

ing trades council submitted a new scale of wages to the packers, which with numerous other changes of a minor nature, provided a uniform scale of 20 cents per hour for common labor.

The packers came back with a counter proposition reducing this class of labor to 17½ cents per hour and this brought on a strike which promises to be one of the greatest struggles in the history of the country.

The man who is at all familiar with the conditions in the packing centers will concede at once that 20 cents per hour steady time is as low wages as any man can work for and live in comfort; but when we realize that a wage scale of 20 cents per hour does not mean \$12.00 per week, but on broken time very frequently means only half of that amount; and that the wages earned by this class amount to \$350.00 to \$400.00 per year, we can realize something of the justice of their demands, and the inhuman greed of the great corporations which are endeavoring to reduce the price of labor to the bare living point, while at the same time holding up the consumer by raising the price of all their products.

In this struggle the loss will fall on the laboring men who are thrown out of employment and the consumers all over the country who are compelled to purchase the products of the packing houses, while the packers will suffer a small loss owing to the inconvenience of operating their plants on a reduced scale, and the expense of maintaining a lot of penitentiary birds in their plants.

They have millions of pounds of meat, lard and other products stored in their plants which will be sold at an increased price and thereby they will be able to make more than they lose. What the outcome will be is problematical. It is the general opinion that the packers are not so much concerned about the raise of 1 cent per hour as they are about the principal of unionism, and that in line with the policy of the business men's alliance they have started in with the purpose of breaking the unions, and it seems to me that in this struggle every man who is not blinded by the worship of mammon should sympathize with and assist in every way possible the laboring men who are fighting against great odds for a living.

Turning from this subject I would like to say a few words in reference to politics. I can not agree altogether with the position taken by Mr. Tibbles in reference to the situation in this state. Certainly believing in the principles which I do, I could not support a man whose political sponsors are Dave Hill, Aug. Belmont and Bourke Cochran, unless it were as a choice between him and Roosevelt, and as there is no necessity of such a choice in this campaign I shall vote for the populist electors.

But there are other things to be taken into consideration. I believe the country is rapidly approaching a crisis where it will require a veritable Moses to lead the people from the false doctrines of the past into the promised land of human liberty and justice. I believe that the coming four years will see the culmination of that crisis and that the man of the hour is here in Nebraska.

For that reason it seems to me that all of the reform elements of this state particularly should combine forces to advance the interests of America's greatest citizen, W. J. Bryan, remembering that the struggle between plutocracy and the common people is not for a year but for life and that it will require a leader who has the confidence not only of that grand army of men who voted the populist ticket, but of the millions of democrats and republicans who are having their eyes opened more and more every day to the forces which control absolutely the machinery of the republic.

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can party, and for the time being the democratic party as well.

I believe with a proper combination of the reform forces on the state ticket, the immaculate Mickey can be thrown over the transom with all of the corporation gang and with Mr. Bryan as a candidate for the senate to succeed the notorious if not noted Dietrich, we can elect a legislative ticket to back him up.

Therefore I hope that the conventions which meet in Lincoln August 10th will lay aside political prejudice and combine to defeat the gang of hypocritical corporation servants now in control of our state.

I would not question the great ability of Thos. Watson and the platform adopted by the Springfield convention is all that the reform element can desire; but Bryan is the idol of the common people and the man to whom they are looking to free them from the domination of the money power.

J. South Omaha.

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