

# THE WAGEWORKER



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### THE DIVIDENDS EXPLAINED.

Good Showing for Stockholders at Expense of Wage Earners.

The Lincoln Evening News of Oct. 13 contained the following interesting bit of news concerning the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co.:

"At the monthly meeting of the board of directors held on the 9th inst. the excellent showing of the manager L. O. Jones, decided the directors to offer the balance of the treasury stock of the company for sale at par, that the paid-up capital might be increased to \$100,000. The manager's report showed a gain in the volume of business, thus far, of eighty-five per cent over the business of 1905 with a steady growing demand for 'Jones Brand' work clothing. The directors anticipate that the new issue of stock will be quickly taken as the company is looked upon as one of the most successful manufacturing industries of Lincoln, one that has met and overcome reverses of severe nature and in spite of these has never missed a year in the paying of dividends. As a substantial evidence of its worth to the city it is noted that its payroll now reaches \$35,000 annually, practically all of which is distributed through the stores of Lincoln. A considerable portion of the product of the factory is already sold ahead to April of next year."

Elsewhere in this issue The Wage-worker again prints a fac simile of a check issued by this "paid-dividends-every-year" institution, the check being given an employe for a week's work of fifty-nine hours. This check may explain how Manager Jones has been able to pay increasing dividends.

The woman to whom this check was issued no longer works for Mr. Jones. The Monday after the fac simile appeared in The Wage-worker for the first time, the woman was called into the business office and discharged. She knew nothing whatever of the fact that The Wage-worker had come into possession of the check. She cashed it at a Lincoln store, and the merchant sold it to the editor. Parties who desire to see the original check may have that pleasure by calling on the editor of The Wage-worker. As it has never been cashed at the bank on which it was drawn it undoubtedly has contributed its share to the "increasing dividends," along with the girls who work in the factory at wages about 25 per cent less than those received by the girls in the union over-all factories of St. Joseph.

Mass meeting of workingmen, C. L. U. hall, 1034 O street, next Thursday night. Be there!

### TAKE YOUR MEDICINE!

The Postal Clerks and Carriers Must Not Form Unions.

Postmaster General Cortelyou has officially notified the carriers and clerks in the employ of the postoffice department that they must not organize a union for the purpose of agitating for higher pay and union conditions. Mr. Cortelyou tells the employes that it is the duty of his department, not of a union, to tell congress what the postoffice department needs.

Take your medicine, boys! When you hire out to Uncle Sam in the post-office department you cease to be a free man, according to Cortelyou. You have no right to petition congress for redress of grievances as long as you are in the postal service, although the constitution says that right must not be abridged. Tell with the constitution! Cortelyou will fix things for you. Yours is a calling that requires a superior education, quick wit and more than average intelligence, but you must not talk together about striving to get decent wages. Cortelyou will attend to that for you. Does he not get \$8,000 a year for doing all your thinking for you? Back up, boys! After you have grown so old that you are no longer fit for duty, you will be retired without pay or pension. Then you can apply for naturalization papers and again become citizens of the United States. According to Cortelyou you are not citizens now. Your right to organize, to petition and agitate is denied you. It is conceded to American citizens.

Great is Cortelyou!

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## MASS MEETING OF WORKINGMEN

There will be a mass meeting at Central Labor Union hall, 1034 O street, Thursday evening, October 25, of all workingmen who are desirous of electing to the legislature two laboring men who will make it their business to look after legislation in the interests of those who work for wages. Workingmen, union and non-union, are urged to attend. Good speakers will be present. Get into the political game and work and vote for your own interests.

## THE DUTY THAT LIES BEFORE THE WORKINGMEN

The workingmen of Nebraska not only have a duty to perform in the way of securing legislation in their interests, but have a duty to perform in the matter of preventing some threatened legislation.

It would be a great thing to secure the enactment of a child labor law, of an employer's liability law, of an anti-prison contract law and of a law defining the fellow servant principle. But there is a threatened danger of which comparatively few workingmen are aware. It is a danger that threatens their every right as American citizens. It is a danger that strikes at the very foundation of the workingmen's right to organize for their own protection.

The men who are moving to fasten this thing upon the workingmen are not making any fuss about it. They are pursuing the course of stealth. They are working under cover. What is it that they seek to secure?

They seek to secure the enactment of a CONSPIRACY LAW.

And what is that?

It is a law that would make it a felony for a body of workingmen to agree among themselves that they would act as a unit. With such a law on the statute books it would be a felony for a trades union to discuss the matter of raising wages, decide upon submitting the demand and determine to strike if the demand was not acceded to.

Backed by millions of money these enemies of organized labor are able to hire the best legal talent, and these lawyers would so draft a law as to make the workingmen of the state helpless in the face of the opposition of the corporations and the "business men's associations."

The men who want to enact such a law will have their tools in the legislature. These tools will be good talkers and "smooth men." They will be able to deceive the average legislator who has given the industrial problem little or no thought. Unless there are men in the legislature who are able to expose these schemes, and not only able but interested in exposing them, the schemes will be successful and the workingmen will be helpless. An "anti-conspiracy law" such as these schemers seek to put upon the statute books would mean the death of our trades unions, and any workingman with brains enough to stain a white silk handkerchief knows what would happen to him and his if they were left without the protection and the help of the unions.

Do not be deceived into the notion that we need only the enactment of a few laws. Bear in mind that we need strong, earnest true-blue trades unionists in the legislature to prevent the enactment of some laws.

And as sure as day succeeds night an effort will be made during the next session of the legislature to enact an anti-conspiracy law.

UNLESS WE HAVE WATCHFUL WORKINGMEN ON DUTY IN THE LEGISLATURE THE SCHEME WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

Edwin Markham, writing for Cosmopolitan Magazine on the subject of child labor, tells of visiting a glass factory that employed hundreds of children ranging from 6 to 15 years of age. This factory runs two shifts of 12 hours each. He noticed

a barbed wire stockade built around the factory. He asked the superintendent what the "trocha" was for.

"O, that's to keep the kids of the night shift from skipping out," replied the boss.

WHAT NEBRASKA WORKINGMEN SHOULD DO IS TO BUILD A BARBED WIRE FENCE AROUND EVERY FACTORY, PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE, NOT TO KEEP CHILD LABOR INSIDE THE STOCKADE, BUT TO KEEP CHILD LABOR OUTSIDE OF THE FACTORY.

The only way to secure the enactment of a child labor law is to elect men to the legislature whose sentimental and personal interests impel them to oppose child labor.

The lawyer knows little or nothing about the child labor question, and cares less. The average politician would sacrifice youth on the altar of his political ambition. The corporation tool will do the bidding of his corporation masters, and the corporation masters thrive and fatten on the toil of helpless women and children. The farmer, honest enough and willing enough, but absolutely ignorant of conditions in the crowded cities, can not be depended upon to take the initiative.

Upon whom, then, shall we depend?

WE MUST DEPEND ON WORKINGMEN WHO ARE VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOR.

In no other way can we prevent Nebraska from becoming infested with this modern crime.

It is not a political question, therefore it is idle folly to expect the politicians to take it up unless they see a chance to make political capital. The republican party will countenance child labor as long as the soulless employers will make it an object to do so. The democratic party is no better nor worse. Both are thinking of the offices, the political pie and the power. Nebraska, a banner republican state, has no child labor laws. Mississippi, a banner democratic state has no child labor laws. The states that do have child labor laws owe nothing to the dominant political party. The laws are the result of trades union activity. The workingman who depends upon a political party to do something for him is a fool.

If we get laws in the interests of workingmen it will be because workingmen throw aside their partisanship and elect workingmen who know what they want and try to get it.

In Lancaster county we have an opportunity to drive in an entering wedge. Workingmen have a chance to vote for two men from their own ranks who will, if elected, strive to secure needed legislation and prevent inimical legislation.

If the workingmen of Lancaster county will lay aside all partisan prejudice and vote for these two men they will be elected. There is no doubt of it.

Harry W. Smith and George F. Quick, the former a printer and the latter a carpenter, are candidates for the legislature. They ask you for your votes. Shall they ask in vain?

For heaven's sake, boys, get wise to your own interests. Vote for "Molly and the babies" just once and tell the political bosses to go to thunder. Assert your independence just this once, and then watch the political bosses crawling to you for the purpose of asking you what you want in the future.

A vote for Smith and Quick is a vote to protect yourselves, your homes and your little ones.

### A GOOD MASS MEETING.

Well Attended and Rousing Speeches Closely Listened To.

The workingmen's mass meeting at Central Labor Union hall last Monday evening was well attended. The chairs were all filled, and although the meeting was a lengthy one not a man left the hall until it was over. Rev. Mr. Batten and Rev. Mr. Orr were present and were called upon to speak, and both urged the workingmen to stand together at the polls and to quit being partisans. Frank A. Kennedy of Omaha made an interesting talk, in which he complimented the workingmen of Lincoln on their enterprise and their union prosperity. "I'm surprised to see so many out at a meeting of this kind," said he. "You couldn't get this many out in Omaha without the promise of refreshments. And to see you not only coming out to a meeting of this kind to boom a couple of labor candidates for office, but actually go down in your pockets to help pay the campaign expenses—say, it looks mighty good to me."

Mr. Kennedy urged the laboring men to constitute themselves into a campaign committee to work for the election of Smith and Quick, saying that there were enough present to win if they would only go to work the right way.

The candidates for the legislature, Smith and Quick, spoke briefly and outlined the course they would pursue and the policies they would advocate if elected. General Kelsey concluded the meeting with a short but forceful talk. Another mass meeting will be held at Central Labor Union hall next Thursday evening. Be there!

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### A LITTLE FABLE.

But Not Quite So Much of a Fable As Might Be.

The Truly Good Man was in despair. He had strived without avail to engage in a business requiring male help and make money. Do what he would failure stared him in the face, and all that was left to him was to put his property in his wife's name and seek relief in the bankruptcy courts.

But he realized that after all this was accomplished there would still be the necessity of engaging in some other line of business.

But what? "Ah, I have it!" shouted the Truly Good Man. "I'll start a business where I can employ women and girls. They will be content with any old wages, no matter how small."

Realizing that he had struck his gait the Truly Good Man proceeded to organize a stock company and prepare to have the factory opened with prayer.

Moral: But the man who went up into the temple and prayed the loudest got what was coming to him after a while.

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### THE CARPENTERS.

Every Member at Work and New Members Coming In.

All members of Local No. 1055 are employed and our business agent seems to be unable to supply the demand for union carpenters, despite the fact that Local No. 1055 is taking in new members at every meeting.

Reports from the fourteenth general convention, which was in session from Sept. 17 to Sept. 28, inclusive, at Niagara Falls, N. Y., are very gratifying, meager as they are as yet. They indicate unprecedented progress in unionism all along the line, and a splendid future is visibly dawning, despite the efforts of the Civic Federation, an organization which seems to possess more money than brains. Every time they make a move against organized labor they further educate the craft and up goes another fence. Labor sees the necessity of standing together, and of better entrenchments. Surely a new era is dawning.

All members of Local No. 1055, U. B. of C. & J. of A., are urgently requested to present their due books for comparison with ledger on or before our next meeting, Tuesday evening, Oct. 23, under penalty. See section 158, general constitution.