

THE WAGEWORKER



VOL. 3 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER 28, 1906 NO. 25

The Golden Opportunity For Lancaster Union Men

On Tuesday, November 6, the people who are either not interested in labor organization, or are opposed to it, will have an opportunity to decide whether the union men of Lancaster county are capable of getting together in support of men of their own kind. They will have an opportunity to decide whether partisanship has a stronger hold on men than their unionism has.

Larry W. Smith and George F. Quick, two staunch union men, are candidates for the legislature. If organized labor stands by them to a man they will be elected. If the votes of union men are divided on party lines they will be defeated. The election of mere partisans will not benefit the laboring men of this county and state one iota. The election of two staunch union men will be a lasting benefit.

This newspaper is not in politics. It is a union labor newspaper. It has neither time nor space to waste in urging the election of any democrat or any republican to office as mere partisans. With partisan politics this newspaper has nothing whatever to do. All politicians look alike to this newspaper—and none of them looks good.

Smith and Quick are not running as partisans. They are running as union men. They deserve the votes of all union men. If elected their chief purpose will be to advance the interests of those who toil by securing the enactment of certain laws and the repeal of certain other laws. With tariff, the currency, with imperialism, with the annexation of Cuba, with our foreign policy—with such things they will have absolutely nothing to do. With the work of securing an adequate employers' liability law, with abrogating the present iniquitous prison contract system, and with the enactment of a law that will protect employes against the wicked system of making a fellow servant responsible for damages—with these things which are of vital interest to all wage earners they will chiefly concern themselves.

There is nothing partisan about their candidacy save their nomination. There can be nothing of partisan politics in any union endorsing their candidacy. They should not be—and will not be—endorsed as partisans. They should be endorsed in your union as union men. The cause they represent is your cause.

Smith and Quick—your fellow unionists—should be invited to appear before your union and asked to state just where they stand. They should be asked to appear before you because they are union men, engaged in a cause which deserves your hearty sympathy and support. Their candidacy affords the union men of Lancaster county an opportunity to make their influence felt—felt so much that in future something more definite than campaign promises will be handed out to union men.

For heaven's sake, Mr. Union Man, don't let the little 2x4 pinheaded partisan whippersnapper make successful appeal to your partisanship. Take your unionism to the polls with you next election day. Use a little union enthusiasm during the campaign in advocacy of the election of two square-topped, upright union men to the legislature.

Every union in Lincoln should adopt resolutions endorsing the candidacy of Smith and Quick. If any man tries to endorse them as partisans, throw him over the transom. If any man tries to prevent their endorsement as union men, labor with him, prayerfully and earnestly. He needs it.

A vote for Smith and Quick is a vote in the interests of organized labor.

A vote for Smith and Quick is a vote against forcing you into competition with convict labor.

A vote for Smith and Quick is a vote to safeguard your life and the welfare of your wife and little ones.

Think it over. Ask Smith and Quick to address your union. Ask your union to endorse their candidacy because they are union men who are making the race an union men.

Get into the game right this fall, and hereafter all political parties will be hailing over themselves to give organized labor what it asks for in Lancaster county.

If you are a true blue union man

you want to see that day dawn as quickly as possible. If you vote right you can hasten it along.

Keep politics out of your unions, but take your unionism into politics. Ballots are better than strikes, better than promises from politicians, better than petition. If you want to make the machine bosses of all political parties sit up and take notice of organized labor, vote together a few times.

Vote for Smith and Quick and show your unionism.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Short Meeting With Little Business of Importance Transacted.

The meeting of the Central Labor Union last Tuesday night was short and to the point. Not much business of importance came before the meeting, and the routine business was transacted without much delay. The committee appointed to present to Messrs. Zehring and Fulton a little token of the central body's friendship and appreciation made its report and said that its work had been accomplished. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

Delegate Kelsey reported that he visited Omaha in the interest of the local Alliance of Theatrical Stage Hands and that he expected results within a few days. Delegate Walker of the home industry committee reported the results of his investigations into the Regent Shoe company matter. The report was satisfactory and was filed.

The secretary was instructed to write to President Gompers and urge the appointment of an organizer for this district, and also invite him to address the people of Lancaster county some time between now and the day of election. The matter of holding a "labor fair" was suggested and the matter will be discussed during the next couple of weeks and some definite action taken at the next meeting. The delegates present reported work good. Less than one-fourth of the unions in Lincoln were represented at the meeting.

THE CARPENTERS.

Some Interesting News From Lincoln's Largest Trade Union.

Kohn Bros., of Chicago, manufacturers of union made clothes, are sending out letters and cards of introduction to Mayer Bros. by way of introducing their goods and soliciting trade. Labeled goods are what organized labor wants, and we are indebted to Kohn Bros. for their fairness to union labor. They deserve our patronage.

Two members were admitted to local No. 1055 by card, and applications for membership are pending. Local No. 1055 keeps growing.

The Sutter-Henry company is making extensive and substantial improvements in and about their place of business. They employ union labor.

Brother Jenkins pounded his thumb the other day. He said something.

Representative Joe Burns does not take state contracts. His son does that part.

It is reported that the Builders' Exchange has four members in good standing. Isn't that killing?

The Carpenters' Union has nearly three hundred members in good standing and is steadily growing. Local No. 1055 has never been as well equipped in its history as it is today. Those who contemplate building will do well to call at Union Headquarters, 130 South Eleventh street, Bell phone 1-1154; Auto. phone 3824.

SOME FIGURES.

How You Can Help Make Lincoln a Bigger and Better City.

There are fully 8,000 men in Lincoln who smoke. Some smoke a pipe most of the time, but a vast majority of them are cigar smokers. Say there are 7,000 confirmed cigar smokers, and that they average two cigars each daily. That is a very low estimate. Put even two a day would mean 14,000 cigars. Suppose all of those cigars were made in Lincoln. It would require not less than sixty cigarmakers to supply the demand. Add to these the cigars smoked by transients and

the cigars made in Lincoln and sold by wholesale to country dealers. The total would mean the employment of about 125 cigarmakers in Lincoln. The Commercial Club would send its nether garments to locate a factory here that would employ 125 men. Yet the Commercial Club, with all of its pretense of interest in "patronizing home industry" and "building up Lincoln's business," does not handle Lincoln made cigars in its club rooms.

Buy Lincoln made cigars and help boom Lincoln industry. When you buy Lincoln made cigars you are buying union made cigars, and that's what equals our interest in booming Lincoln.

UNION MINERS DEFEATED.

Joseph Leiter Has No Trouble Finding Easy Judge.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 22.—Joseph Leiter, owner of coal mines at Zeigler, is victor over the miners' union in the contest which has been waged for nearly two years in the United States court for the southern district of Illinois over the question of whether the miners' union and its officers should be perpetually enjoined from interfering with the operation of the mines at Zeigler. Walter McClellan Allen, of this city, master in chancery, to whom was referred the question, with orders to take testimony in the case and report to the court his findings, has filed that report with James L. Jones, clerk of the circuit court, and he finds that William Morris, president of the sub-district of the miners' union, and a number of other officers and members of the locals in that section of the state were guilty of violating the injunction of Judge Humphrey restraining them from interfering with the operation of the mines at Zeigler, and that the injunction against them should be made perpetual, while in the case of a number of other defendants he finds them not guilty. The taking of testimony before Master in Chancery Allen occupied considerable time and a large number of witnesses were examined on both sides. Joseph Leiter was here in person to testify. The case has been bitterly fought by the miners' union and they have had able counsel here to represent them.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

A Chance to Get Into the Employ of Uncle Sam.

The United States Civil Service Commission will hold an examination at the postoffice in Lincoln on November 21, 1906, for postoffice clerks and letter carriers in the Lincoln postoffice.

Any citizen of the United States, male or female, between the ages of 18 and 45 years can take this examination. Male applicants must be at least 5 feet 4 inches in height (in bare feet) and weigh not less than 125 pounds, and free from physical defects.

From the eligibles resulting from this examination it is expected to fill future vacancies in this service.

For application blanks, full instructions to applicants, and any further information apply to Mr. Charles W. Pace, local secretary, (at postage due window) Lincoln postoffice. No application will be accepted unless properly executed and filed with J. M. Shoemaker, Secretary Eighth Civil Service District, St. Paul, Minn., prior to the hour of closing business on October 15, 1906. EDWARD R. SIZER, Postmaster.

"SCAB" STOVES.

Only a few more weeks and many of our readers will be huddling around the warmth-giving heating stove. You have heard of the "Round Oak" variety—they can be found in almost every town and city in the States. They are made in Dowagiac, Mich., by poorly paid, ill-treated molders, whose first hint at remedying their pitiable conditions results in discharge. They recently formed a union and are now locked out. No trouble to get a union made stove, so taboo the "Round Oak" sweat-shop product.—Potter's Herald.

GOSPEL TRUTH.

And Every Word Should Sink Deep Into Your Soul.

When union men buy goods and do not ask for the label, they really denounce their principle. When they call for the union label they help unionism, wages and conditions, too. You should consider yourself an employer, as you indirectly employ the men who make the goods you purchase. If you insist

on the label you are employing union men. If you take goods without the label you are employing "scab" labor. Unless you show that you have an interest in unionism by demanding the label the business men will not go to the trouble of keeping label goods and the union idea will fall into disrepute with the public. You should always call for the label, whether it is possible to get it or not, as it will at least advertise unionism.—Streator Trades and Labor Gazette.

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.

Those Who Enjoy It Owe a Duty to Those Who Do Not.

The eight-hour day seems to be quite thoroughly established among those who labor with their hands. The president's authoritative instructions to subordinates that the eight-hour law must be observed on all government work, whether direct or by contract, gives an official endorsement to the short work day, and will lend weight to the claims of those outside the pale of the government, who are striving for eight hours. It has been a long time since the principle was enunciated that the proper division of time was eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation and eight hours for rest. Just how far the principle can be made to apply to every walk in life, it is difficult to determine, though time will probably work out the solution of the problem, as it has been working it out in the past. In the meantime, a great many people, who recognize the opportunities confronting them, will continue to work more than eight hours, some with their hands and many with their brains. And some of the men who have been the most successful and are the best fitted mentally and physically for the duties of life have worked ten, sixteen and occasionally twenty-four hours out of the twenty-four. Work kills mighty few men. Dissipation kills multitudes.

But the eight-hour day is all right provided of course, those who have secured the short work day know how to use aright the other hours that are to be devoted to rest and recreation. If a laboring man spends his recreation time in dissipation, it would be much better for himself, his family and the state if he were compelled to work sixteen hours a day. The man who works eight hours has a wonderful opportunity to improve his mental, moral and physical condition. If he will spend his time acquiring knowledge, taking healthful exercise and enjoying clean sport, instead of wasting his time hanging around booze joints and denouncing those whose thrift and common sense has enabled them to get on in the world, he will prove the wisdom of granting the eight-hour day to those who toil. The workman has become the recipient of a golden opportunity. It is up to him to improve that opportunity. He cannot improve it by guzzling booze and damning the government and his more thrifty fellows between guzzles.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

THE WRONG IDEA.

Buy Union Made Goods Because It Is Your Union Duty.

The other day the editor was in a cigar store when another union man came in to get a cigar.

"What do you want?" queried the clerk.

The union man named a union made cigar and took it with the remark:

"Couldn't call for anything but a union cigar with the editor of The Wageworker standing by me. He'd hawl me out."

That isn't the idea at all. Union men ought to buy union made goods because it is their duty to do so, not because they are afraid of being "bawled out" if they do not. Every time you buy non-union goods you are "scabbing" on your fellow unionists. That's the whole thing in a nutshell.

MAY SKATE THIS WINTER.

The park commission promises the boys and girls a skating place at the new city park this winter. The effort last winter was a failure for two reasons. There was not enough cold weather and the man who had a lease on the property refused to let the commission make the necessary arrangements. But there will be a fine skating pond fixed up near the Moeckett station this winter.

The British admiralty is instituting a universal forty-eight-hour week for the employes in the government dock yards.

Getting Results With Trades Union Literature

"Give a little at a time; Give it warm; give it often."

—Scotch Shepherd's Saying.

Anybody can do it. Some can get better results than others, but all can get some results.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has done excellent things in this respect, its recent "Open Letter to Ministers of the Gospel," which was sent to thousands of ministers of all denominations throughout the United States, having been most effective.

There are several important advantages in using literature. The leaflet that you give a man always sticks to the point. We don't always do that. Therefore, it never gets side-tracked by a specious argument. It never loses its temper. It never gets "rattled," frequently it will tell the story far better than you can put it.

You should be familiar with the arguments or the appeals which you are making in the printed page; first, because you should know just which leaflet is needed for a particular case; second, because you should know just what to use next in order to follow up your previous effort.

It is helpful, sometimes, to underscore certain words or sentences. This for two reasons. It will call attention to the most important parts of the leaflet, and it catches the eye of the casual reader who may not care to take time to read the entire leaflet. These outstanding "catch-words" may hold his attention, and possibly interest him to the extent that he may want to study the entire pamphlet.

You should have a system in your plan, in order to get the best results. Mail regularly to those who you think should read them, such leaflets as you think will be most effective. Plan to get a series of leaflets which have a cumulative value. A one-cent stamp will carry (unsealed) two ounces of such matter. If this is kept up for a month, sending the leaflets weekly, so that they will be received each Saturday morning for instance, it is bound to make an impression. There is value in sending them at stated periods rather than at irregular times. It is the steady, rhythmic, repeated blow in the same place that counts. If this method is continued, you will hear of something definite being accomplished. Somebody should become directly responsible for such a campaign.

If it is not possible to enter into so thorough a system, the leaflet may be placed in your ordinary letters, written to those who need such help as they may give.

Make arrangements with the newspaper carrier to have the leaflets placed in the papers which he delivers at the homes of workmen, or which he sells on the streets. No one will mind receiving this extra reading matter, and it may do good. It is true that some of the leaflets may be wasted by this method, but so are a good many sermons wasted because they are not heard. Enlist in your cause a workman in a particular shop who will regularly distribute the printed matter. Literature distributed among men in the shop is passed from man to man and is usually very thoroughly discussed at the noon hour, as their lunches are being eaten.

Leaflets may be used at the close of a public address on some phase of trades unionism, or they may be used as advertising matter before the address is given. Housekeepers may give them to the men who call at their back doors to deliver groceries, meat, milk, ice, etc.

Sometimes leaflets which counteract error may be handed to the audience as it leaves a hall in which error has been preached. Occasionally good, crisp, up-to-date leaflets will be printed by your local paper.

There is no reason why every trades union in the land should not push good literature. In some instances men are spending fortunes for the sole purpose of sending broadcast the printed matter which tells of something in which they are interested. Every political party uses it. Reformers employ it. The socialists regard it as their most valuable propaganda method. General advertisers send out tons of it. They do it because they have found that it pays. If it pays them, it will pay the labor union. It is one of the cheapest ways of attract-

International associations could invest money in no better way than by supplying locals with such material as will meet the particular needs of their crafts.

Written in a fair, rational spirit, free from bitterness and from slander of every description—such material will bring in a rich harvest of increased membership and a more intelligent conception on the part of the public with regard to the aims and aspirations of organized labor.

STREET RAILWAY MEN.

Still Holding Back and Taking What the Company Offers.

"You certainly did hand some of the street car men a package a week or two ago," said a conductor who had helped to organize the local union and who had done his level best to keep it going. "And those it hit deserved all they got, too."

Another member of the union said that a conductor who had refused to join the union remarked that he was "satisfied with his wages." As he was drawing the magnificent wage of 15 cents an hour and working twelve hours a day, it will be seen that he is easily satisfied.

The street car men of Omaha are organized. The minimum wage for first year men in Omaha is higher than the maximum wage for fourth year men in Lincoln. The Seattle men are organized. The first year men there receive 2 cents an hour more than the fourth year men in Lincoln.

Oh, no; the street railway men of Lincoln are not needing an organization!

A NEWSPAPER'S ANNIVERSARY.

The Evening News celebrated its semi-centennial on September 26, and issued a fac simile of the first edition. The anniversary number was full of interesting reminiscences. The editor of this humble little newspaper was once upon a time a member of the News staff, but that was so many years ago that the exact number must be guessed at. The News has grown some since then, in size, in circulation and in influence. Here's hoping that we'll be here to see it celebrate its centennial.

PURE FOOD SHOW.

The "pure food" show at the auditorium is drawing good crowds. Its chief interest to union men and women, however, is that it may serve to give them a pointer or two on how to successfully conduct a "labor fair." If there are any union made goods on exhibition at the "pure food" show we failed to find them. What's the matter with a "labor fair" that will exhibit the product of union workmen?

RETURNING HOME.

A. W. Smith, auditor in the disbursing office of the department of agriculture, Washington, visited Wednesday and Thursday with his cousin, H. W. Smith, 1725 P street. Mr. Smith has been in the government's service for several years, rising rapidly from a clerkship to his present position. He is on his way back to Washington from a visit to California and Utah.

TYPGRAPHICAL UNION.

Lincoln Typographical Union, No. 209, meets next Sunday and something of importance is coming up. The matter of managing the internal affairs of the union will be discussed and a possible change made. A little jollification over the reduction of the assessment is also likely. At any rate every member ought to be there.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11, to Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209, will meet Friday at 2:30 p. m., October 5, at the home of Mrs. C. E. Barngrover, 1330 North Twenty-fourth street.

Miss Hazel Smith returned Tuesday from a two weeks' visit in Omaha.

A GOOD ADVERTISEMENT.

The Armstrong Clothing company has an advertisement in this issue which can not be overlooked. It will profit you to read this advertisement. This company has earned the reputation of advertising only what it has and standing by all that it promises.