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WAGELABORER

WILL M. MAUPIN, EDITOR

Published Weekly at 137 No. 14th St., Lincoln, Neb. One Dollar a Year.

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"Printers' Ink," the recognized authority on advertising, after a thorough investigation on this subject, says: "A labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison with circulation. A labor paper, for example, having 2,000 subscribers is of more value to the business man who advertises in it than an ordinary paper with 12,000 subscribers."

LABOR'S WATCHWORD.

We will stand by our friends and administer a stinging rebuke to men or parties who are either indifferent, negligent or hostile, and, whenever opportunity affords, secure the election of intelligent, honest, earnest trade unionists, with clear, unblemished, paid-up union cards in their possession.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

For the third time The Wageworker wishes its readers, and the whole body of organized labor everywhere, a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year." For almost three years this humble little newspaper has been endeavoring to advance the cause of trades unionism. It believes that its efforts have been successful in some measure. It knows that organized labor today, despite the attacks from without and indifference from within, is in better shape than ever before. Earnestness, loyalty and zeal are more manifest than ever before, and the growth has been substantial even if not so rapid as some of us might wish. Christmas should be a happy season among organized workingmen, for today labor is more universally employed than ever before in the history of the country. Labor is getting a better proportion of what it creates than ever before, even if it still lacks very much of getting all that it deserves. Fraternity has taken on a new meaning, and the fraternal spirit is stronger than ever before in the history of the labor movement. A new era is dawning in the industrial world. The true worth of those who produce is becoming to be appreciated, and the man who performs honest work is coming to be more highly thought of than the consumer who lives on what others produce. Labor's awakening and emancipation is drawing nearer with every dawning day. God speed the day when it shall come into its own. And now again, this time in the language of Tiny Tim, The Wageworker, filled with the spirit of the glad anniversary which commemorates the birth of the Carpenter of Galilee, exclaims, "God bless us, every one!"

THAT JAPANESE TROUBLE.

The little trouble over the school question in San Francisco need worry no one. The people of California have a right to run their public schools as they see fit, and all talk of federal interference is pure rot. The Japanese have not been deprived of school facilities for their children. San Franciscans merely objected to furnishing free schools for adults. They objected to having Japanese men and women of from twenty-five to forty years of age mingling with the white children of from six to twelve years of age, but they did not deny these Japanese all school facilities. They established separate schools for the Japanese, just as Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas and a dozen other states maintain separate schools for negroes. In this the San Franciscans were clearly within their rights, and President Roosevelt's remarks in his message were wholly beside the question. It is not a matter for the federal government to handle.

The trouble with these Japs is that since their little victory over a country weakened to the point of dissolution by internal troubles, they have grown altogether too "chesty." We have praised them and made so much over them that they really entertain the idea that they can whip all of creation. They are becoming a nuisance with their "swelled headed" ways and their prestige on land and sea. We cheerfully admit that the Jap is quite a fellow, and that he is really a phenomenon. But there are a few things he can not do, no matter how hard

he tries. Among them is the little job of making Americans kow-tow to him. Another is the little job of bluffing Uncle Sam. The Jap will be treated with all courtesy and fairness, but Americans are going to protect their school system, their traditions and their spirit despite the insolence of the chesty Jap. And the sooner the saucy little yellow man learns this the better it will be for him.

SHEA, YOUNG AND THE REST.

We have been reading the Associated Press reports of the trial of Con Shea in Chicago with a great deal of allowance for prejudice on the part of the managers of the Associated Press. But there is no doubt that Shea, Young and the rest of that Teamsters' bunch have been guilty of acts that deserve not only the extreme punishment of the law but the denunciation of organized labor everywhere. We have an utter abhorrence for the methods pursued by Con Shea, but bad as he is he is no worse than the men who have worked their revenge on him by turning state's evidence, and at the same time preserving their own precious hides.

Organized labor, made up as it is of honest men, with only here and there a thug or a rascal, will not defend Shea and his methods. On the contrary they will denounce them and will lend every effort to mete out the punishment that their crimes deserve. Organized labor has learned a bitter lesson, and its real members no longer resort to violence. The labor troubles of the last decade have been brought about by men whose unionism is of the doubtful order. Just as joining a church does not of necessity make a Christian of a man, so does joining a union not always make a trades unionist of a man. Trades unionism is a matter of education, not of carrying a card, and the old trades unionists long ago learned the utter futility of resorting to violence. They now depend upon moral suasion, the justice of their cause and the sympathy of the public. The printers' strike is an evidence of this. For over a year that strike has been in progress, but to date not one act of violence has been charged, although two or three men have been convicted of exercising their rights as American citizens despite the injunction of a subservient judge. The printers have spent over three millions of dollars in their fight during the last year—and they have won a victory. They struck only as a last resort, and when they did strike they kept within the letter and the spirit of the law, and today they have the sympathy of the general public. The Chicago teamsters, by their actions, forfeited public sympathy early in the strike, and recent developments demonstrate again, and with renewed emphasis, that no body of organized workingmen can afford to violate the law or resort to violence.

May the Christmas of every reader of The Wageworker, and of every member of his or her family—and of all men, women and children everywhere—be a merry one, and may their New Year be a prosperous and a happy one. There is plenty of all to go around if we will just distribute it rightly.

Organized labor has suffered already too much by the actions of such misrepresentatives as Con Shea. Let honest union men get together for the purpose of weeding out the grafters, the disturbers and the rioters. We must have the sympathy of the general public if we would win.

The situation in Chicago is bad enough, but the truth will not hurt. It is absolutely false that Con Shea called the strike of the teamsters. The strike was voted on by each separate local and carried overwhelmingly by a vote of the entire membership.

It did not need the denial of the head official of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen to disprove the idiotic charge that firemen were willing to take the places of engineers who saw fit to walk out to enforce a demand for better conditions.

The Union Busters' Alliance, through its attorney, Timothy J. Mahoney of Omaha, is going to bust the unions by resort to the anti-trust laws. Wouldn't that jar you?

Post's "Square Deal" newspaper says it is in favor of stringent laws against child labor. To be sure it is. And it is also against their enforcement.

By the way, while enjoying the Christmas season, do not forget that there will be a city election in Lincoln next spring.

At any rate the Union Labor Fair begun under many discouragements, ended in quite a blaze of glory.

One way to make Christmas mean something is to do something that will

make some sorrowing or suffering brother or sister feel better for having seen the Christmas season come and go.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
You don't have to wait until January 1 to resolve to look for the label.
The labor fair was a financial success despite the indifference of a majority of the union men of the city.

A Christmas gift with the union label on it would please any genuine union man. Patronize The Wageworker's advertisers.
After all, does it appear reasonable that Con Shea would have accepted \$300 for calling a strike that he could have demanded and received \$5,000 for not calling?

Congress is about to pass a ship subsidy bill. It is asked for by rich men who want additional graft. The "labor bills," however, met with a cold reception from this same congress.

UNIONS AND THE IMMIGRANTS.

Trades unionism is doing more to Americanize the immigrant than any other institution, not excepting the church, according to the United States Labor Commissioner, in a recent report. It is teaching him the nature of the American form of government. In some of the older countries the word government is synonymous with oppression. In the labor union he gets away from his clannish instinct, which even his religion has not heretofore been able to accomplish. And he realizes that the best available means to save the body and better conditions is through the means of the union.—Clothing Trades Bulletin.

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