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WAGWORKER

WILL M. MAUPIN, EDITOR



Published Weekly at 137 No. 14th St., Lincoln, Neb. One Dollar a Year.

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DO NOT JUDGE HASTILY.

Several union ironworkers in St. Joseph, Mo., are under arrest, charged with having dynamited a couple of school buildings that were being erected by non-union ironworkers.

Without knowing anything at all about the merits of the case, The Wagworker is willing to wager that there is a scheme a foot either to cover up a couple of losing contracts or to discredit the ironworkers' union. It is very easy to explode a little gunpowder under a bit of iron work, and then make a play for public sympathy by charging the "outrage" to union labor. That sort of thing has been worked time and again, and more than once the daily newspapers have "fallen" for the scheme. Or a contractor, seeking to get rid of a losing contract plugs up a "union outrage" and then gets an extension of time or an amendment to his contract that will permit him to make good a loss entailed because of his own ignorance. That, too, has been done.

There is no denying that union men have often been guilty of outrages—not, however, because they were union men, but because they were men. But the average unionist knows that to forfeit public sympathy is to destroy practically every chance to win a victory. Why, then, should a union man attempt to destroy buildings on which union labor was discriminated against and non-union labor employed?

It is always wise to double discount all these daily newspaper stories of "union outrages." In the first place they are always fearfully exaggerated. In the second place they are seldom rightfully chargeable to union men. Before judgment is passed in this St. Joseph case, just wait until further facts are made public.

STUDENT FOOLISHNESS.

Now don't be too harsh with the student boys. They are full of animal spirits—and sometimes other kinds. "Boys will be boys," and very often they will fail to distinguish between boyishness and ruffianism. The Wagworker loves the college student. Once upon a time, many years ago, The Wagworker man was a university student himself. That is, he was matriculated, wore a dinky little cap on the side of his head, smoked a bulldog pipe, tinkled a little on the sweet Spanish guitar and warbled a bit under me loidy's window. He has performed the serpentine dance, paraded in his nightie, helped to put a wagon on the chapel platform, stolen the bell clapper, tick-tacked the prexy's window and "ponied" his way through various dead and rotten languages.

But there is one thing that if often done by modern university students that The Wagworker man never did—he never "scabbed" on a workingman who was trying to earn an honest living and fighting for a decent wage. He never fell quite so low as to act as a "strikebreaker," as some of President Eliot's students have done in order to be "heroes." And he never quite so forgot his gentlemanly instincts as to invade the fair co-eds' dormitory and perform ruffian feats under the mistaken impression that was either smart or the sign of real "university spirit."

The Wagworker likes to see the university students having a good time. Its editor had a bully time True, like a lot of the university boys in Lincoln, he spent so much time having a good time that he didn't learn very much that was worth while. He has learned a lot more since quitting the university than he learned while he was there, but what he has learned since was knocked into him instead of soaking into him. That will be the way with a lot of the young men now going to the University of Nebraska.

But in all friendship and candor The Wagworker would suggest to the university young men that they cut out some of the feats and freaks. They may appear smart now, but they will look awfully foolish in retrospect.

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Boys will be boys, but they can be young gentlemen at the same time. We'll back the student body of the University of Nebraska against any state university student body in America—for looks, for intelligence, for natural ability and for all that goes to make up young American manhood and womanhood. It makes a man feel proud of Nebraska every time he sees that magnificent army of young men and women. And we want that student body to even improve upon its record.

What The Wagworker has said complimentary to the student body does not apply to that particular element that thinks it is smart to swill beer, load up on bug juice and go around smelling like a distillery. It will take something more than a state university to make any impression on the adamant brains of young men of that particular stripe. The best thing to make an impression upon such is a large, knotty, water-erub club, wielded by a strong-armed father.

The city council has done exactly right in locating that drinking fountain, regardless of the protest of adjacent property-holders. It ought to provide about a dozen more and locate them where they will do the most good, and tell the protestants to go chase themselves.

Church people who insist upon regulating the amusements of the workingmen would be awfully indignant if the workingmen insisted upon regulating the matter of baptism.

Did you read the story last week showing how John Mitchell skinned the new president of the Union Busters' association? If you did not you missed something.

Chief of Police Rickard has begun the policy of trying to keep the news away from the reporters. Well goodby, Mr. Chief; take keer o' yourself.

If you hapen to be idle on June 21 or 22, just attend the State Federation of Labor meeting at the state house. Program in full next week.

Paying tributes to the memory of the dead act to make us more regardful of the living.

We make no apologies for devoting so much space this week to the me-

morial services of the Typographical union. The addresses made refer as directly to all other unions as they do to that of the printers, and every union man will profit by reading the addresses.

The excise board will be doing the right thing if it retains the services of Detective Malone. "Jim" may have about the average share of human faults and frailties, but there is one thing awfully sure—he usually gets there.

And yet, Mr. Workingman, if you don't belong to the church what right have you to "kick" on what the church does? Isn't it just about as bad to "scab" on the churches as it is to "scab" on your fellow worker?

By the way, just as a matter of information, we would like to take a peek into the cellars and refrigerators of a number of people who were very insistent upon making Lincoln a "dry" town.

When President Kirby undertakes to reply to John Mitchell the president of the Union Busters will be so mad that there is danger he will bite a chunk out of his own cheek.

The Thompson fountain has been kicked around from pillar to post about long enough. It is high time that this magnificent gift to the city be treated with some respect.

The Wagworker offered to head a subscription list for the striking hatters with a five dollar bill. So far there has not been a single response. What's the matter.

It's all right to demand the label in your hat, but demanding the label in your hat right now won't put any grub on the tables of the striking hatters.

In the meanwhile, don't believe all you read in the papers about the awful doings in Havelock.

The ignorance of union men is responsible in large measure for the oppression practiced by employers.

Programs for the state federation of labor meeting will be out next week.

FATALITIES ON RAILROADS. Investigations made into the causes of numerous accidents to employes of

railroads conducted by the Pennsylvania railroad commission during the first quarter of this year, show that brakemen, section hands and firemen furnished most of the killed and injured in the order named. The total number of fatalities for the quarter were 74, of which 21 were brakemen and 20 section hands. Most of the brakemen were killed by falling or jumping from trains. The number of brakemen hurt reaches 423 in a total of 1,369 persons injured.

A MINISTERIAL BRICKLAYER.

Rev. John McIntyre Takes a Union Card With His Craftsmen.

The St. Paul, Minn., Bricklayers' union gained a distinguished accession to its membership recently when Rev. Robert McIntyre, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, stationed in St. Paul, was initiated. The attendance was large, and the ceremonies imposing in consonance with the event. Bishop McIntyre was a bricklayer early in life, and has never lost interest in the craft. He is loyal to the principles of unionism, and means to show this by an active participation in the work of the union.

"Skinny" Madden and M. J. Boyle, the Chicago unionists charged with fraudulently "settling strikes," have been found guilty. Madden almost collapsed when the verdict was announced, but he recovered enough to tell the reporters that he considered the result of the trial "a bad thing for unionism." That, however, is where "Skinny" Madden is wrong. The worst thing that can happen to unionism is to have men like Madden connected with it. That man has been a stench in the nostrils of decent union men for years. God knows organized labor has enough to answer for without having men like Madden posing as martyrs to the cause. He has been fought by honest unionists for years, but he managed to hold on by sheer bulldog tenacity and by organizing a tough gang to back him. He has terrorized where he could not buy, and he has cost organized labor many heavy losses. Now let the court get after his accomplices, the so-called "prominent business men" who are just as guilty in giving Madden money as he was in taking it. What is sauce for the union man's goose is sauce for the business man's gander.

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