

THE WAGEWORKER.



Entered as second-class matter April 21, 1904, at the postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879.

EARLY UNIONISM.

Rev. Charles Stetzle Talks of its First Policies.

On account of the viciousness of the judges and the manifestly unfair treatment of the employers, Parliament in 1824 repealed all the Combination Laws, giving labor the utmost liberty in organizing their unions. Organizations of workingmen sprang up in all parts of the country. The new liberty was abused, and inexperienced leaders became arrogant and unreasonable. This gave the employers an opportunity to demand a return to the old regime, but in spite of political trickery and manipulation of every conceivable kind, they were unsuccessful. Then followed a brief period of business depression which gave the employers an opportunity to deal with their employees in an independent manner, with the result that the workers again became disheartened, because of the feeling that the new law had not proven to be as beneficial as they had supposed it would be.

At about this time there was introduced among the organized workingmen of England a semi-political organization called the "National Association for the Protection of Labor." Established in 1880, it had in a very short time a membership of one hundred thousand, but it was soon disbanded. But three years later there was formed the "Grand National Consolidated Trades Union." Within a few weeks half a million workers became identified with it. Skilled and unskilled workers alike were received, and many women. The organization was crudely socialistic in character, the hope being that the workers would gain control of all the means of production, not through the use of the ballot, for they were practically all disfranchised, but through a monster strike. This organization also failed, but the political spirit aroused during the discussions consequent upon its establishment gave rise to an agitation favorable to the granting of the franchise to the working-people of Great Britain. Many of the men threw themselves into the Chartist Movement, and from 1837 to 1842 there developed among them a revolutionary spirit which threatened to result in great bloodshed. The Chartists, while not a part of the trades union movement, nevertheless captured many of its leaders and influenced many workingmen to take radical steps toward securing a complete change in the form of government. They sought to engage

the workers in general strikes "until the Charter becomes the law of the land." In many cases this movement was repudiated by local labor unions, in some instances because of the general rule that religion and politics were debarred from the meetings of organized labor, but principally because the organized workingmen as a whole did not have very much confidence in the movement. Begun with a high motive and with genuine democracy as its basis, the Chartist Movement soon degenerated into a species of economic quackery.

Not a Kick.

Out of the first batch of appointments announced by Governor-elect Aldrich of Nebraska, Louis V. Guye of Omaha, member of the barbers' union and former president of the C. L. U., gets the position of deputy labor commissioner in place of W. M. Maupin of Lincoln. As yet we have not heard Bill complain of the "system."—Easton, Pa., Labor Journal.

Not a complaint! And you'll not hear one from "Bill." He retires from office without a single pang of regret, and without having made the slightest effort to retain his position. While holding down the job he tried to perform his duties as best he could, and he isn't a bit ashamed of the record he made. He is succeeded by a good union man, for which fact he is thankful; he returns to private life and private business with the knowledge that the chief charm about public office holding is the anticipation—the reality is a bit different. By the way, Shorpe, did you ever head "Bill" complain about anything?

Death of Mrs. Johns.

Mrs. C. C. Johns of Grand Island died at St. Elizabeth's hospital Thursday morning after a lingering illness. Mrs. Johns was brought to Lincoln the day after Christmas, suffering from cancer of the bowels. An operation was imperative, but owing to her decreased vitality, due to long illness, she was unable to rally after the operation. The remains were taken to Havelock, Ia., Thursday afternoon to be buried in the family lot. Mrs. Johns was the wife of C. C. Johns, secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska Press association and advertising manager for Wolbach Bros of Grand Island. She was an especial favorite in social circles and among the members of the press association. To the bereaved husband and relatives the sincere sympathy of the newspaper profession of Nebraska is extended.

Gone to Wyoming.

Louis B. Maupin left Wednesday for Baggs, Wyo., where he assumes the duties of cashier of the State Bank of Baggs. Mr. Maupin has been assistant cashier of the American Savings bank for the past eight months, and prior to that time was connected with the F. & M. bank and the Bank of North Platte. Baggs is



Wageworkers ask your

Fraternal Insurance Order **WHY** they don't make a valuation each year and prove to you they are safe? **THE MUTUAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE** makes annual valuation and shows it **CAN** pay all future obligation **100 per cent** on the dollar. Demand this of your Lodge. **How do you know they won't bust to-morrow? We Demand the Label.**

C. E. CAMPBELL, STATE MANAGER.
AUTO 6180 134 SO. 18TH ST.

**FOR SALE
FOR RENT
Furnished Rooms
Rooms and Board**
The above signs, neatly printed on heavy cardboard, for sale at
THE WAGEWORKER
1705 "O" STREET

a new town in the Snake River valley country, and the bank is owned by men in Rawlins and Cheyenne. At present the valley is a sheep country, but irrigation projects are being pushed and railroad will traverse it next summer. Baggs will be the chief business point of the valley and its citizens expect it to become a rival of even Rawlins and Cheyenne. At present Baggs has a population of 400, with all lines of business well represented.

Single Taxers Dine.

Local advocates of the land value tax idea held a social "feed" at the Lindell Friday noon, and listened to some short but interesting remarks from local leaders in the movement. Laurie J. Quimby of Omaha was present and given the place of honor on the "talkfest" program. The so-called "single tax" idea is growing in strength, and the rapidity of its future growth depends entirely upon the willingness of men to be taught something really worth while.

Boiler Inspection.

Last Wednesday the United States senate passed the **Burkett** bill requiring interstate railroads to equip their locomotives with safe and suitable boilers, and appointment of fifty inspectors under the direction of a chief inspector and two assistants. All appointments are subject to civil service rules. The bill passed without a negative vote and now goes to the house. Senator Burkett introduced the bill at the request of 60,000 locomotive engineers, and has consistently urged the measure at every opportunity.

A Vicious System.

The United States has natural resources enough to support the entire population of the globe in comfort, but not with land monopoly a sacred institution, rewarded, encouraged and pampered by a tax system especially devised to oppress industry and thrift and promote special privileges in God's earth.—Portland Labor Press.