

# WAGEWORKER

By MAUPIN & HOGARD

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

Entered as second-class matter April 21, 1904, at the postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879.

## DIFFERENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

We in America are inclined to swell up and grow chesty when we think about our wonderful industrial development. We've been growing so fast that we haven't taken the time to conserve our energies, and the result is that we are killing men and women by the thousand in the mad chase after dollars. The health and comfort of the workers are about the last things considered by the average employer, and were it not for the unions the death rate would be far larger than it is.

Isn't it about time we called a halt and take the time to consider humanity a while? Isn't it about time we gave a little more attention to the worker and a little less attention to the product of his toil? It is humiliating to confess it, but this great republic can learn a whole lot from New Zealand, once a penal colony of Great Britain's, but today one of the most advanced communities in the world.

In distant New Zealand, not many months ago, some capitalists established a match factory, and employed women and girls. It was a new industry for that country. The wages were low, and finally the workers asked for an increase. It was refused. They asked again and again, declaring that the wage scale was too low to permit them to live decently. But every demand was met by a refusal. Finally the women resorted to different tactics. They did not strike—for strikes are unknown in New Zealand. They have a substitute for the strike. It is called a "Court of Arbitration and Conciliation," and to this court the women took their grievances. The employers replied that the industry was new, and that until it was securely established it would be unjust to ask them to pay higher wages.

The judge ordered an inquiry—not into the condition of the match industry, but into the condition under which the workers were forced to toil and live. They think more of men and women than they do of dollars in New Zealand. They may or may not be "socialistic," but whatever else it may be it is common justice and humanity. And after the court had fully investigated the facts the match manufacturers were ordered to appear in court and hear the award. This is what the judge told them:

"It is impossible for these girls to live decently or healthfully on the wages you are now paying. It is of the utmost importance that they should have wholesome and healthful conditions of life. The souls and bodies of the young women of New Zealand are of more importance than your profits, and if you can not pay living wages it will be better for the community for you to close your factory. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SEND THE WHOLE MATCH INDUSTRY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN, AND GO BACK TO FLINTS AND FIRESTICKS, THAN TO DRIVE YOUNG GIRLS INTO THE GUTTER. My award is that you pay what they ask."

That's the way they look after the workers in New Zealand. In this Christian and enlightened republic of ours we give the first consideration to profits, and consider the welfare of the worker last of all. We coddle the manufacturer and disregard the employes in the factory. We protect capital and let labor shift for itself. We send millions abroad to convert the heathen, and never give a thought to the thousands of women who are forced to sell their souls for bread because our beastly industrial system is built wrong end foremost.

Think it over from every viewpoint, and then ask yourself if the New Zealand way is not the most humane, the most Christian—and after all the most profitable.

## THE LOAN SHARK.

A little matter of interest to those who may be in the clutches of the "10-per-cent-a-month" loan sharks was pulled off in Lincoln the other day. For obvious reasons the name of the party at interest is not given, but let him be called Furlong. A year or two ago Furlong lived in Omaha and while engaged at work there became indebted to a "loan shark," giving an assignment on his wages. After paying more in interest than the original loan amounted to, Furlong came to Lincoln

and found work. The loan shark followed and attempted to attach the wages in the hands of Furlong's new employer. Furlong consulted an attorney, and the matter was taken into court. Furlong won, the change of employment preventing the loan shark from obtaining Furlong's wages.

This information is cheerfully given to those who may now be in the clutches of the loan sharks. Such persons may learn something to their advantage by consulting with the editor of The Wageworker.

## THAT "INCREASED WAGE."

Perhaps the conductors and motormen in the employ of the Lincoln Traction company will be able to figure out that their wages have been increased. There may be some all-mighty good mathematicians among the carmen.

But it must be confessed that it will take an expert at figures to work out any increase after taking the whole thing into consideration. However, if the carmen are satisfied, everybody else ought to be. The fact remains, however, that the increase is on paper only, and will not be noticeable in the pay envelopes of the men. The whole matter is fully discussed elsewhere in this issue.

Merely because he saw fit to say what he believed to be true, Ignatius G. Dunn, a lawyer of Omaha, has been deprived of his means of livelihood. If every lawyer who secretly believes what Dunn said is the truth will contribute a dollar a year to Dunn's support, Ignatius will have plenty to live on for years to come.

By the way, if you happen to know that you are rated low in the "blue book" of the local business men's organization, you should get out an injunction. The business men have no more right to list you than the American Federationist has to list the Buck Stove & Range Co.

Thursday's newspapers conveyed the startling information that on the evening before Thanksgiving day President Taft actually walked around the streets of Washington and looked in the store windows. Gee, but we are rapidly following in the footsteps of royalty!

If about a month from now you see a lot of stoop-shouldered men wending their way from an office near Tenth and O, bear in mind that it is a procession of street railway employes carrying their increased wages home.

The business men of Lincoln are showing a warm sympathy for the Labor Temple project. Their help is fully appreciated, and it ought to result in making the unionists of the city take a more active interest therein.

The Omaha Examiner continues to flout the striking carmen of Omaha. If Omaha had a longshoremen's union they wouldn't dare strike, for the editor of the Examiner could unload enough schooners for everybody.

The Wageworker violates no confidence in announcing at this early date that its forthcoming Christmas edition will be a little bit the handsomest ever issued by a Lincoln publication.

Despite the decision of the courts of the District of Columbia we still dare to make known the fact that the Buck Stove & Range Co. is not in good odor with organized labor.

Well, there is satisfaction in the fact that even if the Federation officials were sentenced to jail the sentence did not include a diet of gripe guts and roastum squerial.

If ever the editor of The Wageworker is elected to the legislature the first bill he will introduce will be one to establish the whipping post for wife beaters.

The man who asserts that wages have increased during the past three years merely convicts himself either of ignorance or desire to deceive.

A few months from now you will feel proud if you can look back and say, "I helped to build that Labor Temple."

You may punish a man for contempt of court, but neither fine nor imprisonment will change the feeling of contempt.

If union men will do their share the Labor Temple will be free of debt inside of a year. Come across!

Wage earners should support the papers that fight for them.

Boost for the Nebraska Federation of Labor.

If this thing of being so awfully nice keeps on growing in Lincoln we

## Lincoln's Largest Exclusive Clothing Store

**I**F YOU desire to buy a suit or overcoat of superior stylish merit and wearing goodness you should drop into our store and carefully examine and analyze the points of distinction about our good clothes.

**WE DO NOT SELL YOU "JUST CLOTHES" but we give in every garment you buy here, one that has a distinct style and model, perfect tailoring, and other points of distinction that make ARMSTRONG CLOTHES stand out ahead of all others as ideals of well dressed men.**



**Suits, Overcoats,  
\$10, \$15,  
\$20, \$25.**

You'll be surprised when you see this line of medium priced clothes, containing styles for the most conservative, and more fanciful styles for the extreme dresser. Every one contains more real goodness in wearing and shape holding qualities than you ever got before at these prices. All we want is a chance to prove to you that there are no better to be had at these prices.

**Finest Suits and  
Overcoats  
\$27.50, \$30,  
\$35.00, \$40.**

At the sight of our Finest Suits and O'Coats you will be surprised and delighted, for you never saw a better collection of Fine Clothes than we are showing now. They are simply faultless in every way, and the styles will fit you better than any Lincoln tailor can. Come in, look at them, try them on. This is all we have to ask, because you cannot, with the aim to get what is best for you, go anywhere else and buy.

# ARMSTRONG CLOTHING CO.

## GOOD CLOTHES MERCHANTS

will soon have an ordinance prohibiting a common workingman for appearing on the streets clad in overalls and work shirt.

Perhaps I. J. Dunn was disbarred because he had the nerve to speak openly what a great many people think inwardly. Who knows?

Senator Burkett seems to have franked to Washington about everything save the house and lot at Sixteenth and B streets.

Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison will be able to find plenty of substitutes.

## TO LABOR UNIONS.

Will you assist us by appointing some one in your union to furnish us with news? The Wageworker wants to publish the news of your local, and in order to do so must have your assistance. It is our aim to give our readers all the labor news that is to be had and we wish to do it properly, so that you will be satisfied. By helping us in this way, you not only make this paper more valuable and complete, but your knowledge of what is going on in the labor movement is better and the good feeling among the various crafts is more strongly cemented. When this fellowship idea is instilled thoroughly among us there is less likelihood of a break in the ranks and it is certainly needed at the present time.

## SHOP TALKS.

Two Printers Address the Ad Club on Live Topics.

The union printer had his inning before the Lincoln Ad Club at the semi-monthly dinner Tuesday evening. Albert E. Pentzer, of the Star composing room, spoke on the topic, "The Mechanical Side of Advertising," and, being a master of the subject, he gave the ad writers present some serious food for reflection. W. P. Hogard, business manager of The Wageworker, who puts in odd time in the Journal "Ad Alley," spoke on "Advertising from a Compositor's Point of View." If the ad writers will occupy the compositor's point of view when preparing copy, time will be saved to the advertiser, to the print shop and to the printer—to say nothing of giving the recording angel a chance to breathe. The two talks were followed by some breezy discussion, and the evening proved to be one of the most pleasant and profitable evenings yet spent by this live organization.

## OLD OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

A. F. of L. Gives Little Consolation to Its Opponents.

Amid shouts, cheers, bass drums and cymbals, the A. F. of L. convention unanimously re-elected every officer. There were no contests. Every delegate was determined to line up solid for the present administration, and differences were buried in view of larger problems now confronting the workers. W. B. Wilson of the Miners, and T. V. O'Connor of the Longshoremen were elected fraternal delegates to England. John J. Manning of the Laundry Workers was chosen to represent us at the Canadian congress.

## GREGORY, The Tailor

Knows how to dress you up and has the finest line of fall and winter goods in the city.

Pressing a Specialty

Your Business Solicited

FORMERLY A UNION MAN

## LEON E. CLIFFORD PIANO TUNER

WITH

## PRESCOTT MUSIC CO.

UNION-MADE PIANOS  
Artistic and High-Grade

## EVERY SHOE "UNION MADE" HERE



Thompson Shoe  
\$3.50 & \$4

Handcraft Shoe  
\$5.00

All New—"FOR MEN"—All New

Men's Bootery  
12th & P Sts.