

# SOME LAWS THAT LABOR IS DEMANDING

The wage earners of Nebraska are demanding, and are entitled to, a number of laws in their interests. These demands will be made through duly selected representatives who will attend upon the legislature, and after securing the introduction of bills will use all legitimate means of pushing them through to enactment. The railroad brotherhoods have accredited representatives upon the ground, and the State Federation of Labor will be represented at all times by one or more members of its legislative committee.

Several bills in the interests of labor have already been introduced. It is only natural that organized labor should be active in this matter, for the unorganized workers, in the very nature of things, are helpless. But whatever is done for the benefit of organized labor will benefit unorganized labor equally.

One of the first bills introduced is one prepared by the railroad brotherhoods and puts upon the Nebraska statute books the LaFollette federal statute providing a sixteen hour day for railroad men, and ten hours' rest between sixteen hour periods.

Representative Grossman has introduced a bill repealing the present garnishment law, and returning to the condition that existed prior to four years ago. This bill will be advocated by the representatives of organized labor.

The officials of the State Federation of Labor are in session as the *Wageworker* goes to press, and in a few days the legislative committee will have drafts of the bills that it hopes to have enacted into law. The one around which chief interest will revolve will be the employers' liability law. The Gibson law, now upon the statute books, relates only to men employed by common carriers, and even at that is not worth the paper it is printed on. The workers will demand a liability law that will take in all occupations wherein hazard is attached, and that will provide for graduated compensation for injuries. Another law that will be demanded is one providing that all articles manufactured in the state prison shall be branded "Prison Made," and if possible the repeal of the present convict contract system will be brought about.

A bill already introduced has to do with the safeguarding of buildings, viaducts and bridges while under construction. It has the sanction of the State Federation of Labor.

An amendment to the law creating the state board of printing will be presented. This amendment would have gone through last year and been of some practical benefit had not a member of the legislature had a bill of his own which he hoped to get through and then land a job for himself. He got the bill through, but it was not worth anything, and even at that he failed to land the job.

Organized labor is a unit also in demanding that the Bureau of

Labor be adequately equipped with money and help so as to be of some service to the wage earners of the state.

Summarized, the following will be demanded by the hosts of labor in Nebraska:

- An adequate employers' liability law.
- A sixteen-hour law for railroad men.
- A law branding convict made goods.
- A law providing for safety on public building operations.
- A law providing for proper safeguards on machinery.
- A factory inspection law.
- Adequate appropriation for the Bureau of Labor.
- A law regulating employment bureaus and providing for the licensing of the same.
- A workmen's compensation act.

As matters now stand the wage earners are utterly unprotected and receive no consideration from the state other than the law providing for labor leins. The state appropriates annually thousands of dollars for farmers' institutes, yet refuses to appropriate a dollar to educate the larger number of wage earners along similar lines. It appropriates thousands so that chicken raisers may get together and talk about methods of raising chickens, but not a dollar to teach wage earners how best to rear children under present industrial conditions. Thousands to protect hogs from cholera, but not a dollar to eradicate tuberculosis in the ranks of those who toil in shop and factory and mill and are constant victims of this dread disease because of the unsanitary conditions under which they must work. Not a single safety appliance law for the protection of life and limb in mill and factory, but all kinds of laws protecting milch cows and swine. No provision for the inspection of factories, but plenty of provision for the inspection of herds and flocks.

The 200,000 wage earners of the state—men, women and children—are demanding that some attention be paid to their needs. The men and women forced to toil under unsanitary conditions demand that quite as much attention be given to their health and the health of their little ones as is given to the hogs and steers and dairy cows.

Women who work in garment factories are docked if they spoil goods or break machinery, but if they are injured by machinery unguarded because it would cost the employer a few dollars to guard it, then the poor woman has to foot the bills. Provision is made for deterioration in machinery, but none at all for deterioration in men and women. The employer secures industrial insurance against accident in blanket form. If an employer is hurt he has to fight an insurance combine, and even if at last successful in securing damages must give an average of 60 per cent of the award to lawyers.

The wage earners of Nebraska have been petitioning for reforms for a number of years, but now they are going to demand their rights.

## REV. CHARLES STELZLE'S CURE FOR WORRY

How may worry be cured? First, by realizing the utter, absolute uselessness of worry. If you were to spend a dozen eternities in worry, you could not change a single fact. The only way that you can change a circumstance is by hard work and you can't work hard with a clear head and a steady hand if you worry. A party of friends were looking at the inmates of a lunatic asylum. One of them remarked: "I suppose that a large proportion of these people were brought here on account of unnecessary worry." "Is any kind of worry necessary?" asked another.

You may cure worry by taking a larger view of life. We are so taken up with our own little affairs that we sometimes forget that there is a big world beyond us. And when things go wrong—without looking out upon it—we imagine that the world is just a great, black, sunless, heartless sphere. A broken toy covers the whole horizon of a child's life. How pitifully you have smiled at the youngster whose heart was almost broken because of what you considered a very trivial matter. And you have learned to smile now at what you once thought were great sorrows and anxieties, because, since then, you have had a larger experience.

It's a great thing sometimes to forget yourself and to try to remember that your work and your life are just a part of God's great plan for the betterment of the world; but don't forget that they are a part and then tackle the job, bravely doing your best. That's all that God asks of any man. No one can do more.

Worry may be cured by appreciating that it isn't what one has or what one does but what one is that brings peace of mind. King Solomon had riches, culture and power. These are most sought after today. Each one is legitimate if properly used but, after having experienced them all, what did this wise man say? "Vanity of vanities—all is vanity." And will you note Christ's comment upon Solomon's glory: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Here's the

idea: it isn't one's outward circumstances nor one's accomplishments that drive away worry. It's what one is.

And here's a commonplace cure for worry—trite, but nevertheless suggestive: You may cure worry by not crossing bridges until you come to them. "Children," said a good man to the family gathered about his deathbed, "during my long life I have had a great many troubles, most of which never happened." You have sometimes wondered how you were to pay the doctor's bills and where the rent and coal and fuel were to come from, and how Johnny was to get a pair of shoes and Annie a necessary dress. Somehow, the bills have all been paid. "But," you say, "I had a pretty tough time getting through." Yes, but the hard time consisted of nine parts worry and one part work; and that, for the average workingman, means that he has worried pretty hard.

The other day I was climbing a circular stairway in a small tower. I could see only one step at a time but when I took that step I saw the next. Life is just like that, and I'm very glad of it. If we were compelled to view the whole vista of future happenings it would unnerve most of us. It's just one step at a time.

### A BUMP FOR PRESIDENT TAFT.

The decision of the United States supreme court upholding the constitutionality of the bank guaranty act is something of a jolt for the gentlemen who succeeded to the presidency by virtue of the activity of Theodore Roosevelt. During the campaign of 1908 the democrats made much of the proposed guaranty law, but Mr. Taft couldn't see anything in it save a conflict with the constitution. He was quite sure that it would be unconstitutional to enact a law, and being something of a constitutional lawyer himself he carried considerable weight in more ways than one. Now comes along the supreme court of the nation with the information that Mr. Taft's views on the bank guaranty law were about as vague and as misty as his views on tariff reduction.