

# THE WAGEWORKER



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## The Mouthings of a Ministerial Fathead

Organized labor, and especially the allied printing trades, has had some knowledge of the Rev. Dr. Jennings, head of the Western Methodist Book Concern, a non-union publishing house supported by the Methodist Episcopal church.

The Rev. Dr. Jennings reminds us of another minister, Rev. Charles Stelzle—which calls for an explanatory story.

A new congressman went down to Washington, all swelled up, of course, and after being shaved a half-dozen times by the same barber, made bold to ask if he reminded the barber of any other statesman.

"O, yes," replied the barber. "You reminded me of Daniel Webster the very first time I shaved you."

"Ah," purred the gratified congressman.

"Yes, sir; you remind me of Daniel Webster—you are so different."

And that is the way the blatant, sanctimonious, aristocratic union hater Rev. Dr. Jennings reminds us of the able, fair, genial, Christian union machinist-preacher, Rev. Charles Stelzle.

At Cincinnati, on December 23, Rev. Dr. Jennings opened his mouth and gave voice to the following interview: "The greatest tyranny on earth is the tyranny of an unsanctified labor union," declared the Rev. Dr. Jennings, head of the Western Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal church.

"In some places," said Dr. Jennings, "there is a belief on the part of the workingman that the church is prejudiced against him. This is not so. This idea originated largely from the hoarse mouthings of anarchistic agitators and from those who spend \$1,000 a year in saloons and not a cent in the church. Hardly anything more than such a misconception can be expected from those who hold their meetings on Sundays in saloons or back of saloons."

"The wage question has been crowded to the limit," Dr. Jennings declared.

"If this thing keeps on much farther the breaking point will certainly be reached."

"Why, brethren, I could tell you things that have happened right here in this book concern within the past fifteen months that would open your eyes. The Saturday afternoon's work is not half so hard on the workingman as his Sunday night's carousing. I tell you now that things are being crowded too hard in this country. There has got to be a limit."

"If the workingman does not go to church it is because the workingman does not want to go to church. I do not see that he goes to church any more when he gets his Saturday half holiday for recreation than he does when he has to work all day Saturday. It is the whisky bill that the workingman pays that is his ruination."

Lest it be thought that the editor of this humble little paper may be criticizing this eminently respectable and broad-clothed union hater without knowing him, let it be said that this humble editor has had some experience with the Rev. Dr. Jennings. It happened in Omaha some seventeen years ago when the big Methodist ecumenical council was held there, and Rev. Dr. Jennings edited and managed a daily paper which was printed in the World-Herald office. Arrogant, assured that all men are wrong who do not agree with him, puffed up, sleek after years in a soft job at a big salary while better men and better preachers were starving in poverty stricken parishes, this man, Rev. Dr. Jennings, presumes to judge his fellows in the face of the divine command, "Judge not, lest ye be judged."

Rev. Dr. Jennings resorts to deception in order to make his case. His statement that "in some places there is a belief on the part of workingmen that the church is prejudiced against him," is false—absolutely and unqualifiedly false. Rev. Dr. Jennings puts forth the claim in order to excuse the failure of preachers of his ilk to reach and hold the working classes. No workingman believes the church is prejudiced against him, but a very large percentage of American workingmen are convinced that the church is ignorant of industrial and social conditions, and this belief is strength-

ened when men holding high position in a great church body, like Rev. Dr. Jennings, manifest almost unbelievable ignorance on that question.

Rev. Dr. Jennings declares with a pious look of horror that he "could tell things right here in this book concern" that would "open your eyes." Horrible! And why doesn't he tell? Why doesn't he tell that he "rattled" that big publishing concern because the printers asked for an eight hour day and decent wages?

This pious aristocrat on a fat salary that men whom he denounced help to pay, defends his stand against the shorter work day and the Saturday half holiday by declaring that the men benefitted by these shorter hours spend all the more time in the saloons. Rev. Dr. Jennings bears false witness. But even if he told the truth—what of it? Would he make men get up so early in the morning and work so late at night for a paltry wage that they couldn't visit anywhere, even if they had the disposition to do so? The Jennings argument has been overthrown time and again by investigation.

We deprecate the fact that so much wage is spent in the saloons by workmen, but the fact that this is the case is no argument against the shorter workday or decent wages. By the same line of reasoning, and judging by recent happenings within a few miles of Lincoln—in which happenings a minister of Rev. Dr. Jennings' faith was mixed—it would be well to protect Methodist ministers from the results of their own folly by a certain procedure made popular several years ago in Falls City, Nebraska.

"The wage question has been crowded to the limit," says Rev. Dr. Jennings. "If this thing keeps on much longer the breaking point will be reached."

And mind you, the man who made this startling statement draws a salary ten times larger than the annual wage earned by the average mechanic in the United States. His employment is steady, his wage assured, his expenses paid, palatial office room furnished him, fed on the fat of the land by admiring constituents, clad in broadcloth, traveling in Pullman sleepers, petted and feted wherever he goes—this is the ministerial gentleman who tells the workingman who averages less than \$600 a year that he has "crowded the wage question to the limit!"

"It is the whisky bill that the workingman pays that is his ruination," says Rev. Dr. Jennings.

It must be admitted that the liquor bill of the American workingmen is big—too big. But that isn't what is hurting him most. Trust extortion, wage slavery, all the things which the church dares not thunder against for fear of alienating support by antagonizing the trust magnates in the pews—that is what hurts the American workingman most of all.

Rev. Dr. Jennings thunders against the liquor traffic from pulpit and through press. Ever hear him, or the average city preacher, thunder against child labor? Ever hear them thunder against the sweat shops? Ever hear them thunder against the fat, prosperous pewholders out in front who contribute so largely to the support of the church in gold coined from the blood and sweat and tears of helpless children, burdened widows and hopeless men? Ever hear them thundering "thou art the man" and telling the plain truth about business corruption?

Not they. Because the men employed in the Methodist Book Concern, of which Rev. Dr. Jennings is the well paid head, this professed preacher of the doctrine of the loving and gentle Carpenter of Nazareth denounces workmen as drunkards because they prefer other places than the church whose most prominent preachers denounce them. Because the men and women in his employ asked for an eight hour day and decent wages he denounces organized labor, says they have "crowded the wage question to the limit," and accuses them—all of them—of spending the hours thus secured for their own in the saloons. Rev. Dr. Jennings, well paid and well fed head of the great Methodist Book Concern, is one of those gentle, loving, humble followers of the Naz-

arene who would dearly love to make church going compulsory; who would drive the workmen from bed to work and from work to bed; who would keep him in ignorance so that priestly or clerical power could exploit him at leisure; who would rule by a theological despotism, and who would make the clergy the arbiters of man's welfare on earth and the judge of his fitness for heaven.

The Wageworker knows that Rev. Dr. Jennings' rabid mouthings of hatred for union labor does not represent the attitude of the great Methodist Episcopal church. He has been holding down a fat job so long he has gotten out of touch not only with Methodism, but with humanity and charity. For its own good the great Methodist church should repudiate this union hater, this slanderer of his betters, this misrepresentative of a great religious body whose machinery is kept in motion by the contributions of pious Methodists who toll for scant wages while Jennings draws his thousands.

### RAILWAY BROTHERHOODS.

Conductors and Trainmen Holding Meeting in Lincoln.

Conductors and Trainmen on the Burlington system are interested in a meeting of the general committee of adjustment of the Order of Railway Conductors and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, which began in Lincoln Friday morning. This is the regular biennial meeting of the two bodies. In point of numbers the meetings will not be large, there being about twenty representatives of each body. The meetings will be held in separate rooms at the Lincoln hotel.

J. P. Strickler of Galesburg, Ill., is the chairman of the adjustment committee of the Trainmen, a position paying \$3,800 a year. O. N. Marshall, also of Galesburg, acts in a similar capacity for the conductors, for which he draws a salary of \$2,500. There will probably be a warm contest over these offices. J. B. Tanney of Lincoln is a candidate for Marshall's place, as is G. W. Schwimley of St. Joseph.

Adjustment of wage schedules will occupy a large portion of the time of the two committees. There is some grievance because different runs approximate the same service are paid on different schedules. The idea is to make all as nearly alike as possible, work considered. The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen will endeavor to have a general grievance man permanently stationed in Lincoln, claiming that this is due because Lincoln is the most important center of the Burlington system. If such a man is secured he will draw \$2,500 a year and will be expected to give his entire time to the work.

The matter of insurance will also occupy some of the time of the two committees. Members of the committee claim that their orders now include 90 per cent of the men engaged in the business. The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen includes switchmen, and for some time there has been friction between that Brotherhood and the Railway Switchmen's Union. This matter may also come up for discussion.

After the two committees have met separately and transacted their special business, they will meet as one body for the consideration of business of mutual concern and interest.

### LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN.

Making Great Preparations for Annual Ball January 16.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, assisted by the auxiliary to that organization, is making great preparations for the annual ball of the order, which will be given at Pitt's Hall, 1124 N street, on the evening of January 16.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers has a strong and energetic local in Lincoln, and this local has a record for giving annual balls that are enjoyable in the extreme. Nothing will be left undone to make the coming ball a record breaker for pleasure. The tickets are \$1, extra ladies 50 cents each.

### THE HAVELOCK SHOPS.

Reopen After a Week's Shut Down With Increased Facilities.

Seven hundred shop men employed in the Burlington shops at Havelock were made happy on New Year's day by notice of resumption of work after a week's shut down. During the shut down a full electric lighting plant was

installed in the shops, and this will enable the men to get in more time and to better advantage. Most of the work is done under the piece system, and the new lighting plant will be a big help.

When the notice to close down was issued there was a fear that it meant a long period of suspension. Happily these fears have been dispelled, and congratulations are due the shop men and the people of Havelock.

### THE 1908 DIRECTORY.

Job Now on the Hooks at the North Print Shop.

The North Printing company is now at work on the 1908 City Directory, and it is expected to have the job ready for delivery early in February. It will be more complete than ever before, and will be a "credit to the establishment and to the city."

One year ago the North Printing company undertook to issue the City Directory in order that this big job might be given to Lincoln workmen. Of course they had a big fight against the outside directory concern, but for several reasons, not the least of which was the backing or organized labor in Lincoln, the Norths won out and gave the city the best directory it ever had.

### SCHAUPP WON OUT.

Beat Polk-McAvoy Directory People in Hotly Fought Suit.

Adam Schaupp is loyal to home institutions as well as a friend of organized labor. He demonstrated that when he refused to accept a city directory printed in Sioux City when he had been assured that it would be printed in Lincoln. Mr. Schaupp contracted to put \$20 into the directory provided it was printed in Lincoln, and the promise was made that it would be. But it wasn't and Schaupp refused to pay for it. The Polk-McAvoy company brought suit, and Schaupp fought it with vigor. The first suit was dismissed as the instance of the plaintiffs, and the second suit was fought out in Justice Stevens' court. Schaupp won the case and the directory people have served notice of an appeal to the district court.

Mr. Schaupp says he will fight it to the court of last resort, and wants it distinctly understood that he purposes having all the work he has done performed by Lincoln wage earners in Lincoln.

### COAT-OF-ARMS FOR A "SCAB."

The Flea, the Fly, the Magpie and the Ham Act Like "Scabs."

Mr. Jackson—Mr. Interlocutor, what do you call a man who will work longer hours and for less pay than a union man?

Interlocutor—Do you mean a non-union man?

Mr. Jackson—No (shaking his head); I don't think that is the name.

Interlocutor—Oh! maybe you mean a "scab?"

Mr. Jackson—That's it. Mr. Interlocutor, what do you think would be a good coat-of-arms for a "scab?"

Interlocutor—I have no idea, Mr. Jackson. What is yours?

Mr. Jackson—I think a good coat-of-arms for a "scab" would be a flea, a fly, a magpie and a ham.

Interlocutor—Will you please explain, Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson—A flea will bite a friend or foe; so will a "scab." A fly will bother a friend or foe; so will a "scab." A magpie will talk behind a friend's back; so will a "scab." A ham is to be smoked and hung before it is cured; so should a "scab."—Exchange.

### HIS THIRD BIRTHDAY.

Clarence Mickel, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fren Mickel, is laying plans to celebrate his third birthday pretty soon. He has only celebrated two in almost sixteen years. It so happens that Clarence was born on February 29, and four years ago there was no February 29, owing to the need of fixing up the calendar. But in 1908 there will be one, and on that day Clarence will celebrate his third birthday, which is his sixteenth anniversary.

### HERE'S WISDOM.

When every union man gets enough genuine unionism into his being to be true to the union label in his purchases he will find it much easier to fight and win his own battles.—La Crosse Labor Journal.

## The Live Ones in Good Old Lincoln

The Labor Temple committee held an informal meeting last Monday night at 127 North Twelfth street. Owing to the excess of holiday entertainment the attendance was the smallest in the committee's history, and no regular business was transacted. The committee spent an hour in informally talking over the future, and the sentiment was unanimous that the outlook was unusually bright.

Optimism was the rule. For a few weeks during the financial flurry several of the members were in the "dumps," but all that is past and gone now. New applications for stock are coming in right along, and there is every evidence that when the time comes for a red-hot campaign there will be things doing.

The committee will meet again next Monday night and prepare to turn over its books and accounts to the new board of directors to be elected January 7. Most of the present members will doubtless be retained, but there will be six new directors at large elected, and from the time the first regularly elected board of directors takes hold there will be a systematic campaign for funds. The present committee has not felt empowered to make any definite agreements binding the association, but has contented itself with outlining plans and getting the work of organization well started. It has succeeded to a remarkable degree and will turn the work over to the directors with a clear conscience.

Tuesday evening from 8 to 10 the polls will be open at 127 North Twelfth street for the election of six directors at large. Every stockholder is entitled to vote for six directors, casting as many votes as he holds shares.

### THE MUSICIANS.

Lincoln's "Baby Union" Union Rapidly Outgrowing Swaddling Clothes.

Lincoln Musicians' Union, No. 463, may be Lincoln's "baby union" in point of age, but it is about the most lusty infant one could imagine. When the enthusiasts began agitating for the organization of a local they thought it might be possible to secure thirty or forty members. But forty was about the limit. Today the Musicians' Union numbers 116 members, and there are more to follow. The organization is now complete, the constitution and by-laws are framed and adopted, and the local is ready for business.

The following officers have been elected to manage the local's affairs for the ensuing term:

President, W. T. Pinney.  
Vice President, W. R. Skinner.  
Financial Secretary, W. C. Norton.  
Recording Secretary, N. A. Otis.  
Sergeant-at-Arms, A. L. Blair.  
Directors, Steve Jelinek, William Quick, W. Abbott, A. L. Matson, Ole Olson.

Trustees, A. J. Bruce, W. W. Abbott, Robert Saffrick.  
The Musicians meet on the first and third Sundays in the month at 11 a. m., at Bruce's hall. At the meeting next Sunday delegates to the Central Labor Union will be selected, and steps taken to have the local represented on the Labor Temple committee.

### THE BARTENDERS.

Showing Up Strong in the Labor Temple Project These Days.

The Bartenders of Lincoln are pardonably proud of their activity in promoting the Labor Temple project. The union has taken a block of 100 shares and paid for them, being the second local to come through. In addition individual members are planking down their good money for shares and are selling other shares to friends of organized labor.

Herman Sundean played it fine on his many friends by getting married about a month ago and kept the matter a profound secret from even his closest friends until a couple of weeks ago. Then he fessed up and blushing-ly acknowledged the congratulations that were showered upon him.

During the year just closed the local union increased its membership and developed a more thorough union spirit than ever before witnessed in the ranks of the profession. The local

is prospering under the present regime.

The Wageworker acknowledges receipt of the season's greetings from Jere Sullivan, head of the International union. And may Jere live long and prosper.

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Will Meet in Fraternity Building Next Sunday Afternoon.

Lincoln Typographical Union will hold its first meeting in 1908 at the third floor hall of the Fraternity Building next Sunday afternoon. Because it is the first meeting of the new year, and also because there is a lot of important business to transact, the meeting should be large. The anniversary committee will have a report to make, and this is a matter that demands the co-operation of every loyal member.

Some new plans for pushing the label campaign will be outlined, and other matters of great importance will be given due attention.

### THE BARBERS.

Preparing to Start New Year With a Big Social Event.

The union barbers of Lincoln are preparing to start off the business of the new year with a social event that will be worth going miles to enjoy. The event will be pulled off on Wednesday evening, January 15, and will be in the nature of a smoker and oyster supper. The employing barbers will be asked to participate as the guests of the union, and the union will also invite non-union barbers with a view to becoming better acquainted and securing an opportunity for some effective organization work.

The local union has been prosperous during the year just closed. It has increased in membership, has secured some advantages and has maintained friendly relations. Its finances are in good shape and the outlook for the new year is bright. The union has taken a block of stock in the Labor Temple, and individuals are coming through, in a gratifying way.

The following officers have been elected for the ensuing term:

President, R. L. McBride.  
Vice-president, Joe Long.  
Financial secretary, A. L. Swinker.  
Treasurer, Charles Pierce.  
Recording secretary, Mr. Wood.  
Guide, Mr. McConigh.  
Guard, Joe Parkman.

On Christmas morning the members of the local gathered to perform the sad duty of burying the remains of a brother member, Mr. Moore, who died on Monday, December 20, of typhoid pneumonia. The services were held at the home of the deceased, 4428 T street, and interment was in Wyuka. The local sent a handsome floral offering and had entire charge of the services. Mr. Moore leaves a wife and two little daughters, to whom the sympathy of the comrades of the dead father and husband go out in unmeasured quantity. Mr. Moore worked at the Bartelman shop on Eleventh street.

### THE PRESSMEN.

Make Peace With New Century Shop and Send Back Men.

The Pressmen's Union has settled its differences with the New Century shop and Mr. Yates has returned to work there. The Wageworker congratulates Col. McCartney and also the pressmen.

The union pressmen of Lincoln con- dole with their brother, Charles Cameron, who lost his little four-months-old daughter on Christmas day.

Work has been a little slack during the past two or three weeks, but with the opening of the new year things are picking up in good shape. The union has prospered during the past year despite injunctions and 10 per cent assessments, and faces the future full of hope and good will.

### CANADA WANTS UNION LABOR.

Labor unions in Montreal, Canada, are petitioning the Ottawa and Quebec governments, requesting that in future all government construction work throughout the provinces be given only to union men at current rates of wages.