

# THE WAGWORKER



VOL. 3 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, DECEMBER 7, 1906 NO. 35

### FALSE PRIDE.

#### It Keeps Many Working Women from Bettering Their Condition.

Speaking recently before an audience made up of women bookbinders Denis A. Hayes, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association, and fifth vice president of the American Federation of Labor, touched especially on the treatment of the woman in industry, as compared to her treatment by the same men in society.

Continuing Mr. Hayes referred to the chivalrous courtesy accorded by American men to womanhood in their social or casual intercourse. He declared that the spirit which actuated Sir Walter Raleigh to lay his coat in the street that England's queen might pass without soiling her shoes was alive and dominant today among American men in their social life; that that spirit was inculcated in the minds of the boys in school and fostered in all the teachings they received.

But when it comes to the woman in industry all thought of chivalry is forgotten; the woman at work receives just the consideration her services will command from the commercial or "business" point of view. When the woman goes looking for a job the only consideration the employer is willing to accord her is a consideration of how little he can induce her to work for. Mr. Hayes made it clear that the only protection the woman in industry could hope for was the same protection her brother secured and she must secure it in the same manner—by uniting with other women in the particular industry in which she was engaged and demanding fair wages and decent conditions of employment.

Mr. Hayes also referred to the fact that one of the principal obstacles to the formation of women's unions is the false pride of the women workers themselves. Although compelled to work for a living many of them are disposed to think that the joining of a labor union would tend to lower them socially. This false pride, he said, is responsible in a very large degree for the failure of women workers to obtain the redress of grievances and the payment of a decent rate of wages. He strongly advised the women in the binderies to forget this false pride and to unite with the Women Bindery Workers' Union in an effort to secure better conditions.

### THEY ARE MONEY-MAD.

#### Parents Who Sell Their Children Into Virtual Slavery.

We of Nebraska boast that our state is first among the states of the union in point of education—that our percentage of illiteracy is smallest. It is a proud boast, and a laudable one.

But Nebraska is entitled to one distinction over which clean people are not doing much boasting, and that distinction is the shameful fact that Nebraska is one of the few states which has no law on the books to prevent the employment of child labor.

We are quick to demand that our legislative candidates shall make pledges as to how they will vote as to tax laws, and indeed on all questions affecting our pocketbooks. But somehow in our mad desire for dollars we appear to forget the interests of the children, and year after year, this proud state of Nebraska bears the shame of being one of the few states of the union which permits the employment of child labor. The question of child labor does not come as close home to the people on the farms and in small cities and towns as it does to the people of our only large cities—Omaha and Lincoln. In those cities today, and especially in the packing houses of South Omaha, may be found hundreds of little children working for wages—children so small and so tender in years that it were better they should be at home with mother, if not in school. It is true we have a compulsory education law in this state, and that law is supposed to compel the attendance at school of all children under fourteen years of age. But the packing house people find it easy to evade the law. Money is powerful, and it leads fathers and mothers to perjure themselves in reference to the ages of their children in order that their greed for money

may be gratified by receipt of the salary of the little workers in the packing houses.

We are in the habit of speaking of the rich as the only ones who sell their souls for money. But that is a mistake. Many poor parents in the cities not only sell their souls, but also the health and often the lives of their children in order to win money. The boasted educational percentage in Nebraska does not appear strong enough to withstand the temptation held out to parents by the employers of child labor in the cities. Perhaps while our educational standing has risen so high our moral standing has fallen very low. At any rate we need a strong statute on the books to prevent child labor in the factories in Nebraska, and the Herald hopes that all candidates for legislative offices may be induced to pledge themselves in favor of such a statute.—Fremont (Neb.) Herald.

### SUMMONED TO WEeping WATER.

Jay Worley, of Typographical Union, was called to Weeping Water the first of the week by the sad news that his sister was dangerously ill. She contracted a case of blood poisoning, and when Mr. Worley was summoned it was not believed that she could survive many hours.

## "Trades Union and Church" The Mutual Relations

Mr. Will M. Maupin, editor of The Wageworker and a member of Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209, will speak on the above topic at the

### First Baptist Church SUNDAY EVENING, DEC. 9

All who are interested in the labor question, and especially those interested in the child labor problem, are cordially invited to attend this meeting, which is free to all. The services preliminary to the address will begin promptly at 7:30. Special music will be rendered.

### EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY LAW.

#### The Attorney General Says He Will Intervene to Enforce It.

It is announced that with the approval of President Roosevelt the attorney general of the United States will intervene when the first case under the new employers' liability law comes up for the purpose of sustaining and enforcing the constitutionality of the law.

This law was passed by congress last winter, by which a remedy is afforded to all employees of the interstate railroads for death or injury incurred in their service through the negligence of interstate railroads or any of its employees.

It is understood that when the attorney general decided to intervene in these cases he was in possession of information that many of the railroads had decided to enter upon a systematic effort to break down the law. This conclusion is said to have been reached at a meeting of railroad attorneys held in Louisville, Ky., a month ago. It is expected that a test suit will be brought soon in Kentucky and another in New Jersey.

Canton, O., car repairers are on strike for an increase of two cents an hour.

### POST AND PARRY PLEAS.

#### Reports From Lincoln Labor Fair Tickle Them Very Much.

New York, December 6.—(Special Dispatch to The Wageworker.) David M. Parry and Charles W. Post, union busters extraordinary, are in the city attending the annual meeting of their union-busting organization. The Wageworker representative interviewed them concerning the Lincoln labor fair and asked them to express their opinions.

"We are under obligations to those true union men who have shown their hatred for agitation by withholding their patronage from the fair," said Mr. Post. "While those men carry union cards we know we can always depend upon them in a pinch. The men who have refused to patronize your labor fair have conferred a favor on us, and when trouble comes we will not forget them. We always stand by our friends as long as it is profitable to us."

"I am not surprised that the Lincoln labor fair was a failure," said Mr. Parry. "Union men are great talkers, but when it comes to doing anything they want to see big money in it for themselves. The idea that union men would stand together for a general principle made me laugh when I heard about the fair. Of course it was a financial failure. Perhaps the union men would have turned out to the fair if the management had paid them overtime for their work. We have made note of Lincoln for reference when trouble arises in the middle west. It seems to be a good recruiting ground for us when we have trouble with the arrogant and selfish trades unions."

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

#### Regular Meeting Brings Out Some Constitutional Amendments.

The Typographical Union meeting last Sunday was better attended than usual and considerable business was transacted. A couple of amendments to the constitution were offered and will be considered at the next meeting. Relief was granted to a couple of sick members and the label question was again brought up and threshed over for an hour or two. It was decided to hold an opening meeting on December 16 and invite the members of the allied printing trades to be present and enjoy a "smoker." The object is to advance the label cause. A committee consisting of Messrs. Leaden and Peat was appointed to look after the principal arrangements. The hall has not yet been designated, but every member of the allied printing trades will be duly notified in ample time.

### CITIZENS' COMPANY WON.

#### City Council Grants Right to Extend Lines on N Street.

There was a lot of oratory turned loose at the city council meeting last Monday night, and the unusually large crowd of spectators got the worth of their money. The chief controversy was over the matter of whether the Traction Co. or the Citizens' Co. should have the right to build east on N street. If the Traction Co. had any friends in the council they managed to keep pretty quiet, for the sentiment in favor of the Citizens' Co. was overwhelming. As a result the Citizens' Co. was given the N street right which means a better car service for northeast Lincoln in the very near future.

Mayor Brown has given it out flat that he will oppose granting any street railway company the right to build on R street. That is the principal route to Wyuka cemetery, and the street is too narrow for car tracks and a suitable roadway. In this stand the mayor will have the support of the people generally.

### A CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

The issue of The Wageworker for December 14th will be the annual Christmas number. We want some news from every organization in the city for this issue. Secretaries will please take notice and help their locals and The Wageworker by getting busy at once.

## SOME VERY PLAIN WORDS

The Union Labor Fair has been a magnificent success—not.

The union men and women of Lincoln have rallied to its support—just like the old woman kept tavern.

But despite discouragements and indifference on the part of those who should have been most interested, the fair has been a success in every way except that of attendance. Every promise of the management has been carried out. The attractions have been of the best, and have cost more than was taken in at the door. And while the fair has scored a practical failure from the financial standpoint, the management feels that it has done all that could have been asked of it.

The lessons learned from experience always prove costly, but they are usually worth the investment. A man is to be pardoned for stubbing his toe once on a nail, but he is a fool if he stubs his toe the second time on the same nail. The manager of the labor fair stubbed his toe on the labor fair nail once—he will not do it again. He will go around the other way after this, and let those who want to risk the stubbing take the path that he has just finished.

But the manager does not regret a dollar that he has expended in an effort to advance the cause of unionism. He only regrets the indifference of union men and women. Perhaps he can stand to lose the few dollars better than a majority of the indifferent unionists can stand it to have their indifference known. To the faithful few who have helped in every way they could to make the fair a success, the manager returns his heartfelt thanks. To those who were indifferent, and to the many who "knocked," he desires to express renewed assurances of his distinguished consideration.

The fair opened Monday evening, W. J. Bryan and Governor Mickey being the speakers for the occasion. Mr. Bryan said in part: "There is a gulf existing between the toiling class and those that live without toiling; but at the present time brain and muscle are working in closer harmony than they have for many years. Today the world does not care for the non-producer, and the laborer ranks much higher than the idle man who lives on the income left him. The dignity of labor has been so proclaimed over the land and impressed on the minds of the people that it will not be long until the world will point the finger of disgrace at the man who lives in idleness. The moral question is also involved in this. A man who refuses to work cannot attain a high moral standard. The real pauper is not the man living in poverty, but the one that does not produce anything. The pauper may be found among the rich classes, where idleness takes the place of work. If all the laboring men should quit work now the world would starve in six months, because the country is only that far ahead in supplies. No man can be better trusted than the laboring man, and no one is more interested in good government than he who toils."

Governor Mickey spoke briefly and paid a high tribute upon the men who help the world by producing something, and said he preferred to shake the hand of the man who produces than to shake the hands of the man who consumes what others produce. He asserted that upon the honesty and courage of American workingmen depended the perpetuity of the nation, and said that 88 per cent of the men who fought the battles of the Civil war were recruited from the farms, the mines and the workshops. They, too, constitute the great balancing force in our civic life.

Governor Mickey's friendship for labor was evidenced in all he said and his remarks were listened to with closest attention and loudly applauded.

Dr. Mayhew and Mr. Enyeart kindly gave their services to make the opening night a success. Dr. Mayhew presided at the piano and Mr. Enyeart gave a vocal selection that was finished and artistic, and both singer and accompanist were warmly applauded by the small but appreciative audience.

Kimbro, a local magician, entertained for a few minutes with some feats of sleight of hand, and the manager made announcement of the various contests. Then the dancing began and continued until time to close for the night.

Tuesday night Booth Bros., acrobats, Sprague, magician and Karcher, all-round entertainer, entertained the people and gave a performance that deserved a much larger audience. Tuesday evening the interest in the various contests warmed up a little, and especially

was the set of dishes a center of attraction. But the attendance on both Monday and Tuesday night was not much larger than should have been committee meetings to arrange for the fair.

Wednesday night was the first showing of interest, and the crowd was large—for the admission was free. The baby show attracted a great deal of attention and doubtless helped to draw the crowd. Just how large the crowd would have been had admission been charged is problematical. Booth Bros. and Sprague again entertained, and some of the contests warmed up still more. The homely men's contest is drawing the most attention, though there were rumors of something doing in the dinner set contest.

Thursday night the attendance was again miserably small compared with what it should have been. Union men who are always loud in their union talk have attended the fair just once—the night it was free. Less than one-half of the total paid admissions have been union men or their wives, and up to and including Thursday night there were less than 400 paid admissions.

### IT IS A DIRTY, DOWNRIGHT SHAME, AND THE UNIONISTS OF THIS CITY AND VICINITY OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES.

The piano contest drags along slowly but surely. Several ladies are trying to earn the gas stove by selling tickets and are meeting with considerable encouragement.

As The Wageworker goes to press Friday night the next to the last session of the fair is in progress. The total attendance up to and including Friday night has not been what it should have been on any one night. Because of indifference, "knocking," jealousy and lack of union enterprise the first labor fair ever attempted in Lincoln has been a miserable financial failure. This means that the first labor fair in Lincoln will probably be the last one. The gentlemen who have worked hard to make this fair a success are not very apt to try it again. They are perfectly willing to let some one else enjoy the honor.

And now the editor of The Wageworker wants to say a personal word in explanation of his connection with the fair. Two years ago an effort was made to arrange for a labor fair and a committee appointed to look into the matter. The committee accomplished nothing. Six weeks ago Mr. Maupin made a definite offer to the Central Labor Union to this effect: If the Central Labor Union would get behind the enterprise, and if the local unions would advance enough to guarantee the rent, he would undertake to arrange for the fair, sell all the exhibitors' space, pay all postage and printing bills up to the opening of the fair—in fact stand for all the preliminary expense, attend to every arrangement and look after the fair while in progress. If the enterprise cleared \$300 Mr. Maupin was to be paid \$150 to reimburse him for his expenses. This offer was accepted.

It has come to Mr. Maupin's ears that certain alleged union men in Lincoln have hinted that there was a "graft" somewhere, and that they didn't propose to give up their good money to help Maupin. To all such Mr. Maupin wishes to say that he is not handling one cent of the funds of the fair and will not; that the men who are charging "graft" are miserable and contemptible liars, and that if there is any man willing to reimburse Mr. Maupin for money already expended by him, and for which he holds receipts, that man may have Mr. Maupin's contract with the Central Labor Union. This little labor fair experiment promises to cost Mr. Maupin about \$125, and while he can ill afford to lose the amount he would much rather lose it than to have lost a goodly portion of his faith in the enterprise, loyalty and unionism of about 75 per cent of the men who carry union cards and claim to be union men. If there are those who entertain suspicions about the financial management of the fair, Mr. Maupin cordially invites them to confer with him and Evans of the Cigarmakers and Chaplin of the Barbers. These two gentlemen are handling all the money.

It is still possible for the unionists of the city to pull the labor fair out of the hole. If every union man who receives this paper will attend Saturday night, take hold of some of the contests and push them along, and will do a square union man's part, the fair will more than pay out. The manager of the fair does not ask for any sympathy. He is getting well along in years but he is still a pupil in the school of experience and he is willing to pay the tuition fee.