

State Historical Socy

THE WAGEWORKER



VOL. 5

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 4, 1908

NO. 14

RAYMOND ROBINS' VISIT.

The Eloquent Advocate of Organized Labor Wins Lincoln Workers.

Raymond Robins of Chicago has come and gone—but the influence for good he leaves behind will go right on working.

The Wageworker is not going to undertake the task of making even a brief synopsis of his three addresses in this city. The union man who neglected the opportunity to hear this eloquent champion of labor's cause has reason to be ashamed of himself. The cause of organized labor was never better presented, and a more eloquent plea for the oppressed was never made. Mr. Robins spoke last Sunday morning at Trinity Methodist church, and the auditorium of that commodious building was filled to overflowing.

"I want to thank you," said Rev. Mr. Balch, pastor, to the editor of The Wageworker, "for having sent Raymond Robins to us. He came with a message that appealed to every hearer. We need an army of men like Raymond Robins."

At the Sunday morning service Mr. Robins spoke upon the subject, "Except the Lord build the House." His address was a plea for an opportunity to build the three-fold man—physically, mentally and spiritually. "And this," said he, "cannot be done as long as little children are enslaved in the mills and mines and factories; as long as gray-blooded women work out their starved lives in tenements and sweat shops, and as long as men are forced into the bread line and every hope and aspiration deadened with them." For an hour and ten minutes Mr. Robins held the undivided attention of the big congregation, and at the close he was overwhelmed with congratulations.

Sunday evening Mr. Robins spoke at the Auditorium, where the First Christian church congregation worships pending the erection of the new church home. Upwards of 2,000 people were present and listened with deepest interest to a masterly plea for the toilers of earth. Mr. Robins was introduced by Mr. Bryan, who spoke of the visitor in the highest terms of approval. "The Social Consciousness of Christ" was Mr. Robins' subject at this meeting. Step by step he led his hearers through the simple yet wonderful story of the three years' work of the Carpenter of Nazareth, and as in his Sunday morning address he pointed out that Christ's work was among the poor, the lowly and the oppressed—not among the rich and the powerful. His explanation of conditions during the packing house strike in Chicago made his hearers shudder with terror. His plea for brotherhood was a masterpiece.

At University Temple Monday evening Mr. Robins spoke to an audience of 500, mostly trades unionists, and for nearly two hours he held them by the spell of his eloquence. He told what trades unionism stands for, what it purposes, by the providence of God to do, what it has done and how it has done it. He had that audience with him from the start, and applause was so frequent that it seemed almost continuous. If you want to know what an able champion this man is of labor's cause, ask any union man who was present at the meeting Monday night. Every one of them will tell you that he will gladly rest the case of unionism before the bar of public opinion upon the presentation made by Raymond Robins.

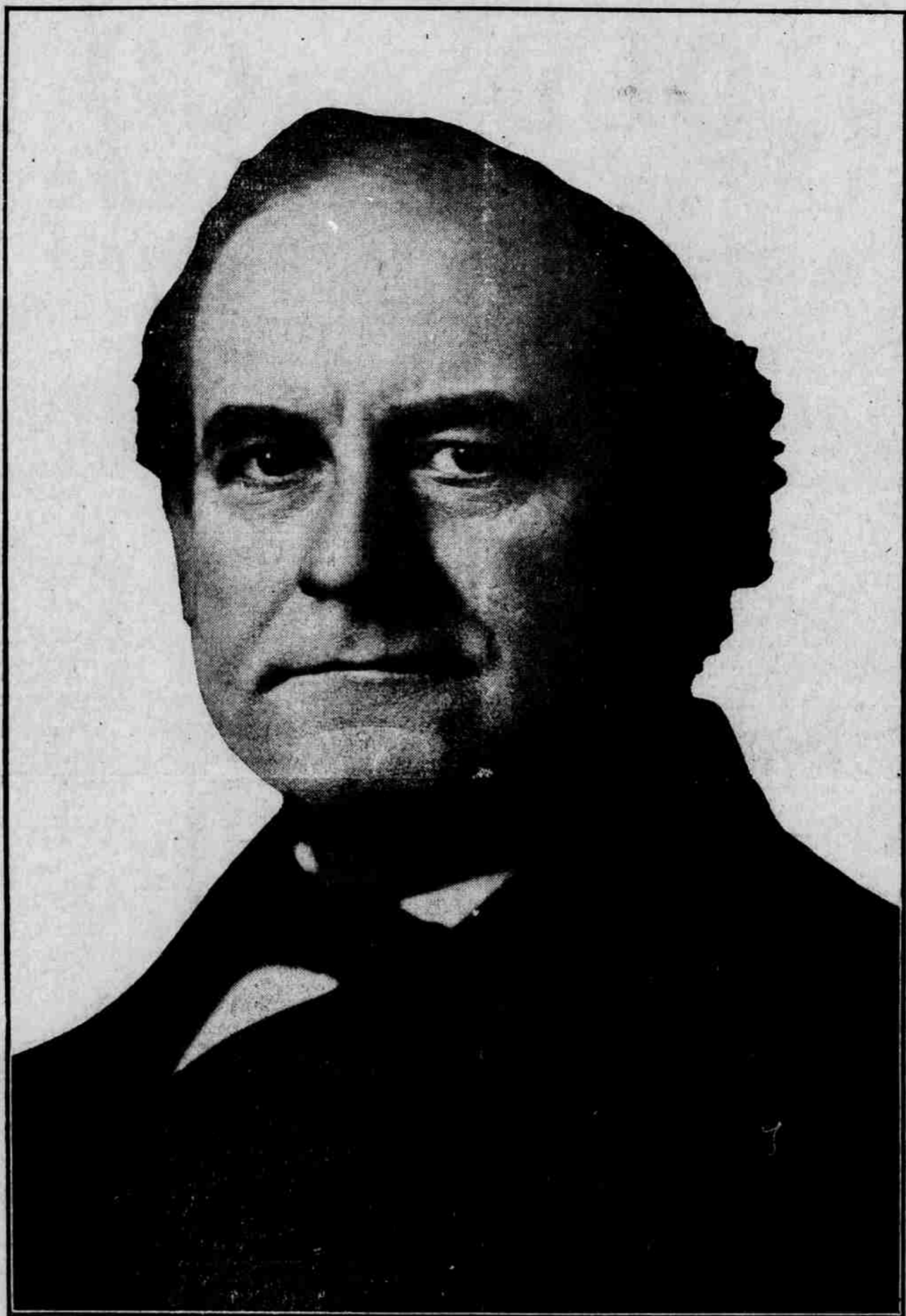
He pointed out the dangers of the future of unionism by reason of the decision in the Danbury hatters' case, and he plead with union men to think for themselves, act intelligently and quit their bickerings and strife. He brought down the house by his quotations from Abraham Lincoln proving that labor's contentions today are neither anarchy nor revolution, but just plain, every-day American commonsense and patriotism.

The next time Raymond Robins comes to Lincoln trouble will be experienced in getting a hall big enough for him.

Business men who heard him Sunday are a unit in praising his masterly presentation of his subjects. "He's the kind of a man needed in every community," said one of the largest retailers of Lincoln. "He will do a splendid work wherever he goes, and I wish him Godspeed."

The Omaha Western Laborer brings Raymond Robins forward as a candidate for vice president on the democratic ticket. There is only one thing that would suit us better—to have

"THE MAN OF THE HOUR"



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Raymond Robins on the floor of the United States senate to throw the harpoon into the smug-faced representatives of the special interests that have exploited labor for a century. We'd walk from here to Washington to see a scene like that pulled off in the "Greatest Club in the World."

Here's hoping that we may have Raymond Robins with us often in the future.

SIX MONTHS OLD.

The Missouri Trades Unionist, published at Joplin by Charley Fear, is six months old and a mighty lusty infant. It is doing a good work in behalf of organized labor and deserves the united support of the union men of that territory.

EDITOR O'NEILL DEAD.

J. J. O'Neill, editor of the San Francisco Labor Clarion, died in that city

at his home, last week, after a lingering illness. Mr. O'Neill had been editor of the Clarion since 1902, and had brought the paper up to a high grade of efficiency.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

Opening of the Campaign Makes Work Better in Lincoln.

The opening of the campaign is having a beneficial effect on the cigarmaking industry in Lincoln as elsewhere. The coming of the Peperburg factory and the reorganization of the Kent factory has also had a good effect, and business is picking up at a gratifying rate.

President Perkins of the International is opposed to the proposed plan of allowing a member of twenty years' standing to draw \$300 from the treasury and have the same deducted from the death benefit. The plan is

being discussed from every viewpoint.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

Still Hustling for the Organization and Succeeding Well.

That lively bunch of "good injuns," the Electrical Workers, continues to keep things moving. Every meeting sees some new men taken into the union fold, and something stirred up that is calculated to benefit the cause.

Lincoln men were sorry that "Jack" Purcell of Washington, D. C., did not remain in the city long enough to call around and see them. Mr. Purcell, who is a prominent member of the order in the District of Columbia, was elected delegate to the Denver convention, and he will reflect credit upon unionism while he is there.

The Washington Trades Unionist says: "The Electrical Workers of this

city are making a campaign for unionism, and in so doing one of the great drawbacks they find is that almost invariably the saloonists, when having electrical work done, give the work to non-unionists. Here is a chance for the saloonkeepers to show their friendship to organized labor, and incidentally the barkeeper can get in this game too, and boost union electricians."

GOOD LOGIC.

The Oklahoma State Labor News pertinently remarks that whenever we become so prosperous that idle men in one part of the country cannot be found to take the place of strikers in another part of the country, we can then boast of good times. The number of strike-breakers to be found in the country is always a true barometer of employment.

THE REPUBLICAN LABOR PLANK.

Louis F. Post Dissects That Remarkable Campaign Utterance.

One of the planks of the republican platform, the plank on labor injunctions, is denounced by many as deceptive. We do not read it so. It is one of the fairest declarations in the whole document. It could not possibly have been any more frank without disregarding every principle of diplomacy in the formulation of public declarations.

What the convention meant, and what Mr. Taft stands for on this subject, is the utilization of the autocratic process of injunction for the protection of employers in the hiring of workmen in the cheapest market. Labor injunctions are utilized for the purpose of defining offenses against property in particular cases, without the intervention of the legislature; they are utilized for the purpose of defining as property the right to make any kind of contracts of hire that a glutted labor market affords; their violation is tested by mere affidavits, and without living witnesses or the benefits of cross-examination, and before the injunction-issuing judge and without the intervention of a jury; the punishment is as absolutely in the discretion of the judge as is the finding of fact. The writ itself is a survival of the autocratic power of the king, acting through his chancellor. It was manifestly intended by the republican leaders to preserve this autocratic power in cases of labor strikes, and that is precisely what the republican platform, with almost brutal frankness, demands.

It declares against any modification of the process of injunction; and while it expresses belief in the desirability of a notice before the process issues, except in emergent cases, it thereby merely re-declares the law as it exists. The evil of injunction in labor cases is not that they are issued without notice. Neither is it that prompt hearings are denied. The substantial evil is that they create judge-made law; that under them convictions of crime are secured indirectly without a jury; that the testimony is by affidavit, and that there is no opportunity to cross-examine witnesses. The innovation of labor injunctions—for these injunctions were legal novelties only a few years ago—was a distinct stride in the direction of creating a new species of property for business men. They created property for employers in the labor of workingmen. And for the preservation of this new kind of property they subject strikers to a summary and irresponsible trial, by a judge without a jury, for alleged crime. This is the evil which the republican convention was called upon by labor organizations to declare against. It is the evil which employers' organizations asked it to perpetuate. The refusal of the convention to declare against this judicial innovation was frank enough; its declaration in favor of it was equally frank. Whatever else may be said of the labor-injunction plank of the republican platform, it cannot be denounced as deficient in candor.—Louis F. Post, in Chicago Public.

MITCHELL OUT OF POLITICS.

Former President of Miners Will Work for Civic Federation.

John Mitchell, former president of the Mine Workers' Union of America, has refused to run for governor of Illinois on the democratic ticket. This carries with it a refusal to be a candidate for the vice-presidency. Mr. Mitchell's position is that he is not much of a politician anyhow, and does not care to mix up in politics in any form.

Instead, he will take charge of the trade agreement department of the National Civic Federation. This position carries with it a salary of \$6,000 a year, and Mr. Mitchell's work will be to try to settle disputes between employer and employes without resort to strikes and lockouts. In other words, he will try as far as he can to secure industrial peace.

In this work, Mr. Mitchell says, he feels he can be of more service to society and organized labor than he could if elected governor of Illinois. For the latter work he has had no training, while with the former he is familiar.

His refusal to run will have marked results on Illinois politics, both at the August primaries and the November election. Many politicians have been anxiously awaiting his decision for some time.—Washington Trades Unionist.