

THE WAGGEWORKER

State Historical Society

ALLIED PRINTING
TRADES UNION COUNCIL
LINCOLN, NEB.

VOL. 5

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, APRIL 3, 1909

NO. 52

Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

It will be a big week next week, with the Electrical Workers of Lincoln, Monday, April 5, is the opening day of the district council of the Brotherhood, the district comprising Iowa and Nebraska. Representatives from twenty-five or thirty locals will be in the city, and the local members are going to show them good times between sessions. E. E. Betz of the Lincoln local is president of the district, and W. L. Mayer will represent the local as delegate.

These district council meetings have been productive of great good to the craft by reason of strengthening the bonds of unionism and inspiring the members to renewed efforts. Better working conditions and better wage schedules have resulted from these conferences.

Last week saw four or five more big local desert the old McNulty regime and join the Reed forces. Only a few are left.

Of course President William H. Taft is our good friend. He is getting ready to prove it by appointing Charles W. Elliot, late president of Harvard, to be ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James.

What better test of friendship than that could be offered the union men and women of the country.

It was Elliot who said that the strikebreaker is a hero.

It was Elliot who said that unions would be all right if they did not insist on having something to say about hours, wages, working conditions and shop rules.

He is the avowed champion of Van-Cleaveism, Paryism, Postism and "scabism."

He would emasculate trades unions by making them mere social clubs which might be ruled by fear of the bosses.

O, yes; the appointment of Elliot to be minister to Great Britain will be a handsome recognition of the union men and women of this country. It will make us all feel so extremely grateful. Not!

The Brockton, Mass., central labor union has sustained the Boot and Shoe Workers in their contention with the Douglas Shoe Co., and have rescinded the resolutions making the Brockton Searchlight the official organ of the central body. The Searchlight has been taking the Douglas end of the game.

Well, well! What's this we see? The Oklahoma Labor Unit, published at Oklahoma City, and bearing the name of an old-time Lincolnite as editor—none other than Harry W. Smith. That simply means the Labor Unit will cut some ice, for Harry Smith is a hustler whose unionism can not be called in question. He is an experienced newspaper man, a good printer and a staunch unionist. The Labor Unit has been good all the time, but from now on it will be better. Editor

Smith was a member of Lincoln Typographical Union for years on end, and was always ready to do his share of the work and then some. He says the political policy will be to support for office no man who is not "four square" with trades unionism. They must have a lot of such in Oklahoma, for the Labor Unit has a page or two of write-ups of candidates, together with half-tones. It looks good, from a business office standpoint, and we are glad of it. The Waggeworker wishes its old friend Smith and his Labor Unit unbounded prosperity.

Ge, if we could only get 'em to talking about the union label as much as they are now talking about "home runs," "put outs," "assists," "errors," "hams," "sluggers," "peacherinos" and other baseball dope, wouldn't we be going some?

And at that we are just as eager to see the "Greenbackers" walloping the visitors as any "bug" in town. It seems an awful long time until May 12. And we'd give a pretty to hear the swat of the bat and the whoop of the bleacherites.

Speaking of baseball and the union label, the printing of the eastern league will bear the label this year. And at least one of the league umpires will carry a union card. Guess that helps some.

George H. Moore—"Sandhill" would sound more familiar—is up and around again, but he is still carrying a few slats in a sling. He got badly bumped in that La Platte wreck, but he and 'steen thousand friends are glad he escaped with his life. He is now taking things easy and will not return to work for several weeks. It seems kind o' natural to see Moore on the streets again, and that hearty laugh of his sounds good.

By the way, one way to give The Waggeworker a boost is to patronize its advertisers, and incidentally let them know you saw their ads in the only labor paper in Lincoln—and the best one in the west, if we do say it as shouldn't.

And by the way, again. Speaking of The Waggeworker, this little labor has successfully weathered the storms of five years, this issue being No. 52 of Volume 5. It was lived five years because it has a bunch of loyal supporters. It ought to have more. It has also had the benefit of a few "knockers" whose every "knock" was better than the average boost. But we'll have more to say about this in No. 1 of Volume 6—which will show up next week if the string don't break.

Will the local pressmen make an effort to bring the delegates and visitors from their international convention at Omaha down to Lincoln for a few hours? It would be a good stunt to pull off. The international meets next June, and an excursion to the Capital City would be a treat to the bunch. Besides it would be a pleasure for the

It is true that America does not exile one to Siberia or hang one on the gallows for protesting against the government. But nevertheless it has its lynchings and, what is far worse, its judicial murders. It has its great railroad casualties by which thousands are killed by the criminal carelessness of the great corporations, and besides all this it has the exploitation of the poor by the rich.

All this proves that government can not improve the moral nature of man, and that brute force always defeats its object. There can be no coercion of the soul. Every law must have the sanction of the free will.

Where America surpasses Europe is in its personal liberty, which is the heritage of a race of heroes. But this is doomed to be extinguished by the legislatures of a time-serving generation.

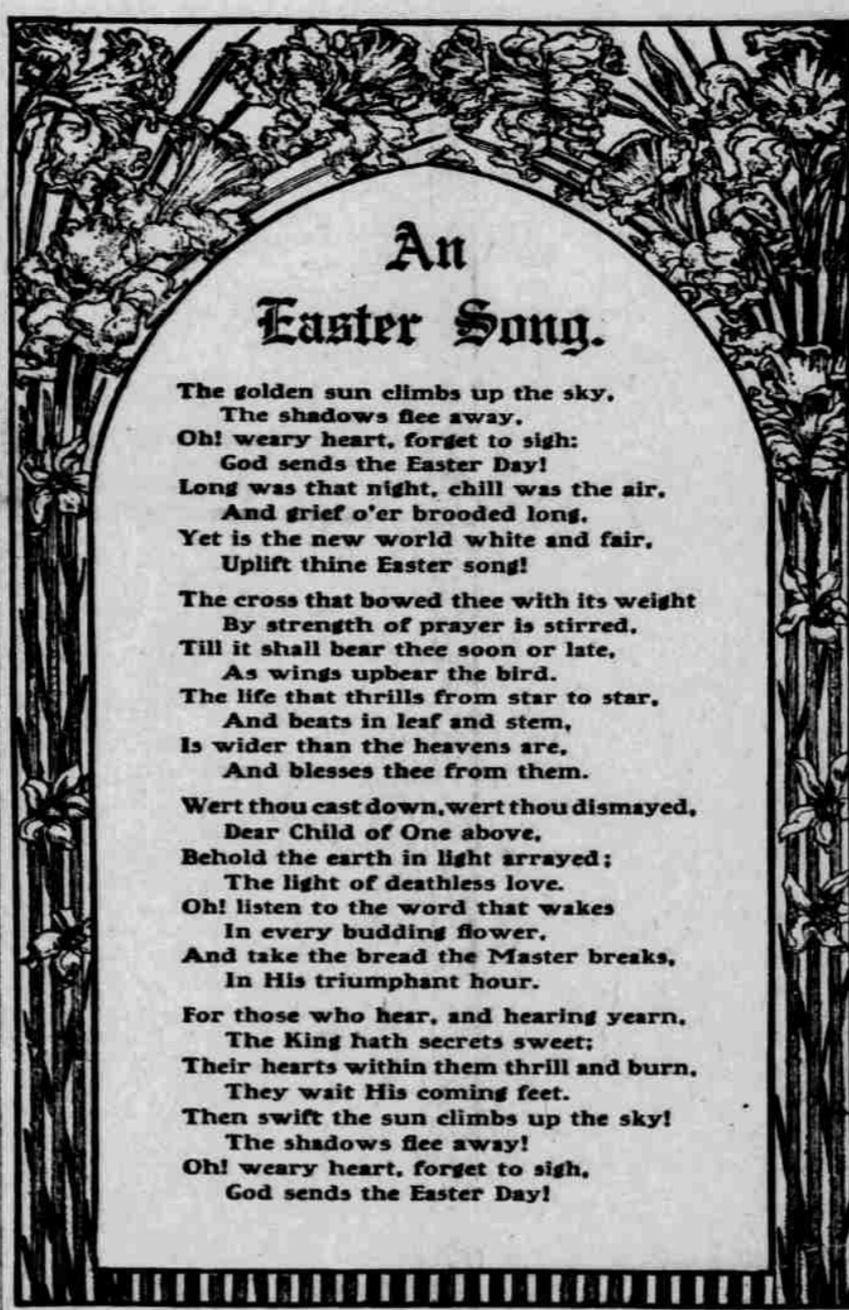
The greatest indictment against any country is the presence of capital punishment—which exists in such form as if Christ had never been born. The judge who sentences a criminal to death is ten times more guilty himself. Oh that ideas of humanity could end this tyranny, this black hypocrisy of legal procedure under which so many crimes are committed against humanity!

Yet the root of all the evils of civilization lies in the perverted teachings mis-called Christianity. The modern church is the greatest foe of man, and the churchgoer a blind dupe.



American Liberty Is Doomed

By COUNT LEO TOLSTOY.



An Easter Song.

The golden sun climbs up the sky,
The shadows flee away,
Oh! weary heart, forget to sigh:
God sends the Easter Day!
Long was that night, chill was the air,
And grief o'er brooded long,
Yet is the new world white and fair,
Uplift thine Easter song!

The cross that bowed thee with its weight
By strength of prayer is stirred,
Till it shall bear thee soon or late,
As wings appear the bird.
The life that thrills from star to star,
And beats in leaf and stem,
Is wider than the heavens are,
And blesses thee from them.

Wert thou cast down, wert thou dismayed,
Dear Child of One above,
Behold the earth in light arrayed;
The light of deathless love.
Oh! listen to the word that wakes
In every budding flower,
And take the bread the Master breaks,
In His triumphant hour.

For those who hear, and hearing yearn,
The King hath secrets sweet;
Their hearts within them thrill and burn,
They wait His coming feet.
Then swift the sun climbs up the sky!
The shadows flee away!
Oh! weary heart, forget to sigh,
God sends the Easter Day!

unionists of Lincoln to turn out and show them a good time.

It may surprise a lot of Lincoln unionists to know that Beatrice and Fairbury are both well organized towns. Fairbury has some live unions, and among them the railroad brotherhoods are especially strong. Beatrice is growing better every day.

The man who says he can not find union made smoking tobacco that he likes simply admits that he prefers chop feed to real tobacco as smoking material. The Waggeworker man is something of a smoker and he has never had any trouble in getting the very best smoking tobacco, and it always bears the label, too.

The Pressmen are satisfied with the progress they are making. The scale committee is still out, but is making satisfactory progress. The membership is increasing and the outlook for a practically 100 per cent union grows brighter every day.

The pressmen of Des Moines played the "baby act" the other day. They wanted to violate a rule of the Assembly Hall by holding a beer fest, and when the management refused to allow it they would get a hall of their own. That's baby talk. They knew the rule when they rented the hall. The pressmen of Des Moines are too weak to run a bluff like that. Let them play the game like men, not like boys.

GARNISHEE BILL IS A DEAD ONE

The Diers bill is dead and buried. It was Senate File 381, introduced by Diers of York, and it purposed raising the garnishee limit from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

The bill passed the senate and then went over to the house. There it remained on the general file until the sifting committee dug it out and presented it. It took the house only a few minutes to put the quietus on it. The bill came up last Wednesday morning and was considered in committee of the whole.

"I move that when the committee arises it report Senate File 381 for indefinite postponement," said a member.

"I second the motion," shouted a dozen members.

The motion was duly put and carried overwhelmingly.

Then the committee arose and reported.

"I move that the house adopt the report of the committee of the whole on Senate File No. 381," said a member.

"Second the motion!" shouted a dozen members.

The motion prevailed and the Diers bill was as dead as Julius Caesar.

It was an unrighteous bill from the start. It lowered the exemptions of the class who are most entitled to exemptions. It sought to make the state a collection agency for merchants who want to do business regardless of business rules and rely upon others to guarantee them against loss.

The representatives who killed the Diers bill are entitled to the thanks of the workers.

Here are the thanks!

Labor Temple Day, May 12.
Be a Booster for the Temple.

OPEN YOUR MOUTHS WIDE.

Then Swallow the Tariff Guff Without Making a Face.

Let us hope the workers will swallow every piece of news that depicts hand-to-hand conflicts over the tariff between trusts and "protectors of the people," now in Washington.

Large doses of chloroform will be necessary to allow the easy passage of the real tariff bill that will be sprung after the people have torn to pieces the one furnished them for this purpose. This will allow congressmen to go before their constituents, two years hence, and sing their "Great-Man-An-I" song, as they assure us, "We did not get all we wanted, but we compromised."—Toledo Union Leader.

Labor Temple Day, May 12.
Be a Booster for the Temple.

3,750 MEN MAY STRIKE.

Failure to Arrange Wage Schedule Roils Labor Circles.

Failure of a number of unions to come to an agreement with the contractors on new wage scales caused a fear in labor circles that strikes involving 3,750 workmen would occur April 1. The Junior Steamfitters met a committee of Master Steamfitters yesterday but failed to come to an agreement. The Juniors demanded an increase of 60 cents a day and the right to call sympathetic strikes. The sheet metal workers will meet the employers today to endeavor to arrange an agreement. The other unions that have not yet made contracts for April 1 are: Plumbers, gasfitters and steamfitters.—Council Bluffs Times.

Labor Temple Day is Your Great Opportunity

The meeting of the Labor Temple directory at the state house last Monday evening was the largest in eight months. Every director save two was present. Roll call revealed the presence of the following: Chaplin, Kelsey, Ihringer, Mayer, Evans, Maupin, Ress, Weckesser, DeLacey, Walker, Rudy. Chairman Dickson was absent because his union met on the same night and he is financial secretary. Director Pickard failed to receive notification of meeting in time.

Secretary Ihringer reported that the books were rapidly being brought to date, and that by next week all stock certificates paid for would be issued. He and Director Ress had balanced the books as to receipts and expenditures. Here is the way it stands:

Total Receipts to Date.....\$1,097.40
Total Expenditures 273.40

Cash Balance on Hand....\$ 824.00

The expenditures may look a little large, but let it be borne in mind that the expense account is about as big as it will be until money is spent for a site. The organization had to pay \$50 for filing its articles of incorporation; it had to buy books, stationery, etc. It had to pay for its stock certificate books. But it now has everything needful on hand save a building site and money enough to build the Temple.

The balance in bank will immediately be put where it will earn a little something for the corporation. It will either be deposited on a time certificate or invested in negotiable bonds drawing interest. The chairman, secretary and treasurer were directed to do one or the other.

On motion it was decided to make Wednesday, May 12, "Labor Temple Day." Every unionist and every friend of unionism will be asked to sign a pledge to pay into the Temple association treasury the wages earned on that day, not as a donation but as an investment in the stock of the Labor Temple Building Association. A dollar of wages gets a dollar certificate of stock. The stock is non-assessable. It will be a dividend producer in time.

It was decided to drop all raffle schemes and depend altogether stock subscriptions and donations. The directors will soon appoint committees to work up the "Temple Day" project. In this connection The Waggeworker recalls the inception of this Labor Temple scheme. The Waggeworker started off by asking its readers to sign a coupon pledging themselves to donate a day's pay to the temple fund. Pledges amounting to approximately \$1,700 were secured. But there was no one ready to take hold and the matter was dropped. The pledges have been destroyed, and many of the signers have left town. But if The Waggeworker could do that well all by itself, certainly a hustling committee, aided by this paper, could increase it four-fold.

Of the cash on hand \$241.50 was turned in Monday evening, that be-

ing the balance left from the Labor Day receipts after paying expenses. This is the amount reported at the meeting of the Labor Day committee that settled all bills, and was so printed in The Waggeworker the week following. This is mentioned merely to silence a "knocker" or two who have been asserting that the amount was "three or four hundred dollars."

The directors will meet again next Monday evening at 8 o'clock at the office of the deputy labor commissioner in the state house.

On that occasion a couple of committees will report a plan or two for the raising of a little more money to boost things along.

In the meantime, if there is anybody who has a suggestion to offer they will be almighty welcome at a meeting of the directors.

"LABOR TEMPLE DAY."

Wednesday May 12 You Will Be Asked to Contribute a Day's Wage.

Wednesday, May 12, will be "Labor Temple Day." Every union man in Lincoln and Havelock will be asked to give that day's wage to the Labor Temple fund, not as a gift but as an investment. Every dollar thus given will secure for the giver a share of stock in the Association.

If every union man will give his wage for that day to this good cause it will mean practically enough to buy a building site. And the building site secured means the erection of the first two stories of what will in due time be a handsome and commodious Labor Temple.

One day's wage is not much—but two thousand such day's wages means from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

You are not asked to give something for nothing. You are asked to become a stockholder in an enterprise that will pay dividends—cash and otherwise.

Remember the date, and get in line!

WHAT HE DESERVES.

The American workman wants an eight hour day. He wants a half-holiday on Saturday. He wants a Sunday of rest and recreation. He wants a home. He wants comfortable surroundings. He wants an income sufficient to clothe his family and feed them. He wants to educate his children. And aside from that he wants an income which, with reasonable frugality, will be enough to provide for maintaining him in sickness and old age.—John Mitchell.

REGARDING PENSIONS.

If state university professors are entitled to a retired pension fund the state should pay it. And if university professors, why not public school teachers? And if professors and public school teachers, why not all other men and women who have served their day and generation by useful labor?—The Commoner.

Curiosity Has Its Limitations
By REV. FREDERICK HOPKINS, D.D., Chicago.

Curiosity like ambition is a necessary part of the equipment of every progressive human being. Curiosity discovers the source of rivers, introduces us to unfamiliar tribes, produces a seedless orange and edible cactus, invents the telephone and a thousand modern conveniences that contribute to our comfort and happiness. And curiosity is always busy trying to find new things or a better way to use old things, but it has its limitations. And we shall very soon find this to be true if we undertake to express religious ideas in the terms of science or work out the problems of faith as one might do a sum in arithmetic. Either some people cannot or they will not understand that we walk by faith and not by sight when we walk with God. And the happiest people we have ever known are those who humbly believing in God's goodness adjourn to the brighter light of a better day the things that are not very clear this morning. Living in this world as though we were in a Russian prison where day and night we are conscious of an all-seeing eye watching every little thing we do, is just the way to become a nervous wreck or a fanatic, which is the same thing. Talking with the departed as the spiritualists pretend to hold converse is like a long-distance telephone interview with your best friend and is more of an aggravation than a solace. Figuring out the very day when Jesus will come the second time results in worry whether your calculation is correct, and when you find it is not then you worry the rest of your life because you made yourself so ridiculous.

And so all through the list. There is no surer way of tormenting one's self than to become a victim of the habit of being curious most of the time about those things God has seen fit to keep to himself.