

# THE WAGWORKER

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## Eloquent Sermon For the Toilers

"Labor Sunday" was observed in Lincoln with special services at St. Mark's Reformed church. A male quartet sang "Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me" and "Nearer My God to Thee," and the pastor, Reverend P. M. Orr, delivered a "union labor" sermon so full of rich thought that the brief synopsis that The Wagworker is able to give but feebly sets out its real worth. The union men and women who failed to hear Reverend Mr. Orr missed a rare intellectual and spiritual refreshing. Ref. Mr. Orr said in part:

"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2.

The opening chapters of the Bible are mainly narratives of isolated individuals. They deal with their fortunes and misfortunes; their virtues and their sins. There is no attempt to relate the individuals with organized society. In 'Holy Writ' the related organized social life begins with Moses.

"When Christ came, His own people had almost lost the individual in a multiplicity of religious ceremonies, services and 'sacraments.' He introduced a new conception of the value of the individual to society. That is, He placed personality in the foreground and made things subordinate to persons.

"In spite of the teachings of Jesus and the acceptance of His principles, the fault of the present age is to emphasize things to the neglect of persons. This is the age of production and accumulation. We are making money—are we making men?

Scholarship is often sought irrespective of character. The last census tells us that about one and a half million of children under fourteen years of age are earning their own living in our cotton mills, mines and sweat shops. A Pennsylvania official went before a committee that was considering a bill to prohibit child labor in glass works and coal mines and made the plea that child labor was necessary in the production of glass and coal. What does this mean? It means that we, in this enlightened age, think more of glass and coal and cotton than we do of boys and girls, of manhood and womanhood.

"Jesus Christ placed the emphasis on persons rather than on property. Paul expressed the spirit of Christ to the Galatians, 'Bear ye one another's burdens.' This message is to the Christian church, but it is applicable to all social groups. Society is so complex that we are dove-tailed in dependence. Every trade is depending upon the other trades for its existence. In our planetary system a change in the movement of one body affects every other body of the solar system, and so the trades are so related and bound together by common ties that a rupture or shock to one means disturbance to all. The coal miner is indebted to the blacksmith and the blacksmith to the miner, while both are depending upon the farmer. The farmer needs the machinist and the machinist the boiler maker, and we all need the tailor, at least under present social conditions. We are so related that in bearing the burdens of others we bear our own, and in neglecting to bear the burdens of others we ourselves must also suffer. For example, we are urged to pay a fair price for clothing that men may receive a fair wage. But we insist upon cheap articles and seem to care not how they are made. Listen! In the tenements of our large cities, persons in all stages of sickness are found at work finishing clothing up to the very day of their death. The poor, sick, consumptive, white slave has sewed his poor life into your cheap clothing. And with every stitch he has sewed a microbe of death. The insistence for cheap goods cheapens life. We must pay the penalty of neglect. The guide conducting a party up a perilous ascent ropes each one to the other and to himself. Each one feels more secure, but he also feels that his carelessness or neglect will endanger every other one of the party. The carelessness of one means danger and perhaps death to all.

"The above illustration has a particular application to union men. Labor unions are social groups bound together by common ties and what is detrimental to one is ruinous to the others, and that which tends to the

welfare and prosperity of one is helpful to all. If you do not seek for the label of the other crafts you are depreciating the value of your own. 'Bear ye one another's burdens.'

"Before men will be willing to bear other men's burdens there must exist between them a bond or tie of sympathy. Robert Burns, plowing the field on the bleak December day, tore up the nest of a mouse and has he watched it scampering in fright he sat down on the furrow and wept and sang:

"That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble,  
Has cost thee many a weary nibble.  
Now thou'st turned out for all thy trouble,  
\* \* \* \* \*

Still thou'st blest compared wi' me:

money was all spent and he did not know where he would get his next meal. The form was made up and ready for the press. It was to be the last issue. With a sad heart he leaned up against the case and looked into space. A young man entered and threw down before him a gold coin. Buchanan looked at it, turned it over and then with tears in his eyes pushed it back and said "No I can't take it." The young man with the princely salary of nine dollars a week said, "You must take it. I sold my watch and it was for you. You have been sacrificing but I want to share the burden." When I read that incident I said "Well done thou good and faithful servant." A hero and your name will go down in history with that ten dollars. If there is any one on God's green earth that should sympathize with working men, it is the working man. In proportion to our sympathy we shall be willing to bear burdens.

"In bearing others burdens we are fulfilling the 'Law of Christ'—the teachings, and its sympathies to be the friend of the working man, it is the church of Jesus Christ.

"Jesus Christ gave to the world in its positive form the perfect law of justice. 'What so ever would that man should do to you, do ye so to them.' This law put into effect would solve many of the economic problems which are facing this age. It means the lawyer putting himself in the place of his client and pleading his case; the doctor putting himself in the place of his patient and then prescribing; the minister changing places with the pew holder and then preaching; the employer taking the place of the employee and then paying him wages; the employee putting himself in the place of the employer and judging a fair day's work as well as a fair day's wage. The law of Christ goes even a step farther than the Golden Rule. 'A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.' The law and philosophy are embraced in this admonition to love God with all our

## Central Body Now Ready With Means

The Central Labor Union held a short and busy session Tuesday evening. The attendance was larger than usual and the business was rushed through in rapid fashion. The label committee reported progress in its work of making up a list of merchants handling union made goods and was given further time. Delegates were urged to help the committee in this work.

Fifteen dollars was appropriated to help defray the expenses of the union label exhibition and the committee instructed to use its best efforts and judgment in handling that affair.

With one or two exceptions the unions reported work good. One exception was the Bartenders, and as about half of them are out of work pending the action of the excise board,

Azora" bore the label for a long time and was a big seller. There is a big stock of the labeled goods in Lincoln, but union men should remember when these are gone there will be no union made "La Azoras" to be had unless the Lilies company squares itself. Watch for the label.

### THE BARBERS.

**Barthelman Shop Deprived of Shop Card for Unfair Actions.**

Last Monday Secretary Swinker of the Barbers' Union removed the shop card from the Barthelman shop at 122 South Twelfth street. W. H. Barthelman, the proprietor, was asked to either discharge a non-union barber or notify him he must conform to union shop conditions. Barthelman muttered something about not caring for the card, and Secretary Swinker immediately demanded it. Barthelman has had a "grouch" against the union ever since last Labor Day, claiming that it was unjust to close up on Labor Day when it was the first day of the state fair. He also complained about the hours and general conditions. The shop is now manned by non-unionists and by an ex-member, Harvey Smith, who "scabbed" when the card was removed. Frank Erlenborn and H. J. Rossiter packed their tools and accompanied the shop card when it was taken out.

Unionists are asked to take notice that the C. B. Ellis shop, for some weeks advertised in the "fair list" as located at Havelock, is really located in the Lincoln hotel.

The barbers very promptly came through with their share of the expense money for the union labor revival and exhibition.

The Barthelman shop which went wrong this week was formerly the "Grand Central" on South Eleventh street, and recently moved to 122 South Twelfth.

### THE MUSICIANS.

**Annual Convention of the Federation in Session at St. Louis.**

The annual convention of the American Federation of Musicians is in session in St. Louis this week, convening last Monday. The Hotel Jefferson is headquarters. At noon Monday the delegates and visitors marched from the hotel to Aschenbroedel hall, marching fifteen abreast and led by the largest band that ever headed a parade in St. Louis. A great deal of difficult and important business is being threshed out, among other important matters being that of competition from enlisted musicians in the United States army and navy and "contract" musicians imported from abroad. Cincinnati will probably win out in the contest for the 1909 convention.

Although the Modern Woodmen refused to employ a Lincoln band for the parade last week, and did employ a number of outside bands, the fact remains that the band winning the prize in the contest was the only union band in the parade. When Green's Omaha band, made up of union musicians went by it was not difficult to tell the "difference."

### THE BARTENDERS.

**Up Against a Hard Proposition These Bright May Days.**

The union bartenders of Lincoln have been up against the real thing for several days, and some of them are bound to be up against it for some time to come. The "daylight saloon" is going to very materially reduce the number of bartenders needed, and the reduction of the number of saloons from forty to twenty-five will lay off several others. On the whole the union is facing a hard proposition.

The Omaha union is receiving additions to its membership at every meeting and hopes to get back to its old place in a few months.

New York bartenders will hold a state meeting in Schenectady in October.

The San Francisco Labor Council will shortly inaugurate a vigorous campaign for the furtherance of the union label.

## Union Label Exhibition

At the Auditorium on Wednesday evening, May 20, 1908, will be given a Union Label Exhibition and Moving Picture entertainment under the auspices of the Central Labor Union and the direct management of the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. The entertainment will consist of a number of moving pictures, illustrated songs, views and an exhibition of Union Labels, accompanied by an interesting explanatory lecture of the label movement. This entertainment is absolutely free to the general public, and the women of Lincoln are especially invited to attend. Children under 15 will not be admitted unless accompanied by their parents.

## Miss Margaret A. Haley

vice-president of the Teachers' Federation of Chicago, will appear at a hall to be named on Thursday evening, May 21, under the auspices of the Central Labor Union and affiliated unions, and speak on the trades union movement. Miss Haley organized the public school teachers of Chicago, had them affiliate with the American Federation of Labor, and compelled a corporation-controlled school to collect back taxes from notorious tax dodgers, thus enabling the teachers to secure better pay for their services. She is one of the ablest women in America and a great power in the labor movement. The general public, and especially the working women of Lincoln, are invited to hear Miss Haley. The admission is free, and there will be no collection. Seldom have the people of Lincoln, and especially the workingmen and women, had an opportunity to enjoy such an intellectual treat as Miss Haley will provide.

Other speakers will briefly address the audiences on Wednesday and Thursday evening. The object of these meetings is to inform the general public as to the real meaning of the organized labor movement. You are invited. The entire expense is borne by the unions affiliated with the Central Labor Union of Lincoln, and the Central Labor Union invites the general public to be its guests on these two occasions.

The present only toucheth thee;  
But oh, I backward cast my eye  
— On prospects drear,  
And forward tho' I cannot see,  
I guess an' fear."

"It was the big, sympathetic heart of Burns that made him feel for all animated creation and especially for his fellow man. How deep he saw as well as felt we may judge from these words:

"'And man whose heaven erected face  
The smiles of love adorn,  
Man's inhumanity to man  
Makes countless thousands mourn.'  
"Mr. Buchanan relates an incident that happened while he was editing and publishing a labor paper in the west. His support was gone, as his subscribers were on strike; his own

Christ that spent His whole life in doing good and in sympathy with His fellowmen. He was a carpenter before He was the Savior. He is the Savior of all classes and conditions of men, but more especially is He the Savior and friend of the working man. As the head of the organized church, He calls you unto Himself. May I say in passing that the church has many faults and failings. But remember that it is made up of frail men and women with human tendencies. But also remember that these men and women are organized to realize in life the ideals of Jesus Christ. With all her faults there is no organization better fitted or more able to help you. If there is an organization that is peculiarly fitted by its head, its

hearts, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as our selves. 'Adam where art thou?' 'Cain, where is thy brother?' With the love that He loved us, He would have us love our fellowmen.

"'Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.' The law of Christ is love and embraces all other virtues. 'It is the greatest thing in the world.' Its fruits are justice, equality and brotherhood. When men love men as brethren then will be realized the ideal social state. The problems of distribution as well as production can be solved only on the basis of love. Love will destroy the distinction made between wages and salary, between head and hand work. It

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naturally they are not feeling encouraged.

The Barber delegate reported the Barthelman shop, 122 South Twelfth as being unfair, the card having been removed from the shop last Monday.

The Electrical Workers delegate asked that when linemen or inside wire men showed up to do telephone or electric lighting work they be asked to show their cards.

Secretary Kates acknowledged the receipt of several contributions from unions to the label exhibition fund.

**UNFAIR NOW.**

The Lilies Cigar Co., of Detroit, manufacturers of the "La Azora" cigar, has gone wrong and is now employing non-union cigarmakers. The "La