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"Just Around the Corner."

COUNCILMAN WOODWARD'S VIEWS.

Expresses Hearty Sympathy With Aims and Objects of Unionism.

Editor Wage Worker:—I have been carefully watching the editorials of your paper. The doctrine you advocate meets with my hearty approval. Organized labor comprises in its membership good citizens, as good as any municipality can boast of. It is not for strikes, the world would hear but little of the good or bad of organized labor, and yet the greatest of American statesmen within the memory of living men once said, "Thank God we have a system where there can be strikes. Whatever the pressure, there is a point where the workingman may stop." President Lincoln made this vigorous declaration at Hartford in 1860 when referring to the Lynn shoemakers' great strike.

I believe every leader of organized labor is opposed to strikes, but believing that the only solution of a difficulty lies in a strike, reluctantly consent as a last resort.

Our population is composed largely of the so-called middle classes, and the prosperity of those as well as all classes depends on good wages. The merchants, the professional men—all are less prosperous when the working man has less money. We are apt to lose sight of the all-important fact that faces the whole people, namely—laboring men spend their money freely and do not lock it up to rust. A man in Philadelphia, who had a stall in the market for over forty years, said to me he would rather have the trade of one laboring man than the trade of three rich men. Business is sustained by the every day purchase of the necessities of life and not by the occasional purchase of luxuries. Every business man owes a large debt to good living wages. The unions have become a power and are growing stronger every day, and their power is felt at the ballot box, and the party that protects the labor element's interest is entitled to their support. Capital no longer controls the system we now have in voting; it gives man the right to vote according to his own convictions.

In 1835 the laboring man was getting but 65 cents for twelve hours' work, this being a day's work. Girls received but \$1.25 per week in factories and worked from 5 a. m. to 7 p. m. Wages were so low that they found they must organize, which they did, and immediately there was a change in the laboring man's home. In localities where labor unions flourished, wages went up and hours of labor were materially reduced, business improved and prosperity followed. By means of strikes, protests and petitions, the hours of hard labor were reduced and all business improved.

Organized labor has ever been a school for its members. They are taught patriotism and that law and order must be recognized. Organized labor has ever fought the battles of our country. Free schools and free books have come mainly through their efforts. Every labor law on our statutes can be traced to their efforts, and when these organizations are completely under the control of honest men with honest intent, it will be the

strongest organization in the world. Union labor is amply and justly paid for; strikes and discontent are sure to exist. The way to prevent strikes and dissatisfaction is to keep labor employed at remunerative wages.

W. A. WOODWARD.

THE CARPENTERS.

Roster of Union Men Grows Longer Each Passing Week.

There will be a special called meeting of local No. 1055, U. B. C. & J. of A., at Carpenters' hall on Tuesday evening, November 13, at 7:30 p. m. sharp. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Three new applications for membership were presented at our last meeting. Boys, we're growing.

Local No. 1055 has materially increased its membership during the summer. Not only has it gained numerically, but also in strength. Our order is in every way stronger by far than it ever was before despite the opposition we were forced to meet, and have met with practically a united force. Not only is such the case in Lincoln, but throughout the nation. Reports coming to us are indeed gratifying beyond expectation.

It has dawned upon workmen that they must stand together in order to uphold the principles for which we contend. Labor has come to realize that in union is strength; we realize that what we need most are such laws that will place labor on an equal with capital, or else laws that will place capital on an equal with labor. We want special privileges for none, but we realize that whatever we want we must get. No one will give it to us. Labor now has two candidates in the field for the legislature. If workmen do their duty, they will have two representatives in our next legislature, men upon whom you can depend to look after the interests of labor, men who will begin an epoch in legislation such as will restore this nation to its fundamental or cardinal principles, where it justly belongs. Then, and not till then, will labor have its just reward.

Remember the special meeting November 13.

Everything looks promising and everybody is busy.

Reports from the general office indicate substantial improvements along the line of organization.

Gompers has hit Congressman Littlefield pretty hard. What will he do to Uncle Joe next Tuesday?

Where is labor next Tuesday? Not north nor south, yet at the polls.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Regular Meeting Next Sunday and Attendance Should Be Large.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will meet in regular monthly session next Sunday afternoon. Every member should be present.

Scattering returns of the election indicate that the salary proposition was defeated by a vote of about 6 to 1. Omaha beat it by a vote of 100 to 40. Washington beat it by a vote of about 1,000 to 250. Chicago beat it 6 to 1.

Edwin R. Wright, president of Chicago Typographical Union, has been elected president of the Illinois State

Federation of Trades and Labor.

The "teapot" no longer has a shop in Washington.

The "benefit list" is growing smaller everywhere since the policy of pruning went into effect. The "quillers" must either work when opportunity offers or quit eating. The policy is a good one, but went into effect about six months too late.

Will Bustard returned Saturday from Custer county, where he went to investigate a farm proposition. The George Bros. printery turned out the Lincoln postoffice souvenir, and it was a handsome piece of work.

The North Printing Co. is hurrying along its city directory, and is meeting with splendid encouragement, every bit of which is deserved.

The Star force has been working double "stunts" lately getting out the anniversary number. The scarcity of "mill" men made the boys lose sleep. The edition is a "peach."

Ed. Howe has turned out his winter crop of whisksers. That's an infallible sign that it is time to lay in the season's supply of coal.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Te ladies in charge of the market held October 20 have about \$10 to add to our bank account.

We are not doing so bad as we might. At our last meeting there were fifteen ladies out, and at the last meeting of Nashville Auxiliary, No. 7, there were only three.

A special meeting was held for the voting of new laws, and five members were out.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Pickett and baby have been visiting with Mrs. W. S. Bustard this week.

Don't forget when you buy coal to see that the driver carries a union card.

The November social committee with Mrs. Smith as chairman are making great plans. I hope the members of No. 209 as well as No. 11 will not forget to come out and get acquainted again.

Mrs. J. R. Sneath of Toronto, Canada, says their auxiliary cleared \$86 on the quilt presented to the union printers' home.

MRS. BUSTARD.

MOTHERS' MEETING.

Friday afternoon several "mothers' meetings" were held in various parts of the city, the subject under discussion being child labor. The editor of The Wageworker submitted a few remarks to a goodly gathering at the home of Mrs. J. N. Hyder, 324 North Fourteenth. Unionists who have been interested in this great problem for years are gratified to see the women of the country taking hold of it. It means that something more will be accomplished in the way of eradicating this great evil. The Women's Club is doing a good work along this line, and it will have the hearty co-operation of every sincere trades unionist.

AN EVEN BREAK.

Which do you think is the meanest—the employer who tries to take an unfair advantage of his workmen, or the workman who tries to take an unfair advantage of his fellow-workman?—Potter's Herald.

HANDIWORK OF UNIONISTS.

Shows to Advantage in the Woodwork of New Postoffice.

There are three splendid points about Lincoln's new government building: First, the building itself; second, the interior woodwork, and third, the fact that the interior woodwork is not only the product of a local institution but the handiwork of union men. Every bit of the woodwork in the new postoffice was made by Lincoln union men in a Lincoln mill, and nothing handsomer or better was ever put into a building. That is not only the verdict of all who have visited the building, but it is the verdict of the supervising architect, and he certainly knows what he is talking about. From the huge and magnificent front doors, with their splendid carvings and high polish, to the flagpole that surmounts the structure, every stick was turned out of the Lincoln Sash and Door Mills, and that concern employs only union carpenters and joiners and union painters. This contract was the only one of any importance carried off by a local concern. Quarter sawed oak highly polished and hand carved and fitted with the skill of highly trained workmen, present an effect at once rich and subdued, and make the building's interior the handsomest of any public building in the entire west.

The Wageworker is not alone proud that a Lincoln concern showed its ability to turn out such a high grade of work. It is even prouder of the fact that it was turned out under union conditions—turned out by men who are paid a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, performed under satisfactory conditions and surroundings. It proves that Lincoln has a mill that is equal to the best anywhere in the country, and it proves that Lincoln union carpenters and joiners are the best to be found in the business. This is enough to make every unionist in the city feel good.

When Mayor Brown, president of the Lincoln Sash and Door Mill Co., secured the contract for this branch of the work, he issued orders that it was to be done in the very best manner. More than \$2,000 was spent in the carving alone. When the time came to fit the panneling it had been turned out with such exactness that every piece fitted to a nicety. The company's policy of securing the best workmen by paying the best wages and recognizing the unions has been vindicated by the magnificent results as shown in the interior woodwork of Lincoln's new government building. It will stand for decades as an advertisement for the company and for the union men who performed the skilled labor.

IS THIS A SQUARE DEAL?

University Band, Maintained by State, Displaces Musicians.

This is not politics—it is a plain matter of justice and fair play. The University band furnished the music for a political rally at the auditorium Wednesday night. The University band is maintained by the state. Its members are educated by the state. What right has this band to butt in and displace musicians who earn a part of the taxes they pay for the support of the state university by playing in professional bands? Why shouldn't the state university supply hod-carriers, and bricklayers, and printers, and pressmen, and other kinds of labor, in competition with taxpayers, if it is going into the competitive business? A lot of Lincoln musicians, many of them taxpayers, depend for a considerable portion of their livelihood upon their ability to secure occasional musical engagements. Is it fair that a band supported by the people at large should compete with the very men who support it?

The Wageworker has every interest in the university. Its editor once attended a university, and he knows a thing or two about college life. But he never "scabbed" on the men whose money gave him a chance to secure something of an education.

The University band should be used exclusively for university purposes, and it should never be allowed to come into competition with men who earn a livelihood by exercising their musical talents. The university authorities should think it over.

UNION'S DEMANDS REFUSED.

Railroads Renew Former Offer of Two Cent Raise to Men.

Chicago, Oct. 29.—The railroads have refused the demands of the switchmen's union for an eight hour day and an increase in wages. An increase of two cents an hour, already offered the switchmen, was repeated, but the men were told that this would be all that would be obtained. The refusal also applies to all organizations of other employees who seek more wages. The switchmen's officials say that there will be no strike action until a referendum vote has been taken.

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Some Funny Strike Stories

Three hundred telephone girls employed at the Chicago central exchange who struck recently because they were forbidden to enter by the front door of the Title and Trust building, had a genuine grievance compared with some other strikers.

A force of carpenters and builders once quit work in Pittsburg because the boss refused to serve them lemonade. He thought to give the men a treat one day and ordered a barrel of pink lemonade, and the men appreciated it so much that they quit work in a body the next morning because the second barrel was not forthcoming. The officers of the union proposed to arbitrate the question, but the contractor refused. "The men will be wanting champagne next," he said, "and I can't afford to arbitrate." After due consideration the business agents told the men they would have to go back to work on plain ice water.

One of the oddest one-man strikes occurred when the machinists inaugurated their national movement for shorter hours. In a shop of some size at Atlanta the proprietor was congratulating himself because none of the men in his plant belonged to the union. But there happened to be one man out of several hundred who belonged to the organization. When this solitary worker received a circular from union headquarters notifying him of the strike he called a meeting, appointing himself a committee, called upon the boss, and duly and formally made his demands. He got his raise.

When the Methodist conference met at Brooklyn several hundred ministers stopped at one hotel. The waiters immediately went on strike. The wondering hotel man let them go and hired a new force. After the first meal the new men also took off their white jackets and aprons and left the hotel. Here was a mystery. "What's the matter with you fellows?" asked the steward. "The preachers never give us any tips," said one of the strikers. "We won't wait on them unless you double our pay."

In China the executioners once struck because they declared business had become so dull they couldn't make a living at chopping off heads at 25 cents apiece. They laid their complaints before a mandarin in their district and he carried the matter before the empress. That grim dowager listened in silence while he told his troubles. "You may tell the men that unless they return instantly to their blocks there will be a great revival of business for their successors." The men were sufficient. The executioners went back to work without even suggesting arbitration.

A deadlock recently occurred in New York between the hod carriers and wheelbarrow men engaged on a large building. The dispute was without precedent, even the union officers could not settle it for a time, and the entire job threatened to be tied up. At last somebody suggested flipping a coin, heads or tails. The losers were so much disappointed that they threatened to strike and with difficulty were persuaded to accept this form of arbitration.

During the St. Louis street car strike there was one union motorman who insisted on working. He was threatened and expostulated with by his comrades but he turned a deaf ear alike to entreaties and threats. "I've got a right to work if I want to, and the whole town can't bluff me," was the way he put it. His wife thought differently. She got a barrel stave and went to the end of the line and met him on his run. "Don't you work any more, Jim," she commanded. "Come right down from that car this minute." Jim hesitated, and his wife—she was an athletic woman—dragged him from the platform and chastised him with the barrel stave. He followed her home meekly, and kept away from the car barns until after the strike was settled. The woman was elected an honorary member of the union.

A lot of blind broommakers struck in Philadelphia for an increase in pay. They paraded the street, led by a member who had one eye. Public sympathy was with the strikers, who pick-

eted the place so effectively that the manufacturers were glad to submit the controversy to arbitration.

NO PAUPER FUNERAL.

Union Plasterers Give Unfortunate "Scab" Decent Burial.

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 19.—Benjamin Mulhoney, a non-union plasterer, died at the Homeopathic hospital. He was a stranger in the place, and was entirely without friends. Coroner Purks was making arrangements to bury him in the potters' field when the local Plasterers' Union took up the matter and defrayed all the necessary expense to give him a respectable funeral and save him from a pauper's grave.

EFFORT TO SETTLE STRIKE.

Good Officers of National Civic Federation Tendered.

In response to a telegraphic tender of its good officers, in the hope of bringing about a settlement of the strike of machinists in the shops of the Southern railway, the Knoxville board of trade received the following telegram from H. B. Spencer, general manager of the Southern:

"The company and its officers appreciate fully the interest of Knoxville in the machinists' strike, and we are desirous of settling it promptly and equitably. It has been agreed, at the suggestion of the Hon. Seth Low, chairman of the national civic federation, that our president will meet the president of the machinists' association and the local committee of the machinists in an effort to make such adjustment."

The local shops are still idle with the exception of a few men.

Ice men Must Serve Time.

The circuit court at Toledo, O., upheld the decision of Judge Kinkade of common pleas court in the sentences he gave Reuben Lemon, Rollin Beard and Joseph Miller, convicted of conspiracy in restraint of trade in the sale of ice. These are the famous ice cases which were in common pleas court last summer. The sentences given the men were \$2,500 fine each and six months in the workhouse, and if the supreme court affirms the lower court the ice men must serve their sentences.

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