

THE WAGEWORKER.

VOLUME 7

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, JULY 1

NUMBER 15

BILLY MAJOR'S DOPE CARD

THE SAME CONTAINING A FEW UNBIASED OPINIONS ABOUT MATTERS OF MORE OR LESS INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC

The firm of Curtis, Towle & Paine—or at least one member of it—is of the opinion that The Wageworker is a detriment to Lincoln. To so think is the blessed privilege of any firm or individual. If to strive to the best of one's ability to promote the interests of the toiler; if to endeavor as best one can to protect the worker against the greed and rapacity of conscienceless employers; if to voice the sentiment that the men with labor to sell have the same right to organize to protect that commodity as the men with manufactured products to sell have to organize to better promote the sale of those commodities—if in short, to fight for equal justice and a square deal is detrimental to a city, then The Wageworker pleads guilty. And yet, somehow or other, The Wageworker can not help feeling complimented when some long-hour, low-wage concern rises up on its hind legs and hollers that this humble little paper is a detriment to the city. If it is now, ever has been, or ever will be detrimental to business concerns that "sweat" their employes, refuse them the right to organize, take advantage of their pressing necessities or deery the efforts of toiler to act together for mutual benefit, then its mission shall not have been in vain. My respects to Curtis, Towle & Paine, or any member thereof, and may it or he prosper just as it or he deserves.

The "Trade Extension Boosters" have returned, claiming to have had a pleasant and profitable trip. Perhaps. But this I do know, that if the workmen of this section of the country who buy goods of the retailers who patronize the wholesalers on that excursion made an average of 93 cents a day—the amount paid by these "boosters" for their handsmen—there would be an almighty falling off in the business done by the aforesaid boosters and their retailing customers. The men responsible for this little stunt ought to be ashamed of themselves. They gave visible evidence of contradicting what they preach, stultified themselves by going back on their slogan, "Let us all boost together for Lincoln," and put themselves on record as favoring the "importation of cheap foreign labor. That is the plain a-b-c of the whole matter. In this connection I take pleasure in reproducing this extract from the Fairbury Gazette—and the city of Fairbury is one of the best of the "little cities" in Nebraska:

"The Lincoln Commercial Club adopted a slogan, 'Let's all work together for Lincoln,' and when they needed a band to accompany them on their boosting trip this week, hired one from outside the city because they could get it cheaper than any of the numerous bands which hold forth at home. There is considerable of the selfish spirit abroad in the land when it comes to saving the dollars, whether it springs from the farmer who patronizes Roars & Seabuck or the commercial club of a city. It is always a pretty good system to practice what you preach, either as an individual or as a club."

And what the Gazette says must of necessity be the opinion of every business man in every other town visited on the trip, providing they understand the matter in its true light.

The lie by intimation is worse, often than the lie direct. And the man who states a half-truth, with the intention of deceiving, is the worst liar of the whole outfit of liars. Among this class I want to place the persistent "knockers" who, because Lincoln went "dry" are saying the town is dead and point-

ing to the number of empty houses as proof. "Why, there are more vacant houses in Lincoln than ever before!" shrieks this cheap Ananias. But he carefully refrains from stating the whole truth, which is that there are more houses occupied in Lincoln today than ever before in its history. There are more people buying their own homes today than ever before in Lincoln's history.

I know of but one industry that has been crippled by the "dry" policy—the cigarmaking industry. And yet there is just as many opportunities today for buying Lincoln made cigars as there ever were. The trouble is, a vast majority of the fellows who bewail the hard luck of the local cigarmakers are men who never think of buying a Lincoln made cigar anyhow. Others who are always shrieking, "Stand up for Lincoln," do it between puffs on cigars made in eastern tenements, and still others are men who love to prate of their unionism and habitually smoke "scab" cigars or cigarettes made from "Puke's Mixture" or "Bull Scraps." Let's be fair, gentlemen.

On the square, while on a train the other day I heard a Lincoln man cussing the bankers of Lincoln because none of them would loan him \$750 to make the first payment on a \$1,500 automobile. He said they were "cheap skates"; that they "lacked enterprise"; that they were a "lot of grafters"; and he cussed them from Dan to Beer-Sheba. All of which convinced me that when I get a dollar or two ahead I'm quite sure it will be safe if deposited in any one of Lincoln's banking institutions.

I am prouder than ever today of my membership in the Fraternal Order of Eagles. After it has been roasted and toasted to a frazzle as an "organization of booze fighters," "saloonkeepers" and "liquor touters" I desire to call attention to the fact that the local aerie has notified the public that its buffet has been closed, and that it will not even institute the locker system. Other organizations that have consumed more booze than the Eagles ever tried to consume, and which have posed as being made of men of better clay, are putting in the locker system. And now I am waiting for the roasters and toasters to make proper acknowledgment of the action of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. And I expect to keep right on waiting, too.

It is just a bit natural, of course, that a reference to the Eagles should call to mind the Anti-Saloon League. Have you noticed the recent flare-up in that organization? When men like Senator Patrick, and Rev. Mr. Batten, and ex-State Superintendent McBrien, and Lyslie I. Abbott pull out of an organization and give as a reason that the men at the head of it failed to keep his promises, then there is ample room for the suspicion that fighting the saloon is somewhat secondary to the main issue—the collection box. I'm not interested in the Anti-Saloon League nor in the County Option League, but in common with all other men who want things done on the square I'd like to have all the facts presented to an anxious public.

If Adjutant General Hartigan of the Nebraska National Guard will agree to talk to the union men of Lincoln as he has talked to me privately, I will undertake to get him a hearing before the Central Labor Union some time in the future. I don't think much of the militia system as at present constituted, but I do believe that workingmen have taken the wrong po-

sition. Instead of frowning upon the men who enlist in the militia I would have workingmen enlist and officer the militia. But I would rather have General Hartigan give his views. What say you?

This week The Wageworker presents its annual "Friendly Business Men's" edition, and it is cordially recommended to the careful review of the workers of the city. It is pleasing to the editor to know that there are many business men in the city who are anxious enough for the patronage of union men to ask for it through a newspaper that tries its best to stand for the best interests of the organized workers. Such men—the men who show by their actions that they are friendly to organized labor—are the men who should receive the patronage of organized workers. The sooner organized labor begins recognizing and standing by its friends, rather than boycotting and "knocking" its enemies, the better it will be for the labor monument.

Let each one of us breathe a sigh of relief. Teddy is back and the country is safe again. Let every workingman rejoice that his destinies are once more in the keeping of the man who preferred the society of drunken

THE UNION SHOP.

The following editorial from the Boston Globe portrays in graphic manner the difference between the contract of the union shop and the non-union or so-called open shop:

"Persons who are opposed to the union shop because it interferes with individual liberty either forget that there is such thing as individual liberty, or they never given sufficient thought to the subject to reason out the fact. National, State and municipal law is an interference with what is called individual liberty. Individual liberty is anarchy under another name. The union shop says to the man whose standard of life is low and whose environment is degrading and who has no home or family ties, that the citizen having high ideas and responsible family ties, shall not be dragged down to the level of the irresponsible and shiftless. The non-union shop, which is termed the open shop, is desired by some employers because the non-unionist can be used to tear down the living and normal standard of the better class of workers. In the social life the handsome streets, dwelling and restricted districts of the so-called better classes represent the union, while the slums represent the miscelaneous free workman or non-unionist. The union shop protects the home and keeps the children at school. The non-union shop degrades the home and furnishes a treadmill for the children who should be at school. The union shop forbids one to burn his home in the exercise of his individual liberty because he endangers the property of his neighbor. The union shop forbids one to maintain a nuisance of any kind which endangers the health of the community. What any community may do to protect itself against danger of any kind and to advance its material interest the trade unions may justly do, and may with the same legal and moral right frown upon, resent and prevent any invasion of its rights as can any community, State or nation. For reasons herein given and for many others, the union or contract shop is just, hence elevating."

cowboys to that of city mechanics, and who declared that those of us who derided "government by injunction" were worse than anarchists and deserved to be executed. Teddy will shoot you in the back if you don't watch out, just like he did that fleeing Spaniard.

BILLY MAJOR.

HITTING THE POLITICAL PIPE

A FEW STRAY BITS OF GOSSIP CONCERNING MATTERS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH RUNNING THE CITY, COUNTY AND STATE

The amendment providing that no part of the money appropriated by congress for the enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law should be used in prosecuting trades unions, was lost in the senate. President William Howard Taft, whose love for us is so well known, used the power of his high office to defeat the amendment. The only organizations that have been prosecuted under the Sherman anti-trust law have been labor organizations. The trusts and corporations have been allowed to go scott free. How do you like it, Mr. Workingman?

Richard L. Metcalfe, who ought to be the next United States senator from Nebraska, is about as levelheaded a political writer as there is in the country. "Met" is awfully "sot" in his views, but they are the views of a man who can not be purchased or intimidated, and he stands for the best interests of the people all the time. He is a county optionist and a democrat, but he is opposed to endorsing county option by a platform declaration. He offers as a solution of the vexed question this proposition: The democratic platform to favor relegating the question to the legislative districts, pledging the democratic candidate for governor to sign a county option bill if it shall be enacted in response to the will of the majority as expressed at the polls. That is democratic, and therefore fair.

For the ninth consecutive time A. L. Urick has been elected president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor. Some of these days the organized workers of Nebraska will quit "beefing" about their woes and proceed to make a state organization that will come within gunshot of being the effective fighting force that the Iowa State Federation of Labor is. Al Urick is one of the best labor leaders in America, and the Iowa Federation honored itself vastly more than it honored Urick when it gave him a ninth term.

Sheriff Hoagland, stand up! It is openly charged that you appointed deputy sheriffs on the recommendation of Superintendent Ackerman of the Havelock shops, and that while these men are exercising the authority of the county they are being paid by the Burlington. Is it true? It is charged that some of these deputies are fighting, drunken, brawling pugs who are continually seeking to nag the striking boilermakers to the point of fighting, so that they may be juggled for contempt. Is it so? And it is charged that a murder was committed in the stockade at Havelock a week or two ago. Is it so? And by why right do you provide a corporation with deputy sheriffs to act as private policemen and "persuading committees?" Stand up, Sheriff Hoagland! You are going to be put on the rack.

It is said that petitions out asking Bryan to become a candidate for United States senator already contain upwards of 30,000 names. This may or may not be true, but there are few who will have the temerity to deny the assertion that if Bryan would announce himself as a candidate for the senate the "stuff would be off" with the rest of them.

A couple of weeks ago The Wageworker noted the fact that Omaha Typographical Union No. 190 had always endorsed Hitchcock when he was a candidate for congress, and asked if No. 190 was going to do the same thing for him, now that he is a candidate for senator. The Omaha printers answered that question last Sunday by endorsing Hitchcock's candidacy. Mr. Hitchcock has been publishing a

daily newspaper in Omaha for more than twenty years. During that time he has paid out millions of dollars in wages, and every dollar paid to printers, pressmen and stereotypers has been paid to union men.

The Omaha printers also endorsed the candidacy of Laurie J. Quinby, a union printer, who is a candidate for the democratic congressional nomination in that district. But we still hold to the opinion that Quinby is such a good man, has the makings of such a splendid representative of the people in congress, and is so thoroughly imbued with the desire to be of service to his fellows that he don't stand the ghost of a show to get the nomination. We pray that we are mistaken.

President Coffey, Secretary Hart and Vice President Maupin of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor will get together in a short time and prepare a list of questions to submit to every candidate before the primaries for legislative nominations. If the union men of this state vote blindly this year they will have no one but themselves to blame. And the candidate who refuses to answer, especially if they live in the state's largest industrial centers, are going to hear something drop.

The Beatrice correspondent of the Omaha Bee charged that Governor Shallenberger, dismissed for political reasons a complaint filed by Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin against a Beatrice milliner for working his employes over time. The answer is that the Beatrice correspondent of the Omaha Bee was guilty of writing a falsehood. The deputy labor commissioner dismissed the case on his own motion, and for good and sufficient reasons, the defendant paying the costs. If ever the time comes when the present deputy labor commissioner's efforts to enforce the labor laws are hampered by political exigencies, at that moment the deputy labor commissioner will tender his resignation, and don't you forget it!

The sympathy of the entire community will go out to Hon. Charles O. Whedon, who has just suffered the most grievous loss than can befall a man—the death of the wife who was his close companion for many years. Mrs. Whedon's long illness from an incurable disease will explain why Mr. Whedon has not been more active in pressing his senatorial candidacy. His lack of interest in politics during the illness of his wife is a tribute to his love for her and his tender thoughtfulness for her welfare and comfort. The election of Charles O. Whedon to the United States senate would greatly raise the average of honesty and intelligence in that body, and it certainly would serve to put Nebraska in the running more than it has been since the state was honored by the services of William V. Allen.

Despite his 300 pounds President Taft presents the unusual spectacle of being about the lightest-weight president this country has had since Jeems Buchanan.

The initiative and referendum is the thing! Let's get that, and with it we can get many reforms that are now impossible.

William Peruna Andrews has been delegated by the administration to come to Nebraska and prove that the Aldrich-Cannon tariff law is a revision downward and the most equitable tariff law ever enacted. If Andrews has the nerve to come out here and take a stand like that we'll have to grudgingly admit that his favorite medicine is a great nerve tonic.