

THE WAGEWORKER



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GREETING TO UNIONS.

President Smith of Central Labor Union Issues Address.

To all unions affiliated with the Central Labor Union:

Do you realize that as union men you have a work before you into which you should put all the energy you can spare? Do you know that a proper effort on your part would place organized labor in a position to greatly benefit the cause of union labor, and add very materially to the welfare and comfort of your own people and to mankind generally? Let me tell you now that as a body of men united for your own good, you are also an organization that is in duty bound to work with other organizations of the country to better conditions in the industrial world. You realize, of course, that labor will not be able to secure from its enemies what labor wants, therefore you must act with others to get what you desire. In unity there is strength, and in united and harmonious action lies victory. Therefore I want to appeal to every union affiliated with the Central Labor Union to not only elect delegates to the central body, but get men who will attend the central meetings, and see that they do so. We had a much better attendance at last Tuesday's meeting than we have had for some time, but not nearly the number we should have. Important questions come up before the central body that you are directly and vitally interested in, and you owe it to yourselves to be represented. Let me appeal to your unionism and your best self to immediately take steps to be represented in the central body. I promise you that if you will get alive and boost the attendance that the central body will be initiating measures and moves that will place organized labor in such a position in the city that it will be stronger and better, and more appreciated.

Let's work, and do something for ourselves.

Yours fraternally,
HARRY W. SMITH,
President C. L. U.

THE OPEN SHOP.

Some Delightful Things it Secures for Master and Man.

The "open shop" means porter-house steak for the employes and liver for the workman.

The "open shop" means individual bargaining, so much desired by the opponents of organized labor.

The "open shop" stands for the unfettered employment of women and children.

The "open shop" means that the employer shall be the sole judge as to what your labor is worth.

The "open shop" gives the employer the privilege of being a member of an organization intended to prevent the payment of better wages, but denies the laborer the right to be a member of a labor organization.

The "open shop" bars the possibility of a solid front on the part of the workers.

The "open shop" declares that some can enjoy better conditions while others can enjoy the benefits without cost.

The "open shop" denies men the right to sell their labor under any conditions they elect.

The "open shop" declares there is no "living line"—no minimum—for the price of labor.

The "open shop" declares it is legal for an individual to do an act that it is illegal for a collection of individuals to attempt.

The "open shop" would place the solution of factory sanitation and unguarded machinery in the hands of the employer.

The "open shop" stands for everything that will increase profits for the employer and decrease the income of the employe.

The "open shop" means that the employer will be the master and you will be the slave.—Minneapolis Union.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will meet Friday, 2:30 p. m., Oct. 19 at the home of Mrs. W. S. Bustard, 2556 H street.

There will be an election held at the home of Mrs. C. H. Turner, 1202 P street, Monday afternoon from 3 p. m. to 6 p. m. The election is to vote on the proposed amendments to the constitution of the Woman's International Auxiliary. Monday, Oct. 15, 1906.

Mass Meeting Monday at Central Labor Union Hall

There will be a mass meeting of workingmen, union and non-union, at Central Labor Union hall, 1034 O street, Monday evening, October 15. Frank A. Kennedy of Omaha, editor of the Western Labor, and former organizer for the American Federation of Labor, will address the meeting. There will be brief addresses by other workingmen. Every man who works for wages should make it a point to attend this meeting. It will begin promptly at 8 o'clock. Tell your working friends about it and urge them to be present.

A DUTY WE OWE TO CHILDREN AND TO OURSELVES

Nebraska is the only northern state that has no child labor laws upon its statute books. The state with the smallest percentage of illiteracy is classed with states like Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana.

There is not in Nebraska a law that will prevent a drunken, shiftless, irresponsible parent from compelling his 8 or 10-year-old child to work in a store, a mill or a factory, and turn the wage over to him to be spent for liquor.

The only protection the child has under the Nebraska statutes is the compulsory school law, and even that beneficent law is not enforced as it should be.

Under the present Nebraska statutes the convicts in the penitentiary are bound out to a contractor who pays the state 50 cents a day per head for every convict he uses, the state boarding and clothing the convicts. This contractor then puts the convicts to work making articles of commerce which are sold on the open market in competition with the articles made by free labor, the result being that free labor is forced into idleness. Two years ago the free workingmen of Nebraska asked the legislature to enact a law compelling all convict-made goods offered for sale to bear the stamp, "Prison Made." A bill was drafted and introduced after a long search for a legislator willing to stand sponsor for the bill. The bill was referred to a committee, and after infinite pains and labor the union men secured a hearing before the committee. The committee listened, asked a few questions, looked wise—and then reported the bill with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed. The house concurred in the recommendation, not a single member protesting and asking for justice for the free, lawabiding and honest workingmen who were being driven to the wall by convict competition.

Under the Nebraska statutes a man injured by the incompetence or the negligence of a fellow servant has absolutely no recourse against the corporation responsible for the employment of the negligent and incompetent workman. There is no adequate, just and fair employer's liability law in Nebraska.

Under the present law governing the leasing of convict labor it is possible for the penitentiary convict to engage in any branch of manufacturing he pleases, using convicts to perform the work. He can compete with free cigarmakers by making cigars in the pen. He can compete with the printers by establishing a printing plant. He can compete with the harness-makers, the glovemakers, the garment workers, and many other tradesmen.

The workingmen of the state demand some legislation calculated to protect them against these things. Nebraska's industrial development is just beginning. Workingmen demand conditions that exist in the congested manufacturing centers of the east and south. They insist that now is the time to take steps to protect the children.

Experience has taught us that it is foolish to expect anything along these lines from politicians who are interested only in their own selfish political schemes. Experience has taught us the folly of expecting a lawyer, or a doctor, or a farmer, who may be a legislator, to take an active interest in these matters and give labor bills the constant attention they must have if they are to receive any consideration from the legislature.

The only way for labor to get what it wants is to elect men from their own ranks who will devote their entire time while in the legislature to pushing the bills introduced in behalf of labor. The time has come when the men who toil must show by their votes that they demand recognition. The time has come when laboring men must stand as solidly at the polls as they do on Labor Day. It is time that laboring men quit being the tools of cheap politicians who flatter them during the campaign and then betray them after the ballots are counted. If laboring men do not vote for their own interests it is a cinch that nobody else will.

There are laws imperatively demanded by the hosts of toil—laws that will put them on an equality in the courts with employers; laws that will protect them against unfair competition; laws that will give the free workingman a show for his white alley.

The workingmen of Lancaster county have their chance now. They have a chance to demonstrate that they will no longer be puppets in the hands of the machine politicians. They have a chance to elect two workingmen to the legislature—two that steps be taken in time to prevent the unholy and brutal work and vote for the things outlined above. They will devote their time to the accomplishment of these things. They are not "agitators" or "walking delegates." They were drafted instead of seeking the nominations. They are entitled to the vote of every man who works for wage.

George F. Quick and Harry W. Smith are the candidates of the hosts of labor for the legislature. If you want to vote for your own interests you will place an "X" after the names of Quick and Smith.

Think it over for yourselves. Tell the professional politicians that you are tired of pulling political chestnuts out of the fire for them to enjoy. Vote for "Molly and the babies" once and see how you like it.

AN HUMBLE APOLOGY.

Tendered in Deep Humility to the Western Union Telegraph Co.

A short time ago The Wagerworker charged the Western Union Telegraph company, doing business in Lincoln, with violating the law by employing messenger boys under the legal age. The Wagerworker was wrong. The Telegraph company does nothing of the kind, for the simple reason that Nebraska has no child labor laws. The Telegraph company can employ boys three years old without violating any statute law.

But just the same the Western Union Telegraph company in Lincoln is violating every law of morality and humanity by employing little boys to deliver messages night and day, and deliver them to houses of ill fame and vile dens where they receive their first lessons in debauchery that sets them on the road to graduation into lives of crime and dissipation. It employs boys in this work because it would have to reduce its liberal dividends a little bit in order to employ young men. The eminent gentlemen who control the Western Union Telegraph company do not give a tinker's dam about the welfare of the boys. They are concerned only in the making of big dividends. The state can look after the boys after they have become criminals.

The Western Union Telegraph company in Lincoln is murdering the souls of boys every day in the year but The Wagerworker was wrong when it charged the company with violating any statute law. For the mistake we apologize. In the meanwhile the soul murder by the company goes on, thanks to the criminal carelessness of the people of Nebraska.

CARPENTERS NOMINATE.

Will Elect National Officers by Referendum Vote This Time.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters at their convention in Niagara Falls wound up their business by nominating William D. Huber, J. Schwartz and Charles Mains for the presidency, Frank Duffy was nominated for general secretary and Thomas A. Neale for general treasurer. For vice-president F. M. Guerin and H. C. Fuller were named, while the nominees for second vice-president are Arthur A. Quinn, Perth Amboy; N. J. Wilson, Jacksonville; Frank G. Simson, Baltimore. Some surprise was created by the fact that men have been nominated against all the principal officers, and it is evident that the election will be hotly contested. The election will be by referendum vote, which will become effective in this Brotherhood for the first time on February 1st. Hugh Stevenson of Toronto asked that the Canadian locals be requested to affiliate with the A. F. of L. in the United States.—Michigan Union Advocate.

MORAL SUASION.

Judge Pollock Says It May Be Used by Sticking Linemen.

Topeka, Kas., Oct. 8.—Judge Pollock in the United States district court last Monday granted a permanent injunction against the members of the Electrical Workers' union in Wichita preventing them from interfering with the property and employes of the Missouri & Kansas Telephone company. A temporary injunction was granted against the union and its members some time ago. When the question of the permanent injunction was brought up the court dismissed the injunction against the union, but granted it as against the men. Judge Pollock in his opinion says that it was impossible to enjoin the men from using "moral suasion," but they must not use violence.

A Pertinent Question.

How would you like to smoke a cigar that has been "mouthed" by a dirty Chinaman? When you buy a trust cigar you do that very same thing. Chinamen make a large portion of them, and moisten the point with their tongues to shape them up. In a union shop no workman is allowed to touch a cigar with his mouth, pure vegetable glue being used to stick the ends. Be sanitary; see that the blue label is on the box before buying a cigar.—Springfield, Ill., Tradesman.

The arbitrators in the street railway dispute in Hamilton, Ont., have awarded the men 16 cents for the first year and 20 cents as the maximum wage after three years' service. The Dundas men will also receive the raise.