

INDEPENDENT **The Labor Advocate** **NON PARTISAN**

A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL

Official Organ of The Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity
ISSUED WEEKLY

W. E. MYERS.....Editor
Business Office, 20-21 Thoms Building. Phone, Canal 5511

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE



CINCINNATI, O., APRIL 29, 1916.

REMEMBER

The friendly business firms who are patronizing the Labor Advocate and endeavoring to show their good will and sincerity through the columns of this paper, the official journal, deserve the patronage of loyal members of organized labor, and will be remembered by them on every shopping trip.

NO DANGER OF THIS.

The corporation interests that control the local Republican party hint that they may keep their hands off of the coming primary election.

We will bet they will not do anything of the kind; they have worked too hard to get control to ever give those with courage and independence a chance to get a crumb.

WHO'D EVER THINK IT.

Mr. Draper, of the Traction Company, informed the committee of the City Council that his company was as eager as any individual or organization to work out a transfer system that would meet with general approbation.

This is a decided change of front, there must be a nigger in the wood pile somewhere or Walter is only jesting.

A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION.

Mr. John V. Campbell, you will please answer this question *Yes or No!*

Supposing that Willie Melish, President of the Chamber of Commerce, was with John Doe at the time that John Doe killed a man, would you accept a plea of second degree murder from John Doe and have Willie Melish indicted for first degree murder, and then use all your cunning to have him railroaded to the electric chair? And supposing that the jury, who heard the case, disagreed, standing ten for acquittal and two for conviction, would you use every effort within your power to keep Willie Melish from getting bond so he could support his family?

Then what is the difference between Melish and an ordinary painter in the eyes of the law?

GREAT STUFF.

The highest class of politics was pulled off when Judge A. K. Nippert took his life in his own hands to carry money over to Germany. The way it was worked up in the press as to the great risks the Judge took, won the hearts of every hyphenated citizen of Cincinnati.

But the Judge had an ace in the hole, he knew that Germany was the only nation murdering innocent people on the high seas, and he knew that they would not touch his ship as long as he was bringing coin to them.

Upon his return he can run for any job he wants and secure the support of our German citizens. When you consider the future returns on the investment it was a clever idea.

THE SAME GAME, BUT DIFFERENT.

Before election Mayor Puchta gave the Labor Advocate a message to organized labor in which he said: "If I am elected, union labor will have no complaint."

Last week the police raided the Garment Workers' headquarters, on Walnut street, and arrested five or six German tailors who were playing poker for a five-cent limit. That's gambling, and the police did right.

But at the same time the members of the Business Men's Club were playing the same game for a ten-dollar limit. That's a gentlemen's game and the police are not allowed to molest them.

Is this fair?

Should the union tailors complain?

WHAT TUESDAY'S ELECTION MEANS.

The election last Tuesday in Hamilton County was going overwhelmingly against Willis and Procter up to 10 a. m., when "some one" handed out a big bank roll. From that minute the machine got busy, and all the clerks left the City Hall and Court House to hustle up the vote to save Procter and the Governor.

Glaser polled more votes in Hamilton County than Willis did in 1914, when the machine supported Tod.

Glaser secured seven thousand votes in Hamilton County, all of whom are strongly anti-Willis, and who will vote against him next November.

As Willis only carried Hamilton County by 1,800 votes over Cox in 1914, it looks to a man up a tree that all James M. Cox has to do this year is to come down and get Hamilton County.

THE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL SHOULD GO SLOW IN THE CURVE.

At a meeting of the Central Labor Council last week, the Public Utilities Committee reported that next week they would report on what organized labor expects in the revision of street car fares and a cheaper gas rate. Several delegates said the Council should demand certain things and fight for them.

This sounds very well, but what is the use of the Council demanding and fighting for things that they have no chance of getting.

The first thing to be considered in the street car situation is to see that the men get more money, at least as good as Toledo gave them a few weeks ago, which was 31 cents in 1916, 32 cents in 1917, and 33 cents in 1918. The next thing is to see that they put on more cars and give universal transfers, and if you get that it is all you can expect. You may ask for six tickets for a quarter, but you will not get it.

Mr. King, the expert engaged by the city to investigate the gas situation in Cincinnati, reported that the gas rate was too low, and that a minimum charge of 44 cents should be made. If you can retain the present gas rate you are doing well, as it has been increased lately in Dayton from 34 to 34½ cents, and in Cleveland from 30 to 35 cents in 1919.

A Columbus paper giving the different gas rates throughout Ohio prints the following: "Lima, Wapakoneta, St. Marys, Celina and Coldwater, first thousand, 50 cents; all over, 30 cents. Sidney, Ohio, 40 cents for first thousand; minimum charge of 70 cents per month. Piqua, Covington and Troy, first thousand, 35 cents; minimum charge of 70 cents per month. Ashtabula, Geneva, Conneaut and Jefferson 36 cents a thousand; Toledo, 35 cents."

If the Council wants to fight for anything it should demand the retention of the present rate, which is as low as any city using natural gas.

Nothing does labor more harm than to endorse or demand a thing and not have influence enough to put it through. And if they look into this matter thoroughly, they will see that the wages and conditions of the street car men should come first.

ABANDON INSURANCE BILL.

Albany, N. Y.—Senator Mills has abandoned his bill providing for health insurance for employes and has accepted the suggestion of trade unionists that the question be submitted to a special investigating committee, which will inquire into all matters concerning sickness and accident not covered by the compensation law.

The Mills bill was championed by the so-called American Association for Labor Legislation and was opposed by President Gompers and the New York trade-union movement. The organized workers protested, among other things, against the compulsory visitations to the homes of workers by State officials.

THIRTEEN MORE DAYS!

Chicago.—Representatives of four brotherhoods of railroad men delivered to the Association of Western Railways April 15, a request for the appointment of a National Committee to deal with the union representatives in the matter of their demands recently submitted to the railroads of the country for an eight-hour day and time and a half for overtime. The railroads have been given until April 29 to make answer to the demands of the men.

NEWS FROM DETROIT.

Detroit.—An Arbitration Board has raised wages of laundry workers from 50 cents to \$1.50 a week.

Brickmakers raised wages 25 cents a day after they had suspended work. Local unionists have assisted them in perfecting an organization.

Pattern makers, who have been on strike for several weeks to enforce new wage rates, are standing firm, despite four injunctions issued against them.

The local Federation of Labor is conducting a vigorous agitation in favor of initiating an anti-injunction amendment to the State Constitution.

Brewery workers have secured a two-year agreement with wage increases. The Federation of Labor will start a labor forward movement.

PAINTERS INCREASE WAGES.

Erie, Pa.—The Painters and Decorators' Union has won its strike and raised wages from 37½ to 42½ cents an hour. Of the 225 employes who suspended work the first of the month less than a score are now unemployed.

METAL WORKERS MAKE GAINS.

Joplin, Mo.—Machinists and iron molders have won strikes for improved conditions. In both cases wages are increased to \$4.25 for a nine-hour day.

OPPOSE STATE MERGER.

Springfield, Mass.—At an open meeting of the Central Labor Union a unanimous protest was made against the proposed consolidation of the State Department of Labor and Industries, the Minimum Wage Commission, the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, and the Industrial Accident Board. President Wrenn of the local central body said:

"Labor knows that the proposed measure which will consolidate the foremost important boards in the State is nothing less than a veiled attempt to nullify the principal labor laws of Massachusetts. Organized labor has worked too hard and too long to see the fruits of its humanitarian legislation swept aside on the pretense of economy. Any person familiar with the work which these boards are doing in this State knows that they should have their powers enlarged rather than curtailed by consolidation."

"Trade unionists in other sections of the State are conducting a similar agitation."

"ILLEGAL" STRIKERS WIN.

Leadville, Col.—Employes of the American Smelting and Refining Company have had their wages raised.

About a month ago workers in the Leadville and Pueblo plants of this company struck to enforce a wage increase of 50 cents a day. They ignored the State law, which provides for thirty days' notice, and were threatened with all sorts of dire things—including the State militia—by Governor Carlson and members of the State Industrial Commission, because they had "violated a law" by quitting their employment.

Other officials offered saner counsel, however, and the strikers returned to work on a promise that their claims would be investigated.

WARNS AGAINST HIGH FEES.

Harrisburg, Pa.—The workmen's compensation board has notified every insurance carrier insuring against workmen's compensation liability that some attorneys are charging exorbitant fees or unduly large percentages of the installments paid without having their fees approved by the board, as required by the compensation act.

To check this evil the board orders all awards paid to the claimant, regardless of their attorney, unless the attorney shall furnish the board's approval of his claim for legal expenses and services.

ORGANIZE; RAISE WAGES.

Jackson, Cal.—Brewery workers have organized and secured contracts with employers which carries wage increases ranging from \$2 to \$8 per week. Hours and working conditions are regulated.

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