

THE WAGEWORKER



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Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

A sample of what organized labor may do politically when it unites, acts intelligently and gets busy, comes up from Oklahoma City. The union voters of that town got together. A union printer, J. T. Highley, was a candidate for re-election as police judge. A union painter, Will R. Walter, was elected street commissioner.

Highley is a democrat. Walter is a republican. But partisan politics were forgotten. The man who said, "O, we can't elect anybody," was pushed off the earth. The men who said, "We'll win or bust a hamstring trying," got out, leaving their partisanship in cold storage. It was a glorious victory. Lincoln unionists got "cold feet" early in the game this spring. Might have elected two or three if they had possessed the "intestines." Think it over.

Look out for bogus labels in your hats. The employers who combined to enforce the "open shop" and to abolish the label have begun printing bogus labels and pasting them in their "scab" hats in order to deceive union men. Fine bunch of grafters, that. But you can make their dirty scheme ineffectual. If you don't know a genuine label of the United Hatters of North America when you see it, hurry up and educate yourself. If you are victimized by a bogus label you merely advertise yourself as an ignoramus.

Lincoln has gone "dry." The majority was decisive enough to indicate that there is enough sentiment to enforce the law better than it is usually enforced. The Wageworker doubted the wisdom of trying the experiment at this time—for experiment it is. It was in the minority. Now it is willing to do its level best to make the experiment successful. Here and now the Wageworker serves notice that it will use every effort to enforce the law. It will not hesitate to make complaint if a violation of the law comes to its notice. Every law abiding citizen should be willing to do the same—but they will not. Many of the men loudest in their advocacy of a "dry" city, and most active in the "dry" propaganda, will not turn their hands over to enforce the law, being afraid that if they make complaint they will lose valuable time from their business and make enemies that will hurt their trade or their professional practice. There is a whole lot of difference between voting "dry" and working to enforce the "dry" proposition. You'll discover that before many months have elapsed. If Lincoln can be made absolutely "dry" none will rejoice more than The Wageworker. But it is of the candid opinion that a condition precedent to a "dry" city is to make the people "dry." And that cannot be done by law—it can be done only by education. But the die is cast, and we'll experiment for a year.

Don't go to sleep in your opposition to the penitentiary garment making contract. It isn't a "dead one" yet. Governor Shallenberger has announced his opposition to the prison labor contract system, but he is not a majority of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings. If a majority favors the contract, the governor has no veto. But you'll have a delayed veto in your possession on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1910. In the meanwhile, keep busy protesting against the iniquitous proposition.

May 12th ought to be a big day in Lincoln. That's the day you can boost the Labor Temple by subscribing the day's wages to the stock of the Labor Temple Association. It is also the day you can go down to Antelope Park and witness the opening of the baseball season. Isn't all that enough to make you sit up and take notice. And you'll enjoy all the more seeing the Greenbackers win if you have first come across with the day's wages for the Labor Temple.

By the way, didn't "Bob" Malone give you an imitation of a hustler? The Journal lost no opportunity to poke fun at "Bob's" lack of book learning. It laid great stress on Mr. Love's "judicial temperament" and his legal experience. From the heights of its superior erudition the Journal looked down upon this "common workingman" with fine scorn, and held up the educated and the literary Mr. Love

as a model. And yet, with an adverse majority of approximately 2,000 to overcome, Bob Malone threw an awful scare into the "silk stockings." It isn't over yet, either. There is a possibility that the official canvas will yet land "Bob" a winner. But win or lose, "Bob" showed himself to be a vigorous campaigner and the vote he got was a magnificent compliment.

W. T. Pinney didn't win out. But for a man who was never before in come, "Bob" Malone threw an awful scare and whose only support was from union men, he made a fine showing. It is safe to say that four-fifths of his vote came from the ranks of unionism. He should have received every union vote—but he didn't. But the vote he did receive was a fine compliment.

Fred Kind failed of election, owing to a party split in his ward. But in O. W. Meier the ward will have a capable representative. The Wageworker supported Kind, not because either of his opponents was a bad man, but because it knew Kind better than it knew the others. But it knows Mr. Meier well enough to know that he will give his best services to his constituents.

Mr. James Tyler indignantly denies that he ever had anything to do with the hours of labor on the remodeled Funke building or that he is now, or ever was, opposed to unionism or the shorter work day. The Wageworker rolled upon what it then deemed good authority for every statement it made. It still believes that the carpenters who told the facts stated them truthfully. If they are mistaken, and in-

entionally led The Wageworker into error, it apologizes to Mr. Tyler. But we still hold to the statement that the union men of the city lost an opportunity to boost a good friend of unionism into office when they failed to elect "Tom" Harrison to the position of water commissioner.

The Labor Temple directorate met last Monday evening. Of the thirteen members of the board all were present except twelve. The next regular meeting will be Monday evening, 8 o'clock, at the usual place.

M. Grant Hamilton, an organizer of the American Federation of Labor, writes a letter for the labor press in which he declares that the McNulty-Collins faction of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is all to the good. He reports numerous returns to the McNulty-Collins fold, and a consequent depletion in the ranks of the Reid faction. But we note that Mr. Hamilton isn't specifying. Can he point to a local of the Brotherhood in Iowa or Nebraska that is tied up with the McNulty-Collins faction? And will he kindly give the names and numbers of the locals that have deserted the Reid faction and gone back to the McNulty-Collins faction? It's none of our business, but "we inquire to know."

If your local has not yet selected a delegate to the State Federation of Labor, get busy and have it done. The meeting is going to be a success, and you'll want to be tied up with a winner.

WAKING UP.

The trades unionists of Nebraska have at last woken up, rubbed their eyes and got busy, thanks to the energy of Deputy Labor Commissioner

Will Maupin, through whose efforts a call has been issued for a convention to be held at Lincoln, June 21-22 to permanently organize a State Federation of Labor, thereby getting on the map with its neighboring states. Maybe in days to come the "Show Me" state will be exchanging fraternal delegates with our Northern neighbor.—Kansas City Labor Herald.

THE BARTENDERS.

Going Out of Business But Taking the Matter Philosophically.

The Bartenders' Union is up against the real thing. After next Monday the members will be pried loose from their vocation, and so far as working at their craft is concerned their union will be of very little assistance.

But the boys are taking the matter

means the curtailment of the demand for Lincoln made cigars, and that means that a lot of union cigarmakers will have to leave town. A lot of people who take a great interest in the welfare of the workmen will continue to buy "scab" cigars made in Philadelphia or New York, and do nothing to furnish employment to the Lincoln cigarmakers who have been deprived of profitable employment by closing up the chief source of demand for their work.

THE DIFFERENCE.

"Yes, my son," observed the Deeply Chastened Elderly One, as he carefully wiped his glasses, "it all depends upon the way you look at it. When a judge hands down a decision that is adverse to labor and to the laboring interests, that is justice, but

Labor Memorial Sunday

The second Sunday in May has been designated by the American Federation of Labor as "Labor Memorial Sunday." The day will be duly observed in Lincoln, Sunday evening, May 9, services at the

First Baptist Church

corner Fourteenth and K streets. The memorial sermon will be delivered by the pastor, Rev. Samuel Zane Batten, Fraternal Delegate from the Ministerial Union to the Lincoln Central Labor Union. The union men and women of Lincoln are urgently invited to attend this service, which will be a memorial to the heroes of the Industrial Army of the Republic, who have finished their fight for justice and have gone to their final reward. The church and pastor will welcome you; the sermon will be delivered by a friend of organized labor; special music will be provided. You owe it to yourselves and to your departed brothers and sisters to observe this annual memorial.

Labor Temple Day, Wednesday, May 12

This day has been designated as "Labor Temple Day," and all union men and women have been asked to subscribe that day's wages to the stock of the Lincoln Labor Temple Building Association. If you have not already signed the pledge to do so, call up Fred Ihringer, secretary, and tell him you are ready. Or call Auto 2277 and tell the lady who answers the call, that you will subscribe your wages for that day. Be a booster for once. The association plans to push the project, but it is going to wait a bit and see what you will do to help push.

Call Up Today and Say You Will Do Your Part

State Federation Meeting

Has your local a delegate to represent it at the meeting called for the purpose of organizing a State Federation of Labor? If not, why not? It is entitled to one—and it should elect one. You need the Federation; the Federation needs you. Every local union, every central labor union, every Federal labor union—all are entitled to one delegate each at the initial meeting.

Lincoln, June 21, 22--Do Not Forget

Those are the dates, that's the place. Now is the time to get busy and get in line with the progressive workers of other states. The meeting will be a success without you, but it will be a bigger success if you are on hand in the person of a duly accredited delegate. Lots of things that need to be done that cannot be done without organization. It will be a meeting of business—not a "joust."

philosophically. They talk and act like men who were not overcome by surprise at the verdict of last Tuesday. Sixty men, most of them heads of families, will be thrown out of employment by the verdict. What will those people do who have recently been so exercised about the welfare of the workmen? Will they hustle around and show some interest in the welfare of the fifty or sixty wage earners, heads of families, who are deprived of employment? We will see what we will see.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

Prohibition means a body blow to the cigar making industry in Lincoln. The bulk of cigars made in Lincoln have been sold over bars. Prohibition

when a decision is handed down adverse to the Standard Oil, that is anarchy. See?—Machinists' Journal.

NO STRIKE EVER LOST.

No strike has ever been lost, and there can be no defeat for the labor movement. However disastrous the day of battle has been, it has been worth its price, and only the scars remain to bear testimony that the movement is invincible and that no moral wound can be inflicted upon it.—Eugene V. Debs.

William T. Lewis, state labor commissioner of Ohio, brother of National President T. L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, died at Columbus, O., last Tuesday.

Brisbane Rebukes the Puffed-up Millionaires

At a dinner recently given in New York in honor of Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the London Times, Mr. Arthur Brisbane, editor of the Evening Journal, responded to a toast. This versatile fashioner of the popular editorial had sat quietly for some time listening to a corporation lawyer who advised his hearers to "beware of the man who expresses sympathy for the poor," and to Colonel George Harvey, who uttered a few of the usual commonplace on the evils of Socialism and the blessings of wealth. When Mr. Brisbane was introduced he proceeded in his short snappy sentences to give his hearers as straight a talk as they ever listened to in their lives. He evidently felt it his duty at the Northcliffe dinner to tell his self-satisfied and successful audience that the great common people of which he is the self-appointed spokesman, really exists. Mr. Brisbane said in part:

"This is a fine gathering of powerful men, big fortunes, and great reputations. I want to say something for the men that are not here, for the seventy-nine million Americans that never had a million dollars, never knew a man that had one, never got on the payroll of a millionaire.

"I don't want Northcliffe to go back to England believing that a man without a million in this country might as well hide under the table or jump off the dock.

"The real American nation, its real resources, its real ability, are hidden among those unknown seventy-nine millions, that never go to Delmonico's, most of whom know as little about terrapin as about bird's-nest soup.

"Mr. Harvey says very truly, 'The

call upon a rich corporation lawyer or a great banker? No. They asked a little country lawyer, with nothing but a good name, and a brain, and a heart, to save the country.

"When that man, Lincoln, needed help in his great task, to whom did he look? Did he find the man in Wall Street? No. Wall Street was quiet busy, as usual, picking up bargains in bonds.

"General Grant was there among the root of the people, out of sight, unknown. He did not have a million dollars, and Delmonico's prices were beyond his reach. But he had the great ability, and when the nation was ready to offer him what is really the great reward—honor and glory—he was ready.

"It will always be so; the force is in the people. The strength of the soup is at the bottom of the boiling liquid, not in the pretty, greasy, bubbling scum that floats on top.

"There are big men in the United States waiting for the reward worthy of their great ability, greater than any of the men we have been talking about or looking at here. These truly great men never had a bank account, not even a 'certificate of deposit,' but they are the American nation and they are America."—The Progress Magazine.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

The First May Meeting Slated for Next Tuesday Evening.

The Central Labor Union will meet in regular session at Bruce's hall next Tuesday evening. There is plenty of business on tap to demand the attention of the willing workers. The label and home industry committees will have something to report, and that something will be worthy of careful consideration.

The committee appointed to wait on Governor Shallenberger and protest against any extension of the prison labor contract system will make a report. The result of the protest is already known, but the central body may be interested in hearing the committee tell how it was received.

There is a promise that two or three delegations will be in from Havelock to assume affiliation with the central body. And it would be fine to have them get a good impression. So let every delegates be present when the gavel falls.

A GOOD WATCHWORD.

"On to Lincoln and to Victory," Suggested by Omaha Advocate.

Some months ago we advocated the establishment of a State Federation of Labor. Our idea seems to have borne fruit from the fact that Deputy State Labor Commissioner Maupin, has now issued a call for a convention for such purpose.

There can be no question as to the advisability of this movement and we trust all local unions in the state will elect delegates who will be present and participate in the establishment of an organization that may become a power of state-wide influence in the labor movement.

We trust that the spirit of factionalism may not enter into the organization of the movement. Too often does a movement of this kind partake of the essence of factional jealousy to the detriment of the whole movement. Let the watchword be, "On to Lincoln and to victory."—Omaha Labor Advocate.

THE LABEL HAT.

Where did you get that hat, where did you get that tie?

Does it bear the Label? If not, it's out of style.

You'd better search the sweat-band for the emblem in that hat.

For wherever you'll go they'll cry, Hello!

Where's the Label in that hat? —Office Boy, in Labor World.

Labor Temple Day, May 12.

Be a Booster for the Temple.

WHAT HE MOST NEEDS.

A Cornell professor has discovered that the speed of a New York politician was small even when compared with that of a negro. But what use has a New York politician for a large brain? Give him a large pocket-book.—New York Call.