

THE WAGWORKER



VOL. 3 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 23, 1906 NO. 33

THE LABOR FAIR--ARE YOU A "BOOSTER?"

The success of the Union Labor Fair now depends upon the union men and women of Lincoln and suburbs. If they do their part it will be a magnificent success. If they do not do their part it will be worse than a failure.

AND FAILURE WOULD SET BACK THE CAUSE OF UNIONISM IN LINCOLN A FULL DECADE.

Can we afford to let it be a failure? The Wagworker is not at all fearful of the result—and yet it is not wholly satisfied. There is just a slight disposition on the part of some to let somebody else do all the work.

"Well, we are paying somebody to do the work, ain't we?" you say.

NOT BY A MILL SIGHT!

You couldn't hire anybody to do the work. It is work that you must do yourselves. You have merely employed a man to look after some of the details, and he is looking after them to the best of his ability. He couldn't make the fair a success by his unaided efforts. No other man could, either.

YOU'VE SIMPLY GOT TO HELP, OR SHARE IN THE HUMILIATION THAT WILL FOLLOW A FAILURE.

If this fair is a success you will feel the beneficial effects for many months to come. A little work and a dollar or two invested in making the fair a success will return magnificent dividends in the days to come.

Now you want to know what is going to take place at the fair. You have a perfect right to know all about it. But we can't tell all about it in *The Wagworker*. One or two things must be told by word of mouth instead of in print.

NOT BECAUSE WE ARE ASHAMED OF IT. NOT BY THE MILL'S DAM SITE.

It is because Uncle Sam has promulgated some severe postal regulations that a little newspaper dare not contravene. The big papers often do it, but it would spell ruin for a little paper like *The Wagworker* to undertake it.

For instance, there is the splendid **UNION MADE PIANO** that is going to be disposed of during the fair. It will be sold at the mar-

vellously low price of 50 cents, and it cost \$400. Just how, we'll tell you if you ask us. We'll tell you anyhow if you are at the fair on the opening night.

But we'll tell you about the handsome set of chinaware, and the splendid gold watch, and the ton of hard coal. They will be voted away. The watch will go to the most popular railroad man. The set of dishes will be voted to some union man's wife, and the ton of hard coal will be voted to the homeliest union man.

BUT THAT IS NOT ALL--NOT BY THE SAME OLD MILL SITE!

Every evening an orchestra composed of union musicians will discourse sweet music for those who like to enjoy the pleasures of the dance. And there will be several good attractions, presented on the stage, too.

AND THEN THE 'BABY SHOW'—UNION BABIES, OF COURSE!

The Baby Show is going to be a corker. There will be a prize for the union baby boy, and a prize for the union baby girl. Full particulars will be given on the opening night. Only babies born of union parents will be admitted to this contest.

And then, too, there will be displays of union made goods by the enterprising merchants of Lincoln who want the trade of union men and women badly enough to ask for it and make an effort to get it.

O, there will be plenty to interest you, to amuse you and to instruct you. And it will cost you so little that you'll never miss it. The general admission will be only 15 cents, and if you want to dance it will cost you only 25 cents. And dance to union made music, too. You've not had that opportunity before in this man's town. You ought to appreciate it now.

But if you want to help push the fair along, and at the same time economize, you can buy a transferable season ticket, good for six admissions, including dancing, for \$1. You can use all six coupons in one night, or three coupons a night for two night—or any old way you see fit. The ticket is good for six admissions, including dancing, no matter by whom presented.

Now, Mr. Union Man and Mrs. Union Woman, are you going to

do your share towards making this Union Labor Fair a success? Or are you going to "soldier" on the enterprising unionists and let them do all the work and then, when all is over and success won, come in and claim a share of the glory? There are such people in this world, but we'll not believe any of them live in Lincoln until we actually meet them.

DON'T BE A "DEAD ONE." GET INTO THE GAME AND PROVE YOUR RIGHT TO BE CLASSED AMONG THE "LIVE ONES."

We met a "dead one" the other day. He makes an average of \$20 a week and has no one but himself to care for. He gets good wages because he belongs to a strong union. But he said he couldn't afford to buy a season ticket, although he expected to attend the fair one or two nights.

WE HOPE HE IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE KIND IN LINCOLN.

Now, let's make the next week a week of "boosting" for the Union Labor Fair. Get one of the "Booster Club" cards and tie it to your button, and then vindicate your claim to membership.

The last week before the fair ought to find 2,500 union men and women thinking of nothing, dreaming of nothing, talking of nothing but the Union Labor Fair to be held at the auditorium during the whole of the first week in December.

And if every union man and woman in Lancaster county patronizes the fair to the extent of \$1 each, we'll have enough money after all expenses are paid, to make a payment of 50 per cent on the lot we are going to build that Labor Temple on one of these days in the not distant future.

O, yes; we came near forgetting—there is going to be a prize to the woman who helps most in disposing of that union made piano. A Modern Gas Range, high oven, and all the latest improvements. And it will be connected free of charge too, for the winner.

NOW BEGIN YOUR BOOSTING AND DON'T LET UP FOR A MINUTE UNTIL THE FAIR IS OVER.

If you think you can sell a few season tickets, call on the editor of *The Wagworker*. He'll provide you with as many as you want.

A CONVENTION OUTLOOK.

What a Minister Thinks of the Great Meeting at Minneapolis.

They look like old campaigners—these representatives of organized labor at the Minneapolis convention of the American Federation of Labor. Quick and alert to the true inwardness of every matter presented to the convention in speech and resolution—the man who can fool them has not yet appeared. And what a safety valve is that executive council. And what tremendous responsibilities are imposed upon it. When it seems impossible to settle a question on the floor of the convention, it is respectfully "referred to the executive council, with power to act." That the council manages to keep from incurring the enmity of pretty nearly everybody, is a testimony to their statesmanship and their wisdom. It is more than that—it is an indication of the profound respect and loyalty of the rank and file to that group of eleven men who are entrusted with such momentous interests. Fortunate, indeed, is it that they are not infallible, for in this they give hope to the rest of us who sometimes make mistakes.

The eleven standing committees are composed of men tried and true. They will digest the great mass of material which naturally comes to a federation convention, dealing with officers' reports, resolutions, laws, organization, labels, grievances, education, state organizations, and boycotts, and present it in such form as to greatly facilitate the important business of the convention. Sometimes continuing their success far into the night, these committees deserve the gratitude of those who have the privilege of enjoying the fruits of their toil, either as delegates or as members of local organizations who are "staying by the stuff."

Mass meetings and special meetings were arranged for in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, which resulted in new inspiration to those who have been so close to the work that the attention to details has shut out the larger vision, without which one's usefulness becomes greatly impaired. They will also serve to quicken those who have never really gotten into the movement, but have been content to be mere "by-standers."

As usual, the daily press is generous in the space devoted to the convention. Reports and interviews fill the columns, and photographs and caricatures are in demand. Too important is a meeting of labor's hosts to be ignored by even the most conservative newspapers.

Students of the social question and teachers of political economy are here to learn. They, too, have discovered that in the doings of the common people there is great significance.

So much in a general way for the twenty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. The reports of the delegates to their respective bodies carry the spirit and the atmosphere to the locals, where will be lived over again many of the scenes witnessed by their representatives.

REV. CHARLES STELZE. —LABOR FAIR— THE RIGHT SORT.

A Friend Who Helps to Boost the Good Work Along.

Ed. Hammond is a member of the Carpenters' Union, and he carries his unionism around with him all the time. Last Monday Hammond returned to Lincoln from a sojourn in Holdrege, where he had a job in hand, and he hiked right to *The Wagworker* office with the annual subscriptions of five of the union carpenters in Holdrege. He brought the money with him, too.

Now, *The Wagworker* is going to gladden the homes of five more union men. If about a thousand other union men in Lincoln would follow Ed. Hammond's example *The Wagworker* would have a list to be proud of. We wish we had 'em—a thousand like Hammond, we mean.

—LABOR FAIR— LOOK IT UP.

Labor Paper Boosting a Rank Union Hating Concern.

The Schenectady Labor Leader is rejoicing over a prospect that the National Cash Register Co. may remove from Dayton, Ohio, to Schenectady. The Leader ought to get busy and look up the record of this concern on the union proposition.

The National Cash Register Co. is an open shop outfit, will not recognize unions and insists upon exercising all rights when it comes to employing labor, and concedes none to the workman. It will be a bad day for the unions of Schenectady if this union hating outfit locates in that city, and the Leader ought to be warning the people against it instead of rejoicing and trying to "boost."

President Smith Suggests That We Get Busy

Brothers: Suppose we get busy. Is there any real reason why we should not take a firmer hold on the situation as it is today and work together for more and better results?

Are you willing to do your share? Will you do it? You, each of you, are entitled to three delegates to the central body. Have your delegates elected? Do they attend the central body meetings? I wish to appeal to the president of each local to personally look up his local's delegates and see if they are attending to their duties. If he finds they are, pat them on the back; if he finds they neglect their duties, he should see to it that they give way to delegates who will represent the local.

Many persons consult their own convenience in filling an important place. They ought not to do so. I know of delegates who have many times actually and sometimes seriously inconvenienced themselves, in order to look after their duties in bodies to which they have been appointed. This is the proper spirit!

As a central body, we can do more effective work for the whole if we have a fuller representation. We need the presence and advice of the delegations from every union, and we beg of you to take the action necessary to get yourselves represented in the central body. Great things are ahead of the C. L. C. in this city. It has much important business to consider and handle—business your local should take part in shaping up and pushing to successful completion.

Please be kind enough to get your delegations alive and active. Let's have a rousing meeting next Tuesday night.

We want to boost the labor fair. We want to hear what Maupin has to say about the Minneapolis meeting.

Be on hand. If not as an accredited delegate, then as a visitor.

I hereby extend an invitation to the presidents and secretaries of all locals to be present at the meeting next Tuesday.

Respectfully,
H. W. SMITH, Pres.

A BOX SOCIAL.

Capital Auxiliary Entertains in Its Usual Manner.

Capital Auxiliary entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wathan last Tuesday evening, a "box party" being the form of entertainment chosen. The attendance was unusually good and a splendid time was enjoyed by all present. "Flinch" and "high five" were indulged in, and also a literary game that provided a lot of mental exercise.

The luncheon hour was hailed with joy and the contents of the various boxes were enjoyed to the full. Mr. and Mrs. Wathan spared no efforts to entertain their guests, and the results were satisfactory all around. The printers who fail to attend the Auxiliary socials are missing out on a lot of pleasure.

—LABOR FAIR—

The Lincoln Telephone Co. employs a larger percentage of union men than any other public service corporation in Lincoln. Use the Automatic.

ISN'T THIS RICH?

Traction Company Yhining About Being Treated Unfairly.

One of the best jokes of the season is the whine now being put up by the Lincoln Distraction Co., about being treated unfairly by the city council and the people.

Hully, Gee! Wouldn't that darn your socks? After impudently telling the people of Lincoln to go to thunder; after arrogantly refusing to give the people relief from almost unbearable conditions, and after utterly ignoring the convenience of the people for years, the company, now that it is feeling the weight of an aroused people's wrath, comes into court with a whine that it is being given the worst of it. The very best the Lincoln Distraction Co. is entitled to is the worst of it. It deserves almighty little consideration from a people to whom it has given none at all.

The Lincoln Distraction Co. should not be allowed one single, solitary concession until it makes a few to the people. Before it is allowed to go any

further it should be compelled to stop its opposition to the six-for-a-quarter ordinance, to run its cars at least one hour later at night, and to pay decent wages to its employees. The latter matter, however, lies with the employees themselves. If they have the nerve and the sense to thoroughly organize and make a concerted demand for decent wages they can fix that part of it all right.

—LABOR FAIR— BULLY FOR THIS BARBER.

Goes to Jail Rather Than "Scab" on His Fellow Workmen.

Jack Connaghan is a union barber, but just now he is not working at his trade. He is in the guard house at Columbus barracks, Ohio. A short time ago Connaghan enlisted in the United States army and was immediately assigned to the position of regimental barber. He balked because the established price was a nickel for a shave and a dime for a hair cut.

"I'll not cut the union rate," declared Connaghan. "If you want me to shave you it will cost you fifteen cents, and if I cut you hair it will cost you a quarter."

The colonel ordered Connaghan to get busy at the regimental rate and Connaghan refused. Then he was arrested and sent to the guard house. "You can keep me in the guard house," said Connaghan, "but, d—d, if you can make me 'scab' on my union."

And Connaghan is "standing pat," too.

—LABOR FAIR— WOMAN'S LABEL LEAGUE.

Important Meeting Monday Night Demands a Full Attendance.

Matters of the utmost importance demands the presence of every member of the meeting of the Woman's Union Label League next Monday evening. Preparations for the League's part in the Union Labor Fair must be made, and all details attended to at this meeting. If the League is to make good the members must get together and make proper arrangements.

Let every member of the League make it a point to be present at the meeting Monday evening when the gavel falls.

—LABOR FAIR—

Your Automatic phone will be kept in repair by a union inspector. Use the Automatic.

REPRESENT THE PEOPLE.

Councilmen Should Not Forget They Are Servants, Not Masters.

If there are any members of the city council who imagine that the people are going to stand for any "monkey business" in this traction matter, the sooner they disabuse their minds of the idea the better. Several councilmen have shown a disposition to favor the Lincoln Distraction Co. unduly, and have interposed objections when ordinances were introduced calculated to make that arrogant and impudent corporation come to time. There is that N street matter, for instance. The Distraction company impudently refused to extend its service to accommodate the people, and as a result enterprising but indignant citizens got together, organized a company and proceeded to build some street railway. This new company asked for the privilege of building east on N street, and suddenly the Distraction company discovered that it wanted to build there, too.

The Distraction company is too late. The Citizens' company should by all means have the right-of-way. It should be encouraged in every way possible to extend its lines. In its short career it has wrought a wonderful transformation in the attitude of the Distraction company towards the traveling public, and the people have benefitted by the change. Let us have some more of the same kind of reformatory work. There is yet room for a lot of it.

—LABOR FAIR— A RIGHT TO STRIKE.

Massachusetts Supreme Court Renders a Decision of Great Interest.

The supreme court of Massachusetts has handed down an opinion that will be sweeping in its effects, and which will interest every labor union man in the country. The case was an appeal on an injunction to restrain a labor organization from striking.

The court said: "The right of laborers to organize unions and to utilize such organizations by instituting a strike is an exercise of the common law right of every citizen to pursue his calling, whether of labor or of business, as he in his judgment things fit. The unions have a right to determine what kind of workmen shall compose the union."

But the court held that a sympathetic strike was unlawful.