

WAGWORKER

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TO LABOR UNIONS.

Will you assist us by appointing some one in your union to furnish us with news? The Wagworker 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.

SAME OLD FOOLISHNESS.

The meat boycott landed just about where we thought it would. The trusts were not hurt a bit, a lot of people pinched their bellies, and the newspapers had some big headlines.

And there you are! What did the beef trust care about a little thing like a thirty-day boycott? It simply went right on killing and freezing, knowing full well that in good time the people would come trooping back for meat at any old price demanded.

Ever hear of city people refusing to drink water unless the local water company reduced rates? Yet that would not be sillier than trying to pinch the beef trust by depriving our stomachs of nourishing food.

That meat boycott was about the silliest "trust busting" plan we ever heard of. What did it accomplish?

First, we went hungry in order to punish the trusts. Then the trust reduced the prices it paid for live stock, thus pinching the farmer. Then the farmer economized, thus lessening the demand for the products of labor. This resulted in stagnation of business.

In the meanwhile the beef trust went right ahead filling its cold storage warehouses.

What a lot of Jerusalem ponies we are, to be sure!

The meat strike would be laughable if it were not so pitiful. What does any trust care for that sort of a "strike"? The coal operators force a strike now and then, knowing that it will increase the price of coal stocks on hand. The beef trust was not averse to the stock yards strike, knowing that it would profit by an increase in the price of the gold storage stuff. About one-half the strikes are really pulled off by the bosses, who use the workmen as dummies. The workmen think they are striking for justice, when as a matter of fact they are being used as tools to further profit the bosses.

But there is one kind of strike that would, if we went at it as a body, make the bosses of the trusts sit up and take notice.

The strike of the ballot! That would be a strike as is a strike! The trust barons wouldn't laugh at that kind of a strike. And if the strike were made universal the trusts would not profit from it, either. Quite the contrary.

Suppose every workingman should sit right down now and write to the congressman from his district and demand that congress at once remove the protective tariff from live stock and dressed meats, backing up the demand with emphatic notice that if the congressman failed to comply he would not again receive the vote of the writer. That might have the proper effect. But if it didn't, then next November strike at the ballotbox, and vote for no candidate for congress who will not pledge himself to remove the

tariff on live stock and dressed meats. Get that sort of a movement well started and watch the beef trust hustle to block the game.

We're paying an average of \$7.50 per capita for the benefit of a few wool growers and fewer gamblers in wool. The wool tariff is the rankest kind of robbery. There has been no reduction in the wool tariff since 1870, yet the number of sheep per capita is smaller. Today we are taxed \$7.50 each to protect five-tenths of a sheep per capita. As a result the half-wool-half-shoddy suit of clothes you ought to be getting for \$8 you are paying from \$16 to \$20 for; everything containing even a suspicion of wool that you buy you are paying double for—and why? The trust barons tell you it is to "protect the American workingman," and yet the workers in the woolen industries are among the poorest paid workers in the country. We are merely paying those ridiculously high prices because we are a lot of "suckers." And we can refuse to buy clothing until we freeze, or we can refuse to eat meat until we are faint with hunger, and the trust magnates will laugh at us.

But if we were to go out on strike, picket the polling places with sensible men, and use the weapon of the ballot, we'd have the trust magnates down on their marrow bones in short order.

Sure we might have a little panic, brought about by the trust magnates in their efforts to retain their grip on our throats.

But wouldn't you rather go hungry for a little while and then run things right, than to be forever threatened with starvation if you didn't continue to be the abject tools of the trust magnates?

The meat boycott is a ghastly joke! We'll never get anywhere with that sort of foolishness. If God gave you any convoluted gray matter in that cranium of yours then for God's sake agitate it a little.

The man who pinches his belly because he is too lazy to think or too ignorant to care, deserves all the pangs of hunger that may attack him.

The trust barons are not afraid of that class of men.

THINK IT OVER.

It is now proposed to issue \$200,000 or more in bonds for the purpose of building good roads in Lancaster county.

Don't do it! That isn't the way to get good roads. Nor is it the right way to get the money for building good roads. The tax would be unjustly levied. The men who would profit most from good roads would pay the least in proportion towards the cost of building them.

Our tax system is wrong. The Lincoln wage earner who owns his little home would pay vastly more taxes in proportion than the rich speculator who owns hundreds of acres of unimproved lands that he is holding out of the market while it rapidly enhances in value through the efforts and enterprise of others.

Our tax system puts a premium on indolence and a fine on enterprise and public spirit.

Again, if the street in front of your cottage is paved, you pay for all of it, and also help pay for the intersections. Now the farmers ask you to also pay for the paving in front of his farm. He'd have a fit if anybody proposed making him help pay for paved streets in Lincoln by taxing him for that purpose.

"But," you say, "the city would profit by good roads."

Of course, but don't forget that the farmer also profits by having a big market like Lincoln close to his farm.

That makes that part of it about equal.

We favor good roads, and we are willing to bear our share of the expense. But the small home owner is compelled to bear more than his share under our present system of taxation.

Suppose we base the good road tax on the land values—the value of the land for use and occupancy. That would be fair.

Just one example. The editor of The Wagworker owns a modest little home at Thirty-third and Q streets—one lot from the corner of Q. The 1909 taxes were \$35.38, to which might be added the personal tax of several dollars more. There is a vacant lot next to the editor's home. It paid taxes amounting to about \$5. Yet the lot is just as valuable for use and occupancy as the lot on which the editor's cottage stands. But the editor is fined \$30 a year because he is trying to provide his family with a home. The owner of the vacant lot gets just as much benefit as the editor, but he pays only one-seventh of the tax. Is that fair? Good roads will increase land values, but the tax will bear heaviest upon the improved lands, and the benefits will be greatest to the unimproved lands. Farm land values are but 17 per cent of the total land values of this country, yet the farm lands pay 55 per cent of the tax raised

from the amount levied on land. Mr. Farmer ought to be an enthusiastic single taxer. But, then, he ought to be an advocate of trades unionism and the shorter work day for craftsmen. He isn't, because he is shortsighted.

Unless something better in the system of raising the money is found, The Wagworker will oppose the proposed tax for good roads.

The Sherman law prohibits rebates. Paul Morton of the Santa Fe boasted that he gave rebates. Was he fined and sent to jail? Nit! He was made secretary of the navy. But union haters are given the hook when they try to protect themselves and their families. That's the way the laws are enforced for the rich and poor alike.

Judge Sears of Omaha didn't hesitate to grant an injunction requested by an employer of "scabs." And it is a blanket injunction that denies union men rights guaranteed them by the constitution. Yet some people wonder at the growing disrespect for the courts. But then, some people are about as thick-headed as some judges are crooked.

Rev. Mr. Somebodyorother complains that the petition for the referendum was very unsanitary, soiled and filthy. Isn't it awful, Mabel! Really, those dirty, greasy workmen who signed it ought to have washed and manicured their hands before they signed it. Some people have no consideration at all for the finer sensibilities of their betters.

President Sharpe says that the occupation tax means that the company is restrained from adding one new and modern car a month to its equipment. Gee, if we'd remove the occupation tax in about four or five years we'd have so many cars there wouldn't be track room for them—perhaps.

President Sharp says the six-for-a-quarter ordinance prevents the company from raising wages. Yet the wages have been raised oftener since the six-for-a-quarter was adopted than they were during the same length of time prior thereto.

Don't worry! The benevolent gentlemen who have been appointed by Divine Providence to administer the great business affairs of the country will see that you are properly cared

for. Turn right over and go to sleep again!

Under the Sherman anti-trust act the Hatters' Union has been mulcted for \$250,000 damages. Ever hear of a heartless trust that was cinched under that law? Will the industrial giant ever get his eyes open?

The supreme court has taken another tuck in the rights of American workingmen. The supreme court is so busy hammering the trades unions that they haven't time to give any attention to the trusts.

The Wagworker's nomination of Richard L. Metcalfe for United States senator is being enthusiastically seconded in a thousand different quarters. Let's make it unanimous.

The supreme court's decision on the Lowe-Hatters case made more anarchists in one day than Emma Goldman has made by all the speeches she ever delivered.

That decision in the hatters' case surely tickled Mr. Post so much that he went right out and bought some more silk lingerie for the ex-stenographer.

By the way, will the State Journal refuse to publish the applications for liquor license in case Lincoln goes "wet" at the referendum? We inquire to know.

Don't subscribe for your labor paper. Starve it to death! The daily papers will fight the battles of organized labor for you.

SHIRTTWAIST GIRLS WIN.

The 3,000 striking shirtwaist makers of Philadelphia have won their fight. They go back to work with better pay, shorter hours and recognition of their grievance committees. They will no longer be required to buy their own thread and needles. That bunch of girls gave their male friends in the union game a lot of valuable pointers or how to fight and win.

If you want to save a few dollars in buying furniture or carpets we have both new and second-hand. Call and see us.—J. C. FANTON & CO.

Unions in Waycross, Ga., will have a labor temple.

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SUIT and Overcoat

To Your ORDER and Measurement

Fits and Misfits

are being given to men all over town, but you'll never get a misfit here. We are experienced cutters and fitters, and make it a point to give every patron the best fit possible in the choicest fabrics, beautifully lined and finished and perfect in every detail of making. Yet we do not ask any fancy price for our high-class goods and superior workmanship.

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 J. H. McMULLEN, Mgr. AUTO 2372

Farmers and Merchants Bank

G. W. MONTGOMERY, President H. C. PROBASCO, Cashier



Good Advice

"Save what you have and live within your income. Avoid speculation. No matter what I was making, I always made it a rule to save something; and this course, if persisted in, is sure to succeed. The money will pile up in time."
 COMMODORE VANDERBILT.

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Men's Bootery
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WHITEBREAST COAL CO.
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The Long Winter Nights

May be made bright and cheerful by illuminating the home with either Gas or Electricity. And the disposition of the housewife may be sweetened by relieving her of the drudgery of filling "smelly" kerosene lamps and cleaning smoky chimneys. Nothing is so well calculated to make home happy as bright lights and cheerful dispositions. We will furnish the illumination—and the cheerful dispositions will follow as a natural result.

If It's a Question of Cost

Let us prove to you—as we can—that it is cheaper, more convenient and far better to illuminate with gas or electricity than it is to illuminate with kerosene amps. Counting cost of kerosene and chimneys, to say nothing of the drudgery connected therewith—it costs no more to use gas or electricity. And as for the results—dollar for dollar you get immensely more and better light—always ready, no cleaning, no breakage—by using our illuminants.

Equipping a Modern Kitchen--

Mr. Mechanic, you insist upon having the best and most up-to-date tools. Why deny your good wife the same conveniences for her trade. If you think housewifery is not a trade, just try it. Equip the kitchen with labor saving devices—first a gas range, then electric irons, toasters, etc. Come in and let us show you a few things.

Lincoln Gas and Electric Light Co.

OPEN EVENINGS