

WAGELABORER

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MAYOR LOVE'S DREAM.

Those who had the pleasure of listening to Mayor Love's address at the Labor Temple last Sunday afternoon heard a scholarly discussion of the commission plan of municipal government. With most of Mayor Love's ideas in this connection The Wage-worker is in hearty accord, but when Mayor Love announced himself in favor of the unsalaried commissioners he and The Wage-worker parted company immediately. On that one point The Wage-worker is uncompromising, and it believes it voices the sentiments of practically every wage worker in the city on that particular topic.

We have but to cite the case of the British parliament to awaken Lincoln wage earners to the vicious feature of the unsalaried commission Members of the British House of Commons receive no salary, and for centuries the workingmen and women of Great Britain were unrepresented for the simple reason that no wage earner could accept election and feed and clothe himself and family. Today there are fifty or more trade unionists sitting in the House of Commons, but they are paid the wages of their craft by assessments levied by their unions. In this way only have British workingmen secured representation, and through that representation, justice. No wage earner in Lincoln can afford to serve as a city commissioner without salary, therefore the city government is to be given into the hands of—whom? Men of financial means, even though the possession of financial means argues nothing in their favor as business men. Some of the wealthiest men in Lincoln couldn't earn a thousand dollars a year in any trade or profession. They are rich because cheap lands purchased by their fathers and willed to them have been trebled and quadrupled in value by the toil of the very men whom it is now sought to deprive of a chance to become commissioners. Some of the wealthy men, especially those of the younger generation, inherited their wealth, yet these gentlemen may be commissioners, while the honest, capable wage earner who is unable to accumulate a fortune is discriminated against. Some of the wealthy men secured their wealth by the matrimonial route, and while these men may become commissioners under Mayor Love's plan, the wage earner who married for love only and struggles almost vainly to make his wage cover his expenses, could not hope to ever be given the honor of serving as a city commissioner.

We respect Mayor Love for his ambition to be in part responsible for the formation of an ideal charter that will be known to future generations as "the Lincoln plan." That is a laudable ambition. But if, to achieve that ambition, he must insert a paragraph that will prevent the printer, the carpenter, the plumber, the bricklayer, the painter, or any other mechanic, from holding the office of commissioner, then we shall, to the extent of our meagre ability, strive to prevent its achievement.

We trust that Mayor Love will take a second thought. The unsalaried commissioner, like the purification of politics, is, in the language of the late John J. Ingalls, a "damned iridescent dream."

SUNDAY BASEBALL.

We have no fight to make against Sunday baseball on religious grounds. We are, however, inclined to oppose Sunday baseball on economic grounds. With Sunday baseball in Lincoln we lose the last argument in favor of a half-holiday, and with it we lose another argument in favor of a six-day wage for five and one-half days' work. We are not very much inclined to give patient hearing to the workingman who asks for Sunday baseball on the ground that the "hasn't anything to do on Sunday." A majority of workingmen have families, and Sunday is a good day to visit and get acquainted with the wife and children. Sunday, too, is a good day for the workingman to study a bit in order to acquaint himself with the conditions that confront him and ascertain the

best methods of meeting these conditions. The selfish employer is not the worst foe of the workingman. His worst foe is his own ignorance.

Sunday is a day of rest, however, and we are inclined to take issue with those who would dictate to us just how we should rest. Recreation is rest, and for the life of us we can not see the difference between enjoying a ball game on Sunday and taking a buggy ride on Sunday. We fail to distinguish the difference between having eighteen or twenty healthy athletes cavorting for our entertainment and having the good housewife broiling herself over the kitchen stove in order to broil the festive pullet for the visiting pastor. We opine it is just as much a sin to whack the gutta-percha golf ball on Sunday as it is to swat the horsehide-covered sphere on the first day of the week. And we do not think that purchasing an Epworth Assembly ticket on Saturday for a Sunday gabfest is any more virtuous than buying a ticket on Sunday for that kind of an entertainment, or any other kind of an entertainment.

There are arguments against Sunday baseball, but the moral argument to our unsophisticated mind, is about the least tenable of the lot. We believe that if submitted to a popular vote Sunday baseball would carry by a huge majority, but even that is no particular argument in its favor. Viewing the last four presidential elections from our standpoint the majority has been wrong every time.

If the opponents of Sunday baseball want to cut any particular amount of ice they will abandon the religious argument and get busy with the economic argument. We are of the opinion that it will not be difficult to demonstrate that in those cities where Sunday ball and Sunday theaters flourish, the percentage of workers compelled to toil seven days a week on a six-day scale basis is largest.

Every once in a while we see a communication in the esteemed Journal signed by "Geo. F. Collins." Is that the same Collins who represented Gage county in the legislative session of 1891? If it is we opine that he ought to be repenting of sins then committed instead of trying to tell the rest of us what to do to be saved.

Now what do you think of the fellow who voted against saloons a year ago, thinking he would have no trouble in keeping his cellar full of booze, and now threatens to vote the saloons back because he experienced difficulty in getting any at all in his cellar?

As between those who make a living fighting the liquor interests and those who make a living from the liquor business, The Wage-worker is inclined to go fishing just as soon as the season opens.

The Labor Temple is not yet paid for, and you haven't done all you should do to help wipe out the debt. And you will not have done all you should do until you have done all you can.

Some paretic contributor to the News' "Why" column asserts that wages have increased from 60 to 75 per cent. We now join with those who are insisting that the "Why" department be closed.

Lincoln baseball "fans" are not so insistent upon a pennant-winning team as they are upon a team that will play the best ball it knows how.

The president of the local street railway company would better look Sharp, else it will soon be known as the Lincoln Humpe company.

We are hoping that next week's Wage-worker will be issued from its own office from its own type set by its own employees.

We greatly fear that Chief of Police Malone is making himself greatly disliked by Messrs. Metz, Krug Storz & Co.

About the best we can say of Lincoln conditions is that her mud is on her streets, not in her city government.

The Davenport tract is the best of the three offered. The Davis tract proposition ought to be smothered instantly.

President Taft's anti-injunction bill is the Ben Davis of the whole lot of anti-injunction propositions.

Every wage earner should be in favor of the \$50,000 park bond issue.

How about Sunday band concerts in the park this summer?

Of course you'll demand the label in that new spring suit?

What?

Sale of Men's \$18, \$20, \$22.50 OVERCOATS



THIS SALE offers you a large selection of light and medium weight Overcoats, Top Coats and Rain Coats, with plain or military collars. Plenty of dark and a nice bunch of light colors.

Choice of the Bunch **\$10** See the Window Display

You have often wished you had a nice Spring or light weight Overcoat, or one of those long roomy Raincoats that so many men wear, but felt that you could not afford it. Now this sale gives you a chance to satisfy that desire for about one-half you would pay for them at any other time. **COME IN AND SEE THEM.**

Armstrong Clothing Company

Good Clothes Merchants

SPARKS FROM LIVE WIRES.

Gems Lifted From The Wage-worker's Always Welcome Exchanges.

By-Products.

Among the by-products of the Standard Oil might be mentioned many falsifying newspapers and boodle senators.—Wilmington Labor Herald.

Tie the Tag to Taggart.

Every once in a while somebody elects Tom Taggart senator to succeed Beveridge. There is little likelihood that Beveridge will succeed himself, but it is hoped that the democracy of Indiana will have too much self respect to choose the wily French Lick gambler to fill any honorable position.—Fort Wayne Labor Times-Herald.

Very Interesting.

Even the "great dailies" are in sympathy with the striking shirt-waist makers in New York. It would be interesting to know in what, if any, respect the shirt waist makers' strike differs in motive or conduct from other disputes of the kind which the said "great dailies" are ever ready to condemn out of hand.—Coast Seamen's Journal.

Striking Difference.

Didn't President Taft make a mistake in selecting the "possum" as the patron saint of his administration? In the first place the Latin "possum" means "I am able," and Taft isn't. In the next place, the "possum" deceives his enemies by pretending that he is dead, while Taft is pretending that he is alive.—Duluth Labor World.

Fool Strikes.

Another tom-fool strike—the meat strike. If wearing apparel were to rise in price these same deluded per-

sons would, no doubt, have recourse to the fig leaf.—Iron City Trades Journal.

Interest Your Wife.

Don't say, when you are appointed on a committee to act for the Central Council, "My wife won't let me." Teach her the value of the work you are doing, gain her interest in the union, and you will not only have her consent, but, in most cases, her active co-operation. The average woman, when she really understands what the object is, makes a crackerjack "union man."—Spokane Labor World.

Filling a Need.

The International Labor Press Association is filling a long-felt want. Time and again so-called labor press associations have appeared like mushrooms, started by schemers for individual profit, and were soon exposed as frauds until the publishers of labor papers became leary of these enterprises. However, the labor editor realized more than ever the necessity for some united action to assert himself against the exploitation of his paper by politicians and labor officials for no other remuneration than high-sounding resolutions, and the International Labor Press is the result.—St. Louis Labor Compendium.

The Real Man.

The real man is he who is not only content to get better wages and shorter hours for himself, but also wants his fellowman to enjoy the same privileges. There is no middle ground for men of labor, they are either for or against us, so don't bore us with the Independent gag.—Rochester Labor Journal.

Since the death of Geronimo, the Indians feel they have a right to their liberty and to lands.

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MADE BY FRIENDS

LINCOLN MONEY
LEFT IN LINCOLN

LIBERTY FLOUR

No better flour sold on the Lincoln market. Every sack warranted. We want the trade of Union men and women, and we aim to deserve it. If your grocer does not handle Liberty Flour, 'phone us and we will attend to it. Ask your neighbor how she likes Liberty Flour. We rely on the recommendation of those who use it.

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The best coal in the market for the money
LUMP, EGG OR NUT \$6.50

For Furnace, Heating Stove or Kitchen Range. Try it.

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