

State Historical Society

# THE WAGEWORKER



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## WORKINGMEN'S MASS MEETING

All workingmen, whether union or non-union, without regard to political affiliations, who are interested in electing two workingmen to the legislature, are cordially invited to attend a mass meeting at

### CARPENTERS' HALL, MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 6

At 8 o'clock. Smith and Quick, labor candidates for the legislature, will speak briefly, and plans will be laid for work at the polls on election day. Workingmen, get into the political game in defense of your own interests as toilers!

## WHAT THE NEBRASKA WORKERS NEED

If the workingmen of Nebraska are wise to their own interests—to their interests as workingmen as well as their interests as citizens—they will demand some legislation to which they are entitled!

They have wanted this legislation for a long time, but so far they have failed to voice their demands. They have been content with asking it as a favor from their preferred political party. They have smiled with joy when some smug-faced political officeholder promised them to work for the requested legislation, and then accepted without a grumble the officeholder's failure to keep his promise.

That sort of fast-and-loose business will continue indefinitely unless the workingmen make up their minds to cut loose from party machines for a while and act together in self-defense.

There are several laws which workingmen want to see placed upon the statute books. And there are several proposed laws that workingmen are opposed to having enacted. Some of the laws that workingmen want are as follows:

- AN ANTI-CONVICT LABOR LAW.
- AN EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY LAW.
- AN EIGHT HOUR LAW.
- A LAW PROHIBITING CHILD LABOR.
- A LAW PROTECTING UNION LABELS FROM IMITATION AND INFRINGEMENT.

As free citizens who are helping to build up the commonwealth the workingmen of the state are entitled to protection against an iniquitous system which forces them into competition with convicts farmed out to a contractor who uses them to make articles of every day use, and who sells these articles in competition with free labor.

As workingmen entitled to equal protection under the laws they are entitled to an employer's liability act which will make an employer responsible for injuries sustained by an employe while in the discharge of his duty.

As men entitled to some joy in life they are entitled to a law which will insure it to them—a law that will divide the day into the three parts recognized by scripture and by history—eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep and eight hours in which to rest and enjoy life.

As parents they are entitled to a law which will prohibit conscienceless capital from throttling the life of the children. And as workingmen they are entitled to a law which will not compel them to compete with the underpaid labor of their own little ones.

As union men they are entitled to a law which will protect them against unscrupulous manufacturers who would foist their tenement-made and "scab" made goods upon a discriminating public by branding them with the emblem of well paid and well contented labor—the union label.

**WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH DOING IT OURSELVES?**  
What's the use of depending upon pinheaded politicians any longer? What's the use of being continually made the laughing stock and the voting stock of a lot of fatheaded politicians who lie to us for our votes and then laugh at us for believing them?

**THE LONGER THE WORKINGMEN OF THE COUNTRY SPLIT ON PARTY LINES AND PULL CHESTNUTS FROM THE FIRE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS, THE LONGER IT WILL BE BEFORE WORKINGMEN GET THE**

### LEGISLATION THEY ARE ENTITLED TO.

If the workingman who reads this does not believe it, it is time he had his head bored for the simples.

But while we want some laws enacted we also want to prevent some legislation threatened by our industrial enemies. The only way to prevent this inimical legislation is to elect men to the legislature who are interested personally and directly in preventing it.

And what is this proposed law?  
**ENEMIES OF ORGANIZED LABOR ARE SECRETLY PLANNING TO ENACT A CONSPIRACY LAW THAT WILL MAKE IT A FELONY FOR WORKINGMEN TO CONFER IN THE HOPE OF BETTERING THEIR CONDITION!**

Don't ridicule the possibility of such a thing! Millions of capital are possessed by the men who want such a law, and they have a powerful lot of well organized machinery. With such a law on the statute books you could be thrown into jail for even asking a fellow worker to join with you in trying to force an employer to pay you decent wages or grant you decent hours. You could be thrown into jail for advocating a strike against any unjust imposition of an employer. You may think this impossible. But did you ever stop to consider what has been done even without such a law.

**LAST WEEK FOUR UNION GARMENT WORKERS IN CHICAGO WERE SENT TO JAIL FOR SIX MONTHS FOR VIOLATING AN INJUNCTION. WHAT WAS THE INJUNCTION? A FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERED THEM NOT TO TALK TO NON-UNION GARMENT WORKERS IN AN EFFORT TO GET THEM TO JOIN THE UNION. THESE MEN WERE DENIED A TRIAL BY JURY—A RIGHT THAT ANY CRIMINAL, NO MATTER HOW DEGRADED, IS ENTITLED TO UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.**

Only a few years ago the employes on a great western railroad were enjoined by a federal judge—now dead—from quitting work as a sign of protest against inhuman wages and treatment. A Methodist minister in Pennsylvania was enjoined from praying for a lot of striking miners. Striking miners were enjoined from using the public highways. In Omaha a few months ago the underpaid and half-starved packinghouse employes were told by a federal judge that "two or more of them" must not meet on the street to talk about their business.

**JUST THINK OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF, IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS NOW USURPED BY FEDERAL AND STATE JUDGES, A CONSPIRACY LAW IS ENACTED! IF WORKINGMEN DO NOT GET TOGETHER, SICK TOGETHER AND VOTE TOGETHER, THEY WILL SOON BE WORSE OFF THAN THE SLAVE WAS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. THE SLAVE WAS AT LEAST SURE OF PLENTY TO EAT, A PLACE TO SLEEP AND MEDICAL ATTENTION WHEN SICK.**

Now how much longer will workingmen be content to let the politicians do all the legislating? How much longer will they continue to "stick to party" and let their own personal and family interests suffer? How much longer will they allow themselves to be used as the instruments of their own industrial destruction?

Suppose we vote as workingmen, and not as partisans, just once and see how it goes!

Suppose we elect a couple of our own number to the legislature to look after our business, instead of electing a lot of

politicians who will look after their own interests.

The workingmen of Lancaster county have their opportunity this year. They have an opportunity to vote for two men for the legislature who are personally and vitally interested in securing legislation in the interests of the whole body of workers. They are as much interested as you in preventing the enactment of a conspiracy law. They are workingmen themselves, and as such are personally interested in securing the enactment of a child labor law which will prevent the labor of children from forcing their wages down to a starvation level.

**HARRY W. SMITH AND GEORGE F. QUICK ARE MEN WHO WORK AT THEIR TRADE EVERY WORKING DAY IN THE YEAR. THEY ARE NOT POLITICIANS. THEY ARE NOT REPRESENTING ANY CORPORATION. THEY ARE NOT BACKED BY ANY TRUST. THEY ARE PLAIN CRAFTSMEN WHO ARE ASKING TO BE ELECTED IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY LOOK AFTER YOUR INTERESTS AS WELL AS THEIR OWN.**

Harry Smith is a union printer, a member of Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209. He has been a union printer for twenty years.

George Quick is a union carpenter, a member of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 1,055. He has been a union carpenter for nearly twenty years.

**THESE MEN ARE RUNNING AS LABOR CANDIDATES. THEY ASK FOR THE VOTES OF THEIR FELLOW WORKINGMEN.**

In point of ability they equal any candidates ever offered to the voters of Lancaster county. They represent no faction, no interest that is antagonistic to the welfare of the whole people. They are not running as partisans. **THEY ARE LABORING MEN RUNNING AS CANDIDATES OF LABORING MEN. THEY WERE NOMINATED AS LABORING MEN.**

**FELLOW WORKINGMEN, THESE MEN WILL BE ELECTED IF YOU WILL DO YOUR DUTY.**

Once upon a time a heathen king thought he would frighten the sun. He ordered all his subjects to assemble and at a given signal give a shout that would scare the sun into hiding. Thousands gathered in response to the royal command, and at the proper moment the king gave the signal. There wasn't a sound. **EVERY MAN PRESENT THOUGHT HE WOULD KEEP STILL AND THUS HEAR HOW LOUD ALL THE OTHERS COULD SHOUT.**

Are you going to act like the heathens—just vote your old party ticket and see whether there is really any chance of electing a workingman before you do your share?

**IT IS ALL UP TO YOU, BOYS. IF YOU DON'T ELECT SMITH AND QUICK TO REPRESENT YOU, YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE THE OTHER FELLOWS WILL NOT. THE'LL ELECT THEIR OWN KIND.**

Don't listen to the "con" talk of some 2x4 political boss who begs for you to "stand by the party." Stand by your own self just for a change. Be a political boss yourself this time—and "boss" your own vote.

And here is a most important thing to remember in connection with this whole matter:

**IF WE ELECT SMITH AND QUICK THIS YEAR WE'LL HAVE ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES AT OUR COMMAND—JUST AS THEY HAVE BEEN AT THE COMMAND OF**

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