

State Historical Society

THE WAGEWORKER



VOL. 3 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA JANUARY 18, 1907 NO. 41

Brother Jones is Advertising Again

The Wageworker's bosom friend, L. O. Jones, manager of the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co., is advertising. It has been several weeks since The Wageworker gave any of its valuable time to Brother Jones, and for fear he may think we are slighting him we stop the press to insert a few remarks concerning the Jones advertising.

For many days an electrically illuminated sign by night, and a gaily colored sign by day has announced to the world "Girls Wanted," meaning that Brother Jones desires to augment the force engaged in the task of making overalls and shirts in his factory. If we remember rightly that sign has been there since last spring.

A display advertisement in the Journal-News during the last week conveys the thrilling information that "during the last two weeks we have added 25 girls to our force." Perhaps we can give you a better idea by giving the entire advertisement in reduced form. In the Journal-News it occupies a space two columns wide and two inches long. It reads as follows:

WE HAVE ADDED 25 GIRLS
To our force in the last two weeks and CAN USE 25 MORE AT ONCE.
Apply quickly. Steady work. Good wages.
LINCOLN OVERALL & SHIRT CO.
Corner 14th & P Sts.

The Wageworker cheerfully gives Brother Jones the benefit of this special advertising. He is welcome to it. We give it to him for the reason that he could not buy space in The Wageworker at any price under existing circumstances.

But after you have read and digested the above interesting advertisement which is displayed, we beg leave to call your attention to another Jones advertisement. This one does not occupy display space, however. Quite the contrary. It is tucked away in small type among the "want" notices. Under the special heading of "Wanted" in the Journal-News appears the following:

"ROOMS and board in private residences at reasonable prices, for 25 girls. Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co." Now, after carefully perusing both of Brother Jones' advertisements does anything occur to you? No? Why, that's very strange.

If the new girls in his employ were Lincoln girls, why advertise for room and board for them?

Why, of course!
If he really has added twenty-five girls to his working force after months of persistent advertising, and wants room and board for them in private residences, it follows as night the day that the new girls were obtained outside of Lincoln.

Now why didn't he get Lincoln girls? Can it be that there are none in Lincoln who need employment?

Or is it possible that there is a dearth of employment in the country districts? Or is it possible that Brother Jones has painted such a pretty picture of steady work and good wages" that a lot of country girls have been persuaded to come to Lincoln where they can work for only nine hours a day and on Saturday haul their wages home in a hay wagon to spend as they please—most of it for board and room?

There is something peculiar about all this when you compare the two advertisements and ponder over them. The longer you ponder the more peculiar it seems.

We further notice by a recent newspaper article that Brother Jones has equipped his factory with a reading room. That's good. After a garment worker has bent over one of Brother Jones' machines for nine hours she can saunter over into the reading room and spend the rest of the day reading. Lovely scheme. She can sit there in an easy chair and read until she grows weary. Then she can go back to the sewing machine and rest. They used to work ten hours a day in Brother Jones' factory, but shortly after the appearance of a fac simile check in The Wageworker the number of hours per day was reduced to nine. This was a magnificent concession, seeing that the girls work on a piece system. The unfortunate woman from whom that \$2.42 check was given for

a whole week's work is not working nine hours a day at the Jones' factory. Or if she is she was taken back after being discharged because the check, unbeknown to her, appeared in The Wageworker.

It is because we are a real friend to Brother Jones that we hasten to give him some advice which, if followed, may make it much easier for him to secure help. Let him establish a boarding house, a theater, a summer garden and a concert annex to his plant and pay the union scale of wages, which is by no means an exorbitant scale. We believe the highest price paid in any union overall factory for making overalls is less than \$1 a dozen.

Brother Jones continues to advertise that he has added twenty-five girls to his force "during the last two weeks. If that is strictly true he has added about 200, for the advertisement has been running quite a long time.

ALDRICH OF BUTLER.

Printing Expert of the Senate Objects to City Prices.

Senator Aldrich of Butler is evidently the printing expert of the senate. He objected to the estimates for printing the senate journal. "Why, we can get it done for a lot less money in the country," he declared. Sure thing! And there are printers right here in Lincoln who would make better senators than Aldrich and do it for \$3 a day. But they wouldn't do it because they wouldn't "scab" on the honorable senators. Senator Aldrich may be an expert on printing, but it's dollars to doughnuts he doesn't know the difference between an em-quad and a galley rack.

The state had an experience with "country work" two years ago. It paid a "country printer" more for a very inferior job of house and senate record printing than it is now asked to pay for work from Lincoln shops that have a record for turning out first-class work. Two years ago the expense of preparing the copy for the printers and furnishing mimeograph copies of the proceedings daily to house and senate was \$4,324, and the mimeograph copies were "bum" and the book job at the end of the session an almighty poor specimen. This year it is proposed to print the proceedings daily and bind the whole at the end of the session for practically the same money. Expert Aldrich objects and wants to have it done in the country because it is cheaper.

It might be possible to get "cheaper" senators than some we have, but we doubt it.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES.

Last Sunday's Meeting Slimly Attended for Various Reasons.

The special mass meeting of the Allied Printing Trades last Sunday was slimly attended. About fifteen were present. The small attendance was due partly to the fact that a lot of men were working overtime, and still others were either forgetful or indifferent, or both. Little of moment was done. The committee on permanent headquarters failed to report, only one member of the committee being present. The committee was discharged and another appointed to look after a room which could be used as headquarters without incurring an expense to exceed \$12 a month, of which the Typographical Union is to bear one-half.

Some very excellent cigars were passed around with the compliments of manufacturers who were mentioned after the former meeting.

VIOLATED AGREEMENT.

Fifteen hundred Polish employees of the Chicopee, Mass., textile mills struck for an increase in wages last Monday. The strike caused a closing down of the mill. The Poles struck despite the protests of the Textile Workers' executive committee, and in violation of agreement. The executive committee has ordered them back to work on pain of being expelled from membership.

A SORE HAND.

President Coffey of the Typographical Union has been laid off for a week on account of a sore hand. The tendons of the left hand were strained, producing a couple of swellings that necessitated the use of the surgeon's knife. The hand is now better and Mr. Coffey is again leading the life out of a "Merg."

TINWORKERS GET INCREASE.

The tinworkers employed by the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., a subsidiary concern of the United States Steel Co., have received a 2 per cent increase. The increase came after an investigation of the concern's books by the Amalgamated Association of Iron Sheet and Tin Workers.

PATRONIZE YOUR HOME INSTITUTIONS

Where you earn your money is the best place to spend it.

Let Lincoln workingmen remember that important fact. Every dollar earned in Lincoln and spent outside of Lincoln is a dollar taken away from the local volume of money, and in time will re-act on the wage earners.

Every dollar spent in Lincoln adds to the volume of business, and every addition to business means more work for wage earners.

These statements are axiomatic. An axiom is a self-evident truth.

There is no reason whatever why a Lincoln wage earner should buy a pound of groceries, a stitch of clothing, a dollar's worth of fire, accident or life insurance, a piece of furniture, a yard of carpet, or anything else, outside of Lincoln. All these things may be purchased as cheap or cheaper in Lincoln than elsewhere. You know your local merchants. They are responsible, and if their wares are not up to requirements they will make good. The catalogue houses are financially responsible, of course, but if the goods they sell are not satisfactory the purchaser has no recourse. Every dollar spent with Chicago catalogue houses is a dollar taken from Lincoln, and that dollar never comes back to Lincoln. A dollar spent with your home merchant remains in Lincoln, and sooner or later some wage earner gets it.

Your local merchant will help you if you are in the hole. He will give you reasonable credit, and in case of sickness will stand your friend. The catalogue houses do not know you, will not trust you and after they get your money they don't give a tinker's dam whether you live or die. Your local merchants pay taxes to help support the schools where the children of Lincoln wage earners are educated. The Chicago catalogue houses do not pay a cent towards the support of Lincoln schools. Lincoln merchants pay taxes to help keep the streets clean and well lighted and the city library open. The catalogue houses do not pay a cent in Lincoln for that purpose.

Last year the merchants of Lincoln voluntarily subscribed upwards of a thousand dollars to improve the new city park, which will be enjoyed by the wage earners of Lincoln and their children. The catalogue houses will not subscribe a cent in a thousand years for that beneficent purpose.

When you were out of work a month or two ago, was it the local merchant or the catalogue house that gave you credit and trusted you until you got work and made the money to meet the bill? The local merchant of course. You would have suffered and your family would have suffered if you had been compelled to depend on the catalogue house.

Stand by your local merchant. Spend your money at home, and you will be able to make more money to spend.

Home first, the world afterwards. That's a mighty good motto for any city to follow.

Patronize home institutions and home merchants unless you know them to be the enemies of organized labor.

STERO-TYPERS.

The proposition to create the \$500 death benefit passed in the referendum. In order to get this benefit every member must be in good standing with the local union. All dues and assessments must be paid up to the current month. Dues and assessments must be paid, and why not be on time with them and not run the risk of being deprived of this \$500 in case of death.

MINE WORKERS.

The eighteenth annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America began at Indianapolis last Tuesday. The convention will be in session ten days and about six hundred delegates are expected. The general condition of the union is good, there being only a few minor troubles in existence. The convention will not have anything sensational to discuss or transact.

Liberal Reward For Enterprising Kidnapers

The decision of the United States supreme court in the case of Moyer and Hayward demands the close attention of union men throughout the country. If that decision stands no man is safe. Moyer and Hayward were abducted from the state of Colorado and taken to Montana, where they were indicted on the charge of complicity in the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg. In order to get Moyer and Hayward within the jurisdiction of the Montana courts they were kidnapped from Colorado, through connivance with the Colorado authorities. The supreme court of the United States has declared that this kidnapping was all right. With all the horrible facts before it the honorable court—and courts are always made up of honorable men—said:

"Looking first at what was alleged to have occurred in Colorado touching the arrest of the petitioners and their deportation from the state, we do not perceive that anything done there, however hastily or inconsiderately done, can be adjudged to be in violation of the constitution of the United States. EVEN IF IT BE TRUE THAT THE ARREST AND DEPORTATION OF MOYER, HAYWARD AND PETTIBONE FROM COLORADO WAS BY FRAUD AND CONNIVANCE, TO WHICH THE GOVERNOR OF COLORADO WAS A PARTY, THIS DOES NOT MAKE OUT A CASE OF VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE APPELLANTS (MOYER, HAYWARD AND PETTIBONE) UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."

Now let that monstrous decision percolate through your craniums! Kidnapped and deported by violence and connivance between state officials. BUT THAT DOES NOT VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF THE VICTIMS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES!

Is any man safe while that monstrous decision stands as the law of the land?

A few years ago William Goebel, governor-elect of Kentucky, was assassinated as he was walking toward the state house in Frankfort. Governor Frank Taylor, who was about to retire from office and who would be the political beneficiary by the death of Goebel before he took the oath of office, was charged with being implicated in the crime. Taylor fled to Indiana. The governor of Indiana was a republican, and Taylor was also a republican, the first republican elected to the governorship in Kentucky for many years. The Kentucky authorities made a formal demand on the governor of Indiana for the return of Taylor. The demand was refused. Taylor went to Pennsylvania, and again a demand was made for his extradition, and again refused. Although charged with murder, Taylor has been protected by the republican governors of Indiana for the past ten years.

Under the decision of the supreme court in the Moyer-Hayward case, any man is at liberty to organize a sneaking posse of Kentuckians and cross over into Indiana, sandbag Taylor and drag him back to Kentucky to face the charge of murder. The supreme court says this would not be a violation of Taylor's rights under the constitution of the United States. Or a body of Hoosiers can kidnap Taylor, take him to the Ohio river and turn him over to the Kentucky authorities. The supreme court of the United States says this would be perfectly legal and proper.

The Appeal to Reason, Girard, Kas., leading organ of the socialist movement, offers a reward of \$1,000 in gold to the person or persons who will kidnap ex-Governor Taylor and return him to the state officials of Kentucky, in which state he is wanted on charge of being accessory to the murder of William Goebel. The Wageworker wishes it could add another thousand dollars to this offer. It can not, but it will do all it can, and hereby offers to add \$25 to the reward offered by the Appeal to Reason. It believes a score or more of other labor papers in the United States will do the same thing.

Let some enterprising men kidnap Taylor, legally under the decision of the supreme court, and turn him over to the Kentucky authorities. Then we will see if the supreme court will de-

cide that a rich and influential politician must stand up to the rack and take the same medicine administered to poor and unimportant workmen. ONE THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS REWARD TO THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO WILL KIDNAP EX-GOVERNOR TAYLOR AND RETURN HIM TO KENTUCKY.

FISH AND FOWL.

Husband Being "Well Known Merchant" Name Was Suppressed.

From the Lincoln Daily Star of Tuesday, January 15, we learn that "the wife of a highly respected business man" was detected in the act of shoplifting at one of the department stores. We further learn from the same source that "only the good name of her husband saved her from being taken to the police station." And still further we learn that the woman "ranks high in one of the aristocratic churches of the city."

How fortunate for this woman that she was the wife of a respected "business man" instead of being the wife of a "common mechanic." Otherwise she would have been haled to the police station and booked, thus casting a shadow on the home of the workingman. But she wasn't. Her husband has money. He is no common laborer, mind you. He is a "business man," therefore entitled to more consideration than the inferior clay that wears greasy overalls. The workingman is "fish" to be dragged in without regard to family connections. The "respected business man" is to be treated with great consideration. It reminds us of the time when Charley Mosher was given the awful sentence of five years for stealing three-quarters of a million from widows and orphans in Lincoln, and another fellow who stole \$9 was given the wholly inadequate sentence of fifteen years at the same term of court.

We'd like very much to know the name of this "respected business man's wife." If we had it we would print it in The Wageworker. She is entitled to no more consideration than the wife of Bill Smithers, the day laborer—not as much in fact. And her husband is no more entitled to consideration than the humblest mechanic in the city.

BRAKEMAN KILLED.

Mangled Beneath Wheels While Making Air Hose Coupling.

Gladstone F. Tate, a Burlington brakeman, was run over and killed Friday night of last week. Tate was making an air coupling and while thus engaged a string of cars was shoved against the car on which he was working. Tate was thrown under the wheels and terribly mangled, dying in a very short time. The body was taken to the morgue.

Saturday evening Jacob Kern went to the morgue and gazed on the mangled corpse of Tate. Then Kern started home, and while on the railroad crossing near his residence was run down by a switch engine and killed. Kern was not an employe of the company and was killed because of his own negligence. Tate was killed while on duty, and surface indications are that his death was due to the carelessness of "fellow-servants," which will probably release the company from all damages.

EXPERT TYPOGRAPHERS.

Winners of Prizes Offered by Gas Company for Ad Display.

A month ago the Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co. offered prizes for the best set advertisements furnished by the company to the daily papers of the city. Ad men on the Star walked off with first and third prizes. H. F. Vandercreek winning first and Charles Reiger third. A Journal ad man won second prize, but The Wageworker was unable to secure his name in time for this week's issue. The Gas Co. announces that in a short time it will offer similar prizes to the ad men on the weeklies of the city.