

# THE WAGELERKER.

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## GETTING READY TO PARADE.

The trades unionists of Lincoln and Havelock are getting ready to make a big parade on Labor Day. That's bully! If ever there was a time in the history of this community when organized labor should make a goodly showing, that time is now. And we are confident that organized labor is going to measure up to the opportunity. It has been the good fortune and the pleasure of the writer to have had some connection with every Labor Day celebration in Lincoln for the past eight or nine years, and so far as his recollection runs the interest and the enthusiasm this year is ahead of any previous year. This is a good sign. The mere whisper of opposition in the form of an organized effort to fight the unions has had the effect of solidifying the ranks.

But as we watch the enthusiasm shown in the matter of making a good showing on labor day, we can not help but wonder what would happen if the unionists of this county took as much interest and showed as much enthusiasm in concerted political action as they take in concerted Labor Day action: And why should we not take as much interest in getting together on election day as we show in getting together on Labor Day? Is it not a fact that we too often nullify our Labor Day efforts by our election day actions?

Honestly now, Brother Unionist, what does the politician care for our Labor Day demonstrations as long as he can keep us at each other's throats on election day? Can you not imagine the capitalist cheering us as we march by on Labor Day, and sneering at us the minute we get past him and he recalls that although we march shoulder to shoulder in the Labor Day parade we split up into foolish partisan factions when we get to the polling places? Capital has no politics and no partisan bias. It is republican when it pays to be republican, and democratic when it pays to be democratic—but it is for capital all the time. And as long as capital can keep us divided by throwing political clap-trap at us, just so long capital will slip in between the divided ranks and swipe all the fruit and leave labor all the husks.

What difference does it make to you, Mr. Wage Earner, whether it is a republican or a democrat that gives you the legislative relief you ask? What difference does it make whether the lemon you get is handed to you by a republican or a democrat?

The partisan can not be a patriot. We believe in political parties; believe they are necessary. But if there is any one thing that is dangerous to this republic it is partisanship. The man who votes a straight party ticket and is unable to give an intelligent reason for so doing, is little less than a simpleton. There is but one fool equal to the wage earner who votes the republican ticket because his father did, and that is the wage earner who votes the democratic ticket because his father did.

Wouldn't it be fine if union men could get together and frame up a plan to act as a unit on election day, just as union men are getting together these days to frame up plans for getting together on Labor Day? There will be fifteen hundred union men in line in Lincoln on Labor Day. If they would pick out a legislative ticket and cast that many votes for it on election day, they would elect every legislative candidate. There are 35,000 organized workers in Nebraska. If they would pick out their friends irrespective of political affiliation and vote for them on election day, they could elect to state office men in hearty sympathy with organized labor.

Maybe some day we'll have sense enough to lay aside partisanship and personal jealousies and do that very thing. We haven't made much headway in that direction as yet, but the symptoms are growing more favorable every day. A little greater effort along educational lines, a more thorough cultivation of the independent spirit now happily growing stronger—and then we'll begin to get real results.

## THE STATE FEDERATION.

Nebraska will shortly elect another legislature, and this reminds us that the Nebraska State Federation of Labor should begin to prepare for it. It is

to be regretted that so many local unions have neglected or refused to affiliate. This neglect or refusal has seriously hampered the Federation officials in their preparations for the coming session. Heretofore when labor has wanted anything from the legislature it has asked for it in a perfunctory manner. The special interest are not content with merely asking for what they want—they keep men on the spot to push their bills. It is time that organized labor followed this example. If the State Federation of Labor were receiving the support it is entitled to from the locals of the state it would be possible to keep a live legislative committee at the state house during the entire session, introducing labor bills, watching them carefully and pushing them at every opportunity. That is the only way labor will ever get the legislation it wants and needs.

But to maintain this legislative committee will require money, and the only method the Federation has of securing this money is by dues from subordinate unions. It is a matter that appeals to every trades unionist in the state, and it is to be regretted that personal jealousies and utter indifference have intervened to hinder the work. But it is not yet too late for the delinquent unions to come forward and help to boost the cause.

The committee on sports for the Labor Day celebration is framing up an interesting session, and will have some elegant prizes to offer. Get ready to take part in the games and show 'em that you are just as young as ever, and twice as spry.

Gosh, just supposing we'd have had this "wet" and "dry" fight when Abraham Lincoln was a candidate for the presidency. Thank heaven, we at least have managed to elect some big men on 'big issues before this question arose to take precedence over everything else.

The Labor Day edition of the Wage-worker will be handsomely illustrated, and contain a number of interesting special articles by well known unionists in Lincoln. It will be an issue well worth preserving.

It is natural that the man who would pay a woman \$2.42 for a week's work should violate the child labor law by employing a "kid" band because it was a chance to get a big attraction cheap.

There are two classes of people who do not drink whiskey—those who are too good to drink it, and those who are too darned stingy to spend their money for it.

Senator Aldrich says it is the best tariff law ever enacted. The senator holds a lot of stock in the rubber trust and rubber is handsomely protected by the tariff law.

We believe that the Labor Day committee could be prevailed upon to invite the members of the Business Men's League to participate in the Labor Day parade.

For an example of sticking to it under adverse circumstances, commend us to the striking boiler-makers of Havelock. There's a loyal union bunch for you.

The primaries are over. Now select your candidates with reference to their friendship for your interests rather than because of your partisan bias.

The legislative candidates in Lancaster county have been selected. Scan the list and see how many union men you can find among them.

Labor Day in Lincoln will be celebrated at Capital Beach—than which there is no more delightful pleasure resort in the country.

The gentlemen who feared that the primary system would destroy interest in politics have another guess coming.

The smaller your union all the more reason why you should march beneath its banner on Labor Day.

If Sawdust Post fails to throw another fit between now and Labor Day we will feel slighted.

Get ready for Labor Day. And go after some of the big prizes that will be offered.

"The injury of one is the concern of all!" Get together on Labor Day.

Shoulder to shoulder, and heart to heart, on Labor Day.

## LAND MONOPOLY.

How It Has Practically Enslaved America's Working Men.

Land monopoly led to the settlement of America. It is the landless citizen of the fatherland who comes to this country as an immigrant. It was not so much the form of government which

sent him forth, as the inability to earn a living. The free land of America was a louder call than its democratic form of government. But the opportunity to obtain free land in America has now gone by. The three million square miles in the public domain of the United States cost the nation \$4.70 an acre. In the disposition of this immense area the nation has become almost land impoverished. The Pacific Railroads alone acquired one-twelfth of it. In addition to a right of way across the continent of one hundred to four hundred feet wide, with such land as was needed for sidings, stations and yards, a subsidy of every alternative section of one square mile on either side the right of way was added as an aid to construction. It is said that the grants to the Northern Pacific Railroad alone were worth one thousand million dollars. The dealings of the Pacific Railroads with Congress with regard to land transactions have been notoriously scandalous.

Following the railways, came the land grabbers and ranchmen, who have appropriated great tracts of land which they are still holding unlawfully. One individual became the owner of fourteen million five hundred and thirty-nine thousand acres of the richest land in California and Oregon, an area three times as great as the State of New Jersey, with its population of one million and a half. The Public Lands Commission appointed by President Roosevelt reported that in the acquiring of the large number of estates which they investigated "almost without exception collusion or evasion of the letter and the spirit of the law was involved."

Land values are increased according to the demand for land. Therefore, with the increase of population land values in every part of the United States are bound to advance. It has been calculated that by the mere fact of his arrival each immigrant increases the value of the territory of the United States by about four hundred dollars. Others have said that the figure is nearer one thousand dollars. When the immigrant lands upon the American shore he practically makes a contribution of a year's earnings to the value of the land. But at the same time he makes the ninety million people already living here poorer by his coming, because the burden of rent of all the people is increased in consequence.

Scarcely a century ago the ancestors of the Astor family invested a few thousand dollars in farming land lying about the outskirts of what was then a mere village. In less than fifty years time the crowding of five million people around Manhattan Island has given a value to the Astor estate of \$450,000,000. And this great increase was brought about not by what the Astor family has done but by what society has accomplished. Meanwhile those who actually created this great fortune have been compelled to pay the price in increased rentals.

In New York approximately one hundred million dollars was raised by taxes on real estate out of a total budget in 1908 of \$143,000,000; in 1910 about \$106,835,000 out of a total budget of approximately \$163,000,000; or about 5-8 of the total is raised by taxation upon real estate. The tenants unquestionably pay the greater part of this tax and the question of rent for the poor is an almost unendurable burden. New York is merely typical of every other city in this respect.—Rev. Charles Stelzle.

A lot of literary "guff" is going around about "Labor should be represented in the president's cabinet." If laboring men elect corporation judges to the presidency they may expect to see corporation men appointed to cabinet positions, whether one or more has "labor" tacked to his title or not.

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