

THE GREAT DEBATE

Nebraska Will Defend the Closed Shop Proposition Soon.

The debate between the University of Nebraska and the University of Wisconsin on the question of the open shop vs. the closed shop will be held in Lincoln on December 2nd. The Nebraska debating squad will take the closed shop end of the controversy, and here's putting a lot of trust in the ability of the Cornhuskers to make good.

The debate will be held at the university chapel and promises to be the big university event of the year.

THE WORKER'S DUTY

The laborer has wrongs to right, has obstacle, to remove. He has not only right but a duty to seek to correct these wrongs and remove these obstacles, and he has a right-nay, a duty to comb'n with his fellows in his work. I look upon the organization of laborers as the morning star of the new day, the latest and finest product of social evolution. Let them find each other out, discuss their common interests, discover their mutual obligations, study together the perplexing riddle of life. Let them combine. Help them combine. Let those who perhaps through superior merit of their own have some advantage ground guide them in their own combination.

—Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

The union men of Sangamon county, Ill., the county in which Springfield is located, do things. At the last election they elected a representative in the legislature, the county clerk and the clerk of the probate court. Two were on the republican ticket and one on the democratic ticket. The union men got politics and went out to elect men of their own class. They had four candidates, but lost out on one by a narrow margin. The unionists of Sangamon have set a fine example.

AN OVERSIGHT.

By oversight The Wageworker of November 5 appeared minus the label of the allied printing trades. We discovered the oversight about as soon as the carrier began leaving the mail the next morning. The 'phones began ringing and 'kicks' were registered. Several copies came back with the "sticker" thereon. And ye editor has been held up on the street and forced to explain a score of times. It's there now, and the make-up man notified that he will be instantly discharged if ever again the label is lifted from the forms for any purpose whatever.

Capital vs. Labor.

First Drummer—How much do you earn a week, old man?

Second Drummer—Oh, about \$500 for the firm; but I only get \$25 and expenses out of it.

A Reproof.

"Oh, children, you are so noisy to day. Can't you be a little quieter?"

"Now, grandma, you must be more considerate and not scold us. You see, if it wasn't for us you wouldn't be a grandma at all."

THE TRADE UNION.

Workingman's Sole Weapon of Protection.

COMPELS A LIVING WAGE.

Capital Dislikes Labor Organizations Because of the Power They Wield Against Injustice—True Meaning of Unionism.

We have listened to the old reasoning that the workingman is able to make as good a contract individually as a labor union can. I don't believe the individual switchman or a railroad man who is earning \$63 a month would get much satisfaction if he protested against a cut in his wages.

What chance has he to see the superintendent and insist that he cannot support his family on a smaller wage?

But if he is a member of an association that includes thousands of men in every branch of railroading his grievance is sure to reach the ear of the president.

Trade unions endeavor to secure a monopoly of labor, they say. Well, suppose they do. If they could create a monopoly they could starve the world.

But it seems to me that the trade union is not the only body that tries to establish a monopoly. Capital does it.

Capitalists do not like unions because they interfere with business, they say. Yes, they do interfere with business. They compel capital to pay living wages. They enforce the demand for the protection of life in the factories. They keep women and children from working fifteen and sixteen hours in an insanitary building. This is a pretty serious thing when a state has to pass a law to prevent a man sending his twelve-year-old girl into a factory. You don't have to compel a tiger to protect its offspring.

Capital says unions interfere with business. A brick factory does not make a business any more than a body of workmen gathered outside the factory makes a business. There is no business until the owner of the factory and the workmen meet, agree upon terms and the men enter the factory and go to work. The employer puts his money into business and the workingman his life. The one has as much right as the other to regulate that business.

Men don't go into businesses because they like them. They are expensive. It costs money to support a union. Men don't advocate a closed shop because they like it; but, my friends, it is because trade unions and the closed shop are the only means the workingman has to protect his life and family.

Their faults are human. The weaknesses of trade unions are the weaknesses of every association of men. They cannot be helped.

Some day there will come the brotherhood of man. Some day industrial warfare as well as warfare between nations will be seen to be ridiculous and a waste of life and money. Some day men will work together in a grand co-operative scheme. But until that day the trade union must stand as the only safeguard of the workingman, the only instrument by which he can maintain himself and his family.—Clarence Darrow.

Laughter.

Laughter is recommended as a cure for indigestion. It looks easy to the person who is not afflicted with indigestion.—Toledo Blade.

EVEN COURTS CAN LEARN.

Recognition of the Humane Idea in "Freedom" of Contract.

"What we know as men we cannot profess to be ignorant of as judges."

When the supreme court of Illinois acted on that idea it made a long jump from the musty past to the up to date present. In this particular case the court was acting in the matter of the law limiting to ten hours the working day of women in factories. By its action it overruled the decision of the supreme court of the same state of fifteen years ago. By the old idea citizens, whether men or women, were to be "free" to contract for a day's work of any length whatever. By the new idea women are to be protected from such "freedom," since with their health rests the future of the race.

As the Oregon restriction law on the same subject has been held constitutional by the United States supreme court, the factory owners in the other states may as well bow to the inevitable when their legislatures pass similar laws. And that principle that what judges know as men they ought also to know as judges might be extended to other matters affecting labor. Every man in the United States, whether judge or layman, knows that a man's purchasing power is his own and that he cannot be deprived of it by any rightful decree. Every man in the United States knows that the right of free speech and free press is essential to a free country; no man, whether layman or judge, is good enough or wise enough to forbid another man to speak his thought. Just as the Illinois supreme court has reversed itself in the case referred to above other courts may be reversed which have assumed to say that free speech shall not be free speech and that a free press shall be muzzled.—Samuel Gompers.

TWAIN ON UNIONISM.

Saw With Clear Vision It Was the Worker's Only Hope.

William Dean Howells, Socialist and novelist, in a series of articles in Harper's Magazine on Mark Twain, of whom he was an intimate friend, tells of Mark Twain's attitude to working class politics in the following description:

His mind and soul were with those who do the hard work of the world, in fear of those who give them a chance for their livelihood and underpay them all they can. He never went so far in socialism as I have gone, if he went that way at all, but he was fascinated with "Looking Backward" and had Bellamy to visit him, and from the first he had a luminous vision of organized labor as the only present help for workingmen.

He would show that side with such clearness and such force that you could not say anything in hopeful contradiction. He saw with that relentless insight of his that in the unions was the workingman's only present hope of standing up like a man against money and the power of it. There was a time when I was afraid that his eyes were a little holden from the truth, but in the very last talk I had with him I found I was wrong and that the great humorist was as great a humorist as ever. I wish that all the work folk could know this and could know him their friend in life as he was in literature, as he was in such a glorious gospel of equality as the Connecticut Yankee at the court of King Arthur.

Workers Urged to Organize.

"A strong labor union is the only solution of the present condition of the workingmen," said Johann Giesberts,

member of the German reichstag and leader of the Center party of that body, in a recent address at Philadelphia. He said:

"Socialism is not and never will be able to better the condition of the working classes, although its very appeal to the public mind is the promise that it will work this benefit. I am fighting this socialism, and in doing so I realize that there is an absolute need of some social reform, especially here in the United States. The only way we can get reform is by legislation, to be brought about by the workingmen. The strongest weapon the laboring classes have and the one that can do them the most good is the strong labor union. Let the workingmen organize among themselves and see what a power they will become."

Wages of English Bakers.

A difference as to hours and rates of wages between bakers and their employers in the Birmingham district has been settled, and a material reduction in the hours of labor and some increase in wages have been effected. Hereafter fifty-four hours a week, exclusive of mealtimes, are to be the limit of employment. Previously the average throughout the district was seventy hours per week.

VALUE OF ORGANIZATION.

If every union man should constitute himself an organizer and should give even one evening of each week to organization, if he should single out one nonunion neighbor or acquaintance and persist in an effort to organize that man, what a short time it would take to unionize all the workers of our country! And if all were organized how much less difficult it would be to secure higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions of life and labor!—John Mitchell.

She Didn't Mind.

A girl with a Gibson face and a green feather in her hat boarded a Chestnut street car the other afternoon. She carried something in a paper sack under her arm. The car was crowded with passengers, and no one offered to rise.

The girl looked worried, but set her lips and grabbed at a strap. Just then the car lurched, the girl made a wild effort to keep on her feet and threw her bundle straight in a large man's lap. There was a peculiar grinding sound in the sack, and then something seeped out that looked suspiciously like the yellow of an egg.

"What in the thunder is this stuff?" he started to say, when she sweetly remarked as she clung to the strap:

"Oh, never mind making apologies. I can get another dozen of eggs at our grocery."

The conductor removed the sack of eggs, and the man looked so savage that no one dared laugh.—Louisville Times.

A Weekly Birthday.

Dr. Marks, who for many years was head of St. John's college, Rangoon, which the young Burmese princes attended, once granted a day's holiday because it was Queen Victoria's birthday. The king asked Dr. Marks what he meant by it. On hearing the explanation he said graciously, "That's all right, but will you give them a holiday on my birthday?"

Dr. Marks said he certainly would if his majesty would inform him what was the day on which the world was blessed by his birth.

"According to Burmese national custom," said the king, "my birthday is every Tuesday!"