

# THE WAGEWORKER



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## NEBRASKA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

### The Officers.

President, Will M. Maupin, Lincoln.  
Secretary-Treasurer, Frank P. Hart, South Omaha.  
First Vice President, Geo. Stevens, South Omaha.  
Second Vice President, J. A. Booth, Fremont.  
Third Vice President, L. C. Mason, Alliance.  
Fourth Vice President, J. C. Birmingham, Beatrice.  
Fifth Vice President, Ira A. Duncan, Hastings.  
Sergeant-at-arms, George Enoch, McCook.  
Delegate A. F. of L., Louis V. Guye, Omaha.  
Legislative Committee—S. D. Smith, Havelock; James Kotera, South Omaha; J. W. Elliott, Fremont; W. W. Waters, Fairbury; W. C. Allison, McCook; S. H. Grace, North Platte.

Despite the croakings of the prophets of failure; despite the effort of frightened partisans to discredit the honesty of its motive; despite the failures of the past, Nebraska today has a State Federation of Labor, fully organized, equipped with a constitution that is a new Declaration of Independence, and equipped to become a real force in the industrial life of the commonwealth. There were those who said that not enough interest could be aroused to make possible an organization worthy of the ambitious name of "Nebraska State Federation of Labor," but there were also those who believed that it could be done, knew that it should be done, and were willing to make the effort. The effort was made—and the people of Nebraska are cognizant of the splendid success of the effort.

Early in May, Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin, acting solely in the interests of the industrial workers and along the lines of what he conceived to be his duty, issued a call for a delegate convention for the purpose of organizing the Nebraska State Federation of Labor. No organization of producers was barred. Nothing was said about delegates coming from organizations unrecognized by the American Federation of Labor. It was to be a delegate convention made up of delegates selected by organized bodies of workmen wherever located within the state—one delegate from each organization.

When Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin called the convention to order he was fronted by seventy-nine delegates representing as many different organizations of workers in the state. They came from all parts of the state, one delegate traveling over three hundred and fifty miles, and at his own expense, to represent his small local organization. Others traveled upwards of two hundred and fifty miles. These instances are cited merely to show the interest taken in the great movement.

Naturally enough Douglas county, the great industrial center of the state, had the most representatives, and Lancaster county next. Dodge, Adams county, Gage county, Box Butte county, Lincoln county, Otoe county and other counties containing "third cities" were well represented.

Immediately after calling the convention to order Mr. Maupin asked the delegates to rise while Rev. P. M. Orr invoked the divine blessing and the divine guidance upon the assembly.

Governor Shallenberger was then introduced as a governor who refused to countenance a further extension of the prison contract system, and he was received with tremendous applause. Governor Shallenberger's remarks were brief and pointed. Admitting that he knew little about industrial life, having always lived upon the farm, he declared that he knew and felt the necessity of organization, and his word to the convention was, "Organize, organize, organize!" He assured them of his sympathy in their very effort for the uplift of themselves and their fellow workers, and he felt that just such states as Nebraska, neither altogether agricultural nor industrial, was in splendid shape to act as the final arbitrator and bring about that balance that should exist between labor and capital. He wished the convention a profitable session and bid them welcome to the seat of the state government.

Mayor Love welcomed the delegates

on behalf of the city, and his welcome was hearty and sincere. He discussed existing conditions as compared with past conditions, and assured the workers that his sympathies were with them. His address was listened to with great interest and he was warmly applauded.

A. A. Hyers, of Havelock, representing the machinists of that city, responded to the addresses of welcome on behalf of the convention. His response was brief and witty, and he voiced the sentiments of the delegates, a fact evidenced by their loud applause of his every expression of good will towards the chief executive of the state and the mayor of the capital city. Mr. Hyers' address in full will be printed next week.

Deputy Commissioner of Labor Maupin then addressed the convention briefly, outlining his purpose in calling the convention and telling what he believed the necessities were for such an organization as a state feder-

ation of labor. He then called for nominations for temporary chairman. Patrick Ford of Omaha nominated Fred Murray of Omaha and A. A. Hyers nominated Mr. Maupin. However, Mr. Maupin, declined to stand as a candidate for the position and Mr. Murray was selected by acclamation. The newly elected chairman was given his seat, and after a brief word of thanks he asked for the selection of a temporary secretary. J. A. Booth of Fremont was selected.

Chairman Murray then appointed the following committees:  
Credentials—Wm. Wakehouse, Omaha; G. A. Walker, Lincoln; Jerry Howard, South Omaha; John Pfann, Nebraska City.

Constitution—F. M. Coffey, Lincoln; H. F. Still, T. H. Williamson, S. S. Smith, Havelock; F. H. Morris, Nebraska City. Mr. Chase of Lincoln, afterwards took Mr. Still's place upon this committee.

Resolutions—I. J. Copenhaver, Oma-

ha; F. P. Hart, South Omaha; W. E. Dewey, Lincoln; A. H. Hyers, Havelock.

Pending the report of the committee on credentials, Raymond Robins of Chicago made a rousing speech in which he urged the convention to proceed cautiously, to act courageously, and to make the Federation a force in the industrial life of the state. He told of unionism's struggles and successes, and pictured in glowing words a future better and brighter because of the struggles and sacrifices of unselfish workers.

The credential committee reported the accredited delegates and the convention immediately settled down to such business as a temporary organization could transact. Permanent organization was effected by the election of Mr. Murray to continue in the chair. Frank P. Hart was selected as permanent secretary. There were those who insisted that these permanent officers should be elected to serve for the

year, but this view of the case was not coincided in by the majority. It took an hour of warm discussion to settle the matter, but it was finally decided that the officials were to serve only until a constitution was adopted and the Nebraska State Federation of Labor an accomplished fact.

After the selection of a committee to frame an order of business the convention adjourned till 8 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Monday evening Governor and Mrs. Shallenberger tendered a reception to the delegates and visitors and to the local unionists of Lincoln. For two hours the executive mansion was a busy scene, the visitors coming and going and enjoying the hospitality of the state's chief executive and his wife. Dainty refreshments were served, Mrs. Shallenberger being assisted by the wives of several of the presidents of local unions. This feature of the convention was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and

from appearances practically every delegate and visitor accepted the hospitality of the executive mansion.

Tuesday morning's convention was to have convened at 8 o'clock the usual beginning time of the eight-hour day map, but the delegates were a little slow in arriving and it was nearly 9 o'clock before Chairman Murray called the convention to order. The committee on order of business reported and the report was adopted without dissent. The committee on constitution then announced its readiness to report and Chairman Coffey took the floor and proceeded to read. The document was a lengthy one, but it had been prepared with such care and ability that the changes and amendments to the document as read were comparatively slight. On some three or four sections there was warm debate, and in several instances there were insinuations of "jockeying for political advantage." But the debates were all good natured, and at times hearty laughs were raised by some witty retort of a delegate. Section by section the document was considered by the committee of the whole, and at the conclusion of the reading the committee of the whole arose and reported, and at the afternoon session, about 3:30, it was adopted and the Nebraska State Federation of Labor was an established fact.

An effort was made at this juncture to suspend the order of business and proceed with the election of officers. The claim was made that many of the delegates wanted to get away on the early trains, but a majority were willing to stay right there and proceed in the regular way.

The resolutions committee reported at length. Among other resolutions adopted was one in favor of equal suffrage, which was carried without a dissenting vote. Another asked that the age limit of forty-five, prescribed by the civil service rules, be raised. One thanking Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin for his activity and services in calling the convention was adopted by rising vote.

Delegate Howard, of South Omaha, insisted upon the reading of a resolution drafted by him, although the resolution committee asked for further time. It was a savage attack upon the deputy labor commissioner, charging him with neglect of duty and various other crimes. The deputy commissioner replied and moved the tabling of the resolution. The motion to table was adopted with a whoop. Another resolution asking that Organizer Flood be sent to Lincoln as soon as he had finished in South Omaha was finally adopted after some little trouble in getting a chance from Chairman Murray to have it reported from the committee.

This finished the order of business save for the election of officers, and this work was taken up. Then came the big fight—good natured as a whole—that had been looked forward to with so much interest. As soon as this order was called for, Delegate Smith of Havelock arose and put in nomination Will M. Maupin, of Lincoln. Delegate Ford of Omaha, followed with the nomination of Fred Murray of Omaha. Several seconding speeches were made and then the vote came on. Delegate Copenhaver moved that the ballot be a secret one, to which Chairman Murray made violent protest in which he hinted vaguely at "dirty politics," and said the convention was not big enough to honor him to any extent by electing him as its head. Delegate Grant arose to a point of order and pointed out that as the convention was working under a regularly adopted constitution it would be necessary to elect by Australian ballot. The convention took that view of it. Secretary Hart called the roll, and as each delegate's name was called he went forward and deposited his ballot in the hat. The vote stood thirty-eight for Maupin and thirty for Murray. Mr. Murray appointed Messrs. Ford and Hyers to escort the president-elect to the chair, and in yielding the gavel Mr. Murray assured the new president of his hearty support and sympathy.

The election of vice presidents and members of the legislative committee was expedited by referring all nominations to a committee, the committee's selection in each instance being

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### THE MEN WHO MADE THE FEDERATION



### THE NEBRASKA STATE FEDERATION'S ORGANIC LAW

THE AIM OF GOVERNMENT should be to protect man in his natural rights; to promote domestic tranquility; to promote the general welfare; and to insure the blessings of liberty.

FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL a law-favored and law-making few have enjoyed idle luxury at the expense of the toiling many. About the only rights vouchsafed to the toiler is the right to sin, starve and suffer.

UNDER THE PRESENT organization and manipulation of legislation the burdens of life are unequally distributed. The non-producing class, by reason of its having ample time to devote to the perpetuation of the causes which at present unfairly divide the results of honest toil, tends to perpetuate the evil, instead of diminishing the burden.

Wherever one is getting without working, somewhere, in some place some one is working without getting.

IT, THEREFORE, behooves the man who toils, the laboring man, to take such action and adopt such measures as will best insure his self-preservation.

WE, THEREFORE, pledge ourselves to assist each other in securing the best possible wages and best possible treatment to the laboring class by all honorable means, and we will withdraw, and use our influence to have others withdraw, all patronage from any unfair employers.

WE FURTHER PLEDGE ourselves to assist in guaranteeing to each national and international organization affiliated with the Nebraska State Federation of Labor the trade autonomy or control of their own business.

#### ECONOMIC DEMANDS

As the accredited representatives of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor and the organized industrial classes, we make the following declaration of principles and economic demands:

First—The abolition of all forms of involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.

Second—Free schools, free text-books published by the state, and compulsory education.

Third—Unrelenting protest against the abuse of the injunction in labor disputes.

Fourth—A work day of not more than eight hours within the twenty-four-hour day.

Fifth—A strict recognition of not more than eight hours per day on all federal, state and municipal work and at not less than the prevailing per diem wage rate of the class of employment in the vicinity where the work is performed as established by the different crafts.

Sixth—Release from employment one day in seven.

Seventh—The abolition of the contract system on public work.

Eighth—The municipal ownership of public utilities.

Ninth—Sanitary inspection of factory, workshop and home.

Tenth—Liability of employers for injury to body and loss of life.

Eleventh—The enforcement of our child labor laws.

Twelfth—Suitable and plentiful playgrounds for children in all cities.

Thirteenth—The initiative and referendum.

Fourteenth—All just and proper restrictions on the liquor traffic.

Fifteenth—Equal pay for equal work for both sexes.

Sixteenth—The squeezing by legislative enactment of all water out of the capital stock of public service corporations and the enactment of proper regulation laws allowing a reasonable per cent of profit on the actual capital invested.

Seventeenth—Establishing of government postal savings banks.

Eighteenth—Adoption of constitutional amendments requiring the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Nineteenth—The abolition of the competition of convict labor with free labor.

Twentieth—The establishing of a state printing office and the election of a state printer.

Twenty-first—Proper legislation and sufficient appropriations to allow the labor bureau to meet the necessities and possibilities of such a department of state.

Twenty-second—To lessen the number of hours of continuous employment on transportation lines—railroad and electric.

Twenty-third—To lessen the number of hours of continuous employment and provide proper sanitary conditions for women and girls employed in factory, department stores and work rooms.

Twenty-fourth—We are opposed to the piece system in all crafts.

#### CONSTITUTION Article One

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Nebraska State Federation of Labor and shall affiliate with the American Federation of Labor.

Sec. 2. It shall be composed of the accredited representatives of trade and labor organizations.

Sec. 3. The objects of this body are to defend our rights and advance our interests as working men and women; to protect just and honorable employers from the unfair competition of cheap labor huckstering rivals; to foster fellowship, and shield from aggression the defenseless toiler; to aid the destitute and unfortunate; to develop and stimulate, by association and social converse, those kindly instincts of humanity which most highly adorn true manhood; to encourage the principle and practice of conciliation and arbitration in the settlement of differences between capital and labor; to promote the industrial interests of the members of this Federation and the wage workers in general; to collect facts regarding the injustices practiced upon individuals and collective workers, and publish them to the world, so that the cause of our complaints may be known; to assist and encourage the formation of unions of working men and women in every city and town in the state; to urge the laboring people and their sympathizers to patronize union-made goods, bearing the union labels, in preference to other goods; to uphold authorized

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