybody and everything that supports it, until the damnable thing is absolutely wiped out of existence.

Because of its well known teaching it should give no peace until the workers have the fullest opportunity for developing the highest type of manhood and of citizenship. If only one life were involved, all this would be demanded. But there are millions in whose behalf the fight must be made.

So let us get together—the church and labor—in the name of our common Leader, to put to rout every foe of the higher life, whether that foe be found in ourselves, whether he be in our own ranks, or whether he be an outsider who is dominated by the greed for gold.

Just how this shall be done must depend upon local conditions. I have no panacea. I am an opportunist. I believe in getting all that I can as soon as I can. Therefore, without elaborating a "cock-sure" scheme, I would mention some everyday principles which are fundamental. Necessarily, our plan must in every case begin with a campaign of education. We cannot hope to have others become enthusiastic in our affairs until there has been an intelligent presentation of the facts. Therefore, stop finding fault, until you have produced the facts. Then keep at it until somebody begins to move. Men are not waiting for your message. Most of them would rather not be disturbed. But a reasonable attitude is sure to win out.

Be definite in your demands. If you yourself do not know what you are after, you must not expect others to know it.

Be consistent. If you believe in relieving sweat-shop conditions and if you would abolish Sunday labor, beware of adding to the burdens of those who are already overburdened.

Be patient. There is no short cut to the millennium. Rome was not built in a day. You will not correct all of the evils of your generation, but your reasonable, definite, consistent campaign will surely bring some things to pass.—Rev. Charles Stelzle.

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CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Gets Away With a Lot of Business in Short Order.

The Central Labor Union met last Tuesday night and managed to get away with a lot of business in a comparatively short time. Delegate Kelsey was instructed to go to Omaha and see why the charter of the Stage Hands was being delayed so long. Delegate Walker of the Home Industry committee was instructed to write the Regent people at Omaha and inquire if it is true, as reported, that the factory is to be removed to Lincoln. If it is true an effort will be made to secure an agreement to make the factory union.

Very much to the pleasure of the body, a delegate from the Machinists' Union came in with his credentials and was obligated.

The Barbers have not been represented for several meetings, and an inquiry will be sent out. Secretary DeLong failed to appear on the scene and the roll call was dispensed with. When he shows up he will be instructed to get busy with notices of fines against unions that have not been represented of late. The state of trade was reported good in all lines represented. The Machinist delegate said the employers were crying for men, and the Cigarmakers' delegate said there were several jobs open in the city for union men.

The following resolution was introduced and unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The time has come when organized labor should exercise its unionism at the polls as well as in the union halls, and

"Whereas, It is only by concerted action that the army of toilers can secure recognition from the lawmaking bodies, and

"Whereas, The workmen of Nebraska have without success asked the legislature time and again for relief and for a just employers' liability law; from the competition of convict labor, from the infamous fellow-servant law therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we use our best endeavor to elect men to the legislature who will strive to secure for labor a just recognition.

"Resolved, That we urge all workmen, and especially union workmen, to vote for H. W. Smith and George F. Quick, union men who have been nominated for the legislature.

"Resolved, That while disclaiming any intent to engage in partisan politics, the Central Labor Union of Lincoln endorses the candidacy of these two union men and urges the union men of the county to give them a united and enthusiastic support."

Rev. Mr. Batten, a fraternal delegate from the Ministers' Union, was present and made an interesting and instructive talk, urging the workmen to study more closely the topics of the day.

BOOMING HIS UNION.

"Jim" White, a union stereotyper of Omaha, and a man upon whose unionism no flies ever roost, was in Lincoln a couple of days last week and spent a goodly portion of his time among the stereotypers, ginging them up. He urged the boys to select a good correspondent for The Wage-worker, and told them that such a course would help them more than anything else. The Wageworker would like to have every union in Lincoln act on White's advice.

THE CARPENTERS.

Breezy Notes Garnered Among Knights of the Saw and Plane.

Tuesday evening, September 18th, is a special called meeting for the purpose of amending the by-laws. All members are requested to attend said meeting.

The Carpenters' Union of Perth Amboy, N. J., has consented to arbitrate its differences with the bosses.

Over 1,000 carpenters of Toronto, Canada, went on strike Thursday for 35 cents an hour and recognition of the union.

Members of the Carpenters' and Plasterers' unions of Raleigh, N. C., went on strike Monday morning, about one hundred strong, demanding ten hours' pay for nine hours' work. The contractors and builders have signed.

Pittsburg carpenters, now on strike, have increased their benefits from \$6 to \$12 a week. The members of the district at work are paying a one dollar assessment.

The Carpenters' Union of Butte, Mont., is erecting a three-story temple at a cost of \$25,000.

Labor day was a success, notwithstanding that less than one-half of the union carpenters were in line. Boys, where's the trouble?

The Lincoln Clothing company and the Sutter-Henry company are making an honest effort to keep in stock a full line of goods bearing the union label. Boys, give them a trial. Bear in mind the label.

Does it appear wise to the commercial interests of Lincoln to aid unfair contractors in importing non-union carpenters to take the place of bona fide residents of Lincoln? The resident carpenter spends all his wages at home and there keeps it in the legitimate trade, while the non-resident (assuming he has a family) spends one-fourth to one-third of his earnings here and the rest goes home to his family, never to return. Where is the justice in thus fighting the honest toil which is responsible for the upbuilding and maintenance of Lincoln, one of the fairest spots on earth?

New members are initiated at every meeting of Local No. 1055.

We still have contractors and business houses on the unfair list.

Another election is approaching. Boys, remember your friends, the friends of organized labor; forget your enemies. Vote accordingly.

Remember the label when you buy goods.

Remember your duty to the Deity and a brother in distress.

Remember the Civic Federation on election day.

Brothers Fleicheur and Mauzee are reported injured.

Bro. Sutter is reported improving.

Bro. Callahan is seen on the streets of Lincoln. We are glad to have him with us again.

Local No. 1055 is steadily increasing its membership.

AN EASY CHOICE.

Union men in the Second congressional district—the Omaha district—are in luck. Congressman Kennedy has voted for all the bills endorsed by union labor and has shown his friendship for unionism. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, his democratic opponent, is a friend of organized labor and during the last sixteen years has paid out a million dollars to union labor. Union men are in luck when they have a chance to choose between such friends.

Bryan Tells His Views On Labor Questions

I have referred to the investigation of international controversies under a system which does not bind the parties to accept the findings of the court of inquiry. This plan can be used in disputes between labor and capital; in fact, it was proposed as a means of settling such disputes before it was applied to international controversies. It is as important that we shall have peace at home as that we shall live peacefully with neighboring nations, and peace is only possible when it rests upon justice. In advocating arbitration of difference between large corporation employers and their employees I believe we are defending the highest interests of the three parties to the disputes, viz: the employers, the employees and the public. The employee cannot be turned over to the employer to be dealt with as the employer may please.

"The question sometimes asked: 'Can I not conduct my business to suit myself?' is a plausible one, but when a man in conducting his business attempts to arbitrarily fix the conditions under which hundreds of employees are to live and to determine the future of thousands of human beings I answer without hesitation that he has no right to conduct his own business in such a way as to deprive his employees of their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness I need only refer to the laws regulating the safety of mines, the factory laws fixing the age at which children can be employed, the usury laws establishing the rate of interest. The effort of the employer to settle differences without arbitration has done much to embitter him against those who work for him, to estrange him from them—a condition deplorable from every standpoint.

"No reference to the labor question

is complete that does not include some mention of what is known as government by injunction. As the main purpose of the writ is to evade trial by jury, is it really an attack on the jury system. This ought to arouse an unanimous protest. So long as the thief is guaranteed a trial by jury, a jury ought not to be denied to wage earners, however, as the writ is usually invoked in case of a strike the importance of the subject would be very much reduced by the adoption of a system of arbitration, because arbitration would very much reduce, even if it did not entirely remove the probability of a strike.

"Just another word in regard to the laboring man. The struggle to secure an eight-hour day is an international struggle and it is sure to be settled in favor of the working man. The benefits of the labor saving machine have not been distributed with equity. The producer has enormously multiplied his capacity, but so far the owner of the machine has received too much of the increase and the laborer too little. Those who oppose the eight-hour day do it, I am convinced, more because of ignorance of conditions than because of lack of sympathy with those who toil. The removal of work from the house to the factory has separated the husband from his wife and the father from his children, while the growth of our cities has put an increasing distance between the home and the workshop.

"Then, too, more is demanded of the laboring man now than formerly; he is a citizen as well as a laborer and must have time for the study of public institutions, if he is to be an intelligent sovereign. To drive him from his bed to his task and from his task back to his bed is to deprive the family of his company, society of his service and politics of his influence."

STREET RAILWAY MEN.

"Quitters," "Quillers" and "Pikers" Afflict the Whole Body.

The recently organized union of Street Railway Employees in Lincoln seems to be in a bad way. It has even been reported that a few men who joined have actually gone to the management, turned in their buttons and begged pardon for having joined the union. If this is true the men who did it have a yellow streak as wide as a barn door.

From the very first the men who endeavored to organize this union had a hard time of it. "Quillers" who seek to hold their jobs by carrying tales to the management, opposed it. Others who didn't have nerve enough to call their souls their own opposed it through fear that it would cost them their jobs. Others couldn't see the use of paying out 40 or 50 cents a month in dues. Still others didn't have sense enough to realize that in their unorganized state they were helpless. The street railway employees of Lincoln are the worst paid men in the industry in the entire country. Not another city the size of Lincoln has such a low minimum scale for its motormen and conductors. In Omaha, just fifty miles away, the first year men get better wages than the five year men in Lincoln. It takes a motorman or conductor in Lincoln twelve hours to earn what a union

printer earns in five and a union carpenter in six. Yet a lot of "quillers" and "quitters" can not see the necessity of organization.

Several of the street railway men deserve high praise for their efforts to perfect an organization. They are the stuff from which good union men are made. The trouble is that they had poor material to work with. Men who are satisfied to work eighty-four hours a week at a dangerous and hard occupation for the miserable wage of \$14 are not good material out of which to make union men. Men of this stamp seem to be in a majority among the motormen and conductors of Lincoln, hence the failure to build up and maintain a strong union.

It is to be hoped that the men who have struggled to organize the men here will not give up. Let them meet and hold their charter as long as possible. The "quillers" and "pikers" may die off after a while and make way for men who have real backbone instead of a lump of elongated jelly.

THE TEAMSTERS.

Work Good and the Men Still Holding to Their Charter.

The union teamsters of Lincoln report work unusually good, and the union is still doing business at the old stand. The season is at hand when unionists in other lines can be of material assistance to the union teamsters. Coal deliveries will soon be on. If you are a good union man you will not allow a coal firm to send your coal out with a non-union driver. Neither will you purchase coal of a firm that does not employ union drivers. Make the driver show a paid up card or send him back with the coal.

FREIGHT HANDLERS.

Lincoln used to have a Freight Handlers' Union. What has become of it? It seems to have died a natural death. Freight handlers' work is about the hardest kind of work known, and in Lincoln they work ten hours a day for less than 20 cents an hour. The ex-members of the union, if there are any left, ought to begin doing a little missionary work.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will meet Friday at 2:30 p. m., Sept. 21, at the home of Mrs. G. M. Wathan, 1744 Holmes street.

Get Into The Union Game With Both Feet!

Come on, Mr. Union Man, and help boost the cause of the workingman. It's up to you.

If you don't help yourself you needn't expect a lot of pinheaded political bosses to do it for you.

If you want laws in your interests you'll have to take steps to get them.

The longer you stick to party and let the bosses run things, the longer it will be before you get any recognition worth mentioning.

You've got a chance to help yourself this fall. You will have a chance to vote for two as good union men as ever wore union made shoes, union made clothing, union made hats and shirts, smoked union made cigars and gave practical evidence of their unionism.

HARRY W. SMITH and GEORGE F. QUICK.

Smith is a union printer and Quick is a union carpenter. They are candidates for the legislature. If elected they will use every endeavor to abrogate the convict labor contract. They will strive to secure an employer's liability law. They will strive to secure the repeal of a "fellow servant law" that puts a premium on killing and maiming in the railroad service. They will work for a state eight-hour law. They will do everything possible to force the purchase of union made goods for the state institutions.

In short, if elected they will work for our interests because our interests and their interests are identical.

Now get into the game—not as partisans, but as union men.

As for partisan politics—forget it! Their candidacy has been endorsed by the Central Labor Union.

The Typographical Union—one of the most conservative labor organizations in the country—has endorsed their candidacy.

What about your union?

Invite Smith and Quick to appear before your unions—not as the candidates of a political party, but as union men seeking to advance the interests of union men and women. Let them tell where they stand. Then endorse them.

But don't stop with an endorsement. Get out and work for them—work as if you meant it. Work as if you were really interested in unionism—more interested in unionism than you are in advancing the interests of a political party that never tore its shirt trying to help you.

Which does you the most good,

your union or your political party? Think it over.

When you do you will hustle out and work to elect Smith and Quick.

A fusion legislature in Nebraska once passed an eight-hour law, but they shot it full of holes trying to make exceptions in favor of certain interests. Then a republican judge pronounced it unconstitutional.

That's what organized labor always gets when it trusts to party politics. Will we ever get wise?

Come on, boys! Let's elect Smith and Quick this trip, and next time all political parties will fall over themselves to ask us what we want.

It's the chance of a lifetime. Ask Smith and Quick to appear before your union—not as partisans, but as union men—and listen carefully to what they have to say.