

THE WAGEWORKER



Some Talk About The Printer Men

A little study of the financial report in the February Journal will be of interest to the members of the Typographical Union. The organizers seem to be awfully busy these days, and if they are getting results commensurate with their expense accounts they are certainly going some.

The twenty-two organizers and special agents spent \$3,523.88 during January, Vice-President Hays leading with \$246.55 for "expenses to St. Paul and Indianapolis and services and expenses in Philadelphia." St. Paul, by the way, is Mr. Hays' home, and as J. C. Devereux, Jr., lives in St. Paul, it looks to the uninitiated as if Mr. Hays were charging up to the boys the expenses of a little visit home. If this intimation is an injustice to Mr. Hays he will accept proper apologies.

Organizer Fisher of Omaha spent \$51.70 to go to Burlington, where he performed some good work, but while Mr. Fisher of Omaha was in Burlington, 300 miles east of his home town, Organizer B. G. Brady traveled from Cincinnati to Omaha, and from thence down to St. Joseph and St. Louis, at an expense of \$283.60. Just why these two organizers should cross each other's paths at an expense of something like \$300 is a mystery to the boys behind the assessment. Organizer J. E. Fancher visited Huron, Deadwood, Pierre and Sioux Falls at an expense of \$236.04, of which amount \$48.75 was for "services and expenses" in Sioux Falls. Presumably the rest was for expense, which indicates that Mr. Fancher was "going some." The organizers averaged over \$160 each during the month. During the month the eight hour day committee spent \$1,413.20. The receipts for the month were \$177,405.58, and the expenditures \$144,544.38. The International now has on hand a balance of \$311,312.54, of which amount \$12,746.26 is in the Cummins memorial fund. The attention of the United Typothaete is called to these figures. Sixteen months' fighting, and after spending \$3,000,000 the union printers have \$31,312.54 in the strong box. And there are only about 45,000 of us in the United States and Canada.

Frank Swigart of St. Louis, No. 8, is wondering if it is his turn next to be "Shelby Smithed." Swigart is the man who has done most to secure contributions to the home library. He has been working night and day for the library, but the other day he received a shock. President Lynch peremptorily ordered him to cease soliciting books for the home. This was in accordance with a decree of the executive council. Lynch notified Swigart that the council always found a way to enforce its mandates. He managed to find a way when he went after Shelby Smith's scalp, even if the "way" was brutal in the extreme, and contrary to all law and precedent. Swigart shows a disposition to ignore the mandate of St. James the Great, and if he does the matter with be threshed out at Hot Springs, and maybe there will be enough delegates present with real spines to prevent another Shelby Smith lynch. The order of the council and Swigart's reply will be found in the February Journal.

President Lynch has his picture taken the other day. He was walking alongside a lot of wagons loaded with 1,000,000 blotters—count 'em—1,000,000—which the executive council is going to distribute to boost the label. Then a half tone was made and printed in an Indianapolis daily. Copies of the paper containing the picture have been mailed widely under postage paid by the assessment.

Mr. Post in his "Square Deal" makes the astonishing assertion that the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs was built with contributions that came mostly from men who were not and never had been members of the Typographical Union. Charles W. Post, editor of the "Square Deal," is a liar. He knows he is a liar. Everybody who knows anything at all about the Union Printers' Home knows that Mr. Post lied when he said it, and they know that he knew he lied when he said it. Nine-tenths of the cost of the Union Printers' Home was borne by union printers, and 99 1/2 per cent of the cost of maintenance is borne by members of the Typographical Union. Annanias wasn't one, two, three with

Charles W. Post, husband of the stenographer.

Lincoln Typographical Union has been aging rapidly. On February 25 it will celebrate its "twenty-sixth" anniversary according to last year's count, although the union wasn't chartered until 1883. A cog was slipped somewhere. But this will be the ninth annual ball, and it will really celebrate the twenty-fourth anniversary of the local.

Leon Huckins has embarked in business for himself and is now the proprietor of a job shop which is well equipped and up-to-date.

Charley Barngrover is wearing a worried look these days. He is operating a "mill" at the Fréle Presse of effect, and it has German and English characters on the keyboard. As a result "Barney" is dreaming of the storied Rhine and striving hard to keep the kinks out of his tongue.

Despite the best efforts of editor and proof reader the "intelligent compositor" managed to make it read "Union Club" in last week's issue. Of course reference was had to the "Union Club."

President Coffey of Lincoln Typographical Union is minus one dog but plus \$40 in cold cash. He shipped the dog over the Rock Island, but the animal escaped and has not since been seen by the owner. Coffey brought suit against the railroad, asking judgment in the sum of \$100. The company compromised by paying the costs and giving him \$40.

Adam McMullen, member of the legislature from Gage county, says he is a printer by trade and that he is an ex-member of the Typographical Union.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Bustard are preparing to leave Lincoln for a ranch in Custer county the first of March. Mr. Bustard's health is such that outdoor life for a year or two is imperative. He has promised to send the union enough Berkshire chickens for a feast, and has already made arrangements to sell at reduced price to the printers Buff Cochins hogs and Clydesdale cows.

The ball on the 25th promises to be far and away the best in the history of Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209. Unfortunately the Omaha Auxiliary's ball is on the same night, which will prevent any of the Omaha members from attending.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' BALL.

Eclipsed All Records in Attendance and Genuine Pleasure.

The Electrical Workers' annual ball was held at Fraternity hall last Tuesday evening, and in point of attendance and pleasure eclipsed all former records. Nearly 200 couples were present and everybody was bent upon having a good time, an ambition that was ably forwarded by the committees in charge of the ball. Quick's orchestra furnished the music. At 11 o'clock refreshments were announced and partaken of with a relish by the dancers. The supper room was lively and the refreshments thoroughly enjoyed. There were twenty numbers on the dance program, not to mention several extras.

This was the fifth annual ball of the local union, and like all of its predecessors was an unqualified success, socially and financially. The following committees are entitled to credit for the success of the affair: Door—Messrs. Rudy, Betz, Jones. Reception—Messrs. Mayer, Anderson, Cain, Streeter, Devereaux, Hull, Gant, Seaman.

Floor—Carveth, Peebles, Dixon, Seaman.

THE LIABILITY LAW.

Usual Attacks Made on Burlington Employes Opposing It.

As usual, the Burlington employes who are opposing a proposed law, are charged with being mere tools in the hands of the management of the company. Because these men oppose the McMullen bill, which is calculated to injure if not destroy the Burlington relief department, they are charged with being "political tools" and their honesty and integrity impugned.

Now the Wageworker doesn't care a continental whether the Burlington relief department is maintained or dis-

continued. That is, not personally. It doesn't cost him a penny. But the men who are personally interested in maintaining the relief department are opposed to the McMullen bill because they see in it a danger to their cheap insurance. And because they stand up for what they believe to be their rights they are charged with being "cheap tools." It was the same thing last fall when they stood out and insisted on voting for a couple of union labor candidates for the legislature. To do this they had to oppose two republicans, and immediately the Evening News denounced them as tools of the Burlington, just as it is now denouncing them as tools because they oppose the McMullen bill. The McMullen bill is opposed by organized labor generally because it is too limited in its scope. It applies only to common carriers and offers no relief to the thousands of other men employed in hazardous occupations. It is opposed by the Burlington employes because it threatens their cheap sick, accident and death insurance. And this is why they are dubbed tools of the Burlington. They ought to resent the insult, and their friends ought to help them.

THE CARPENTERS.

Grade Rules and Regulations for Enacting Year are Adopted.

The carpenters met in special session last Tuesday evening, and the meeting was one of the largest held in recent months. Several addresses were made that aroused great enthusiasm, and everybody present expressed delight at being there to participate in the meeting. The existing trade rules and regulations were adopted for another year. All seemed to be satisfied with present conditions, but expressed a willingness to put forth renewed efforts to make unionism more of a business proposition.

Work in the carpenter line is very slack at the present time, but the outlook for the coming season was never brighter. Some unusually large contracts are being prepared, and residence building promises to keep up the wonderful gait it has been traveling during the last three or four years.

The firm of Schaul & Assenmacher, which has the contract for remodeling the city hall building, has been put upon the fair list and have a number of union carpenters in their employ. It is a closed shop job.

About three months ago Business Agent Elisser learned that the Collins Ice Cream Co. was about to let a contract for a new factory building. He called upon the manager of the company and ascertained that the contract was about to be let to an unfair contractor. Then he got busy with his arguments and told the manager the reasons why, in the opinion of the union men, the job should be let to a fair contractor. The manager listened attentively and then said that although the contract had not been definitely let, it had all but been promised to a contractor on the unfair list. But he asked for a list of the fair contractors and said he would look into it. A couple of days later the manager of the company called up Elisser and said the work had been let to L. Dybbro, a fair contractor. The manager of the company now expresses his satisfaction with the work, saying he has got one of the best jobs ever put up in Lincoln. The carpenters and other unionists in Lincoln should remember the Collins Ice Cream Co. and show their appreciation of its friendliness.

COMMONER ANNIVERSARY.

The fifty employes of the Commoner boarded a special car provided for them by the management last Saturday night and went to Fairview to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the paper's establishment. Several present have been with the paper ever since it first started. Mr. Bryan acted as guide and took the employes on a trip around the world, showing them the many souvenirs collected by himself and Mrs. Bryan while on their world-tour. It was a most enjoyable journey. Light refreshments were served. Each succeeding celebration is voted the "best ever," and the one last Saturday night was easily the leader of the six.

The Methodist Ministerial Alliance of Denver, Col., passed a resolution condemning the employment of men more than eight hours a day and sent a delegate to the Trades and Labor Assembly.

Jones Gets a Foothold in Crete and Sends Machines

Crete is going to have an overall and shirt factory. L. O. Jones, after many months of effort, has finally secured a foothold in that little city, and there are some Creteans so foolish as to believe the new enterprise will benefit the city.

The Crete Commercial club has provided quarters rent free, and Jones will install twenty machines at once, and more if help can be secured. The cutting will be done in Lincoln and sent out to Crete to be sewed up. The average wage for sewing machine operators in similar factories throughout the United States is nine cents an hour.

There seems to be something mysterious about this move on the part of Mr. Jones. Crete is not a railroad center, and is a town of about 2,000 inhabitants. It would seem to the unprejudiced observer that Jones has failed in his herculean efforts to per-

suade country girls to, come to Lincoln and work in his factory at a wage barely sufficient to pay board and lodging, and in despair has decided to try the experiment of taking the work to the country towns.

The announcement of the Crete move contains the information that a part of the machines have already been shipped from Lincoln. This must be taken as an indication that they are idle machines that Jones could not find operators for. If this is true it is an evidence of the good sense of Lincoln girls who refuse to work the long hours for the low wages that this unfair firm pays.

If the fathers and mothers of Crete want a factory in their midst that will employ their daughters at ridiculously low wages, they certainly will have no cause of complaint after the Jones factory gets started. But if Crete benefits by the establishment of such

a concern it will break all records. A few weeks ago Mr. Jones was widely advertising the fact that he had just added twenty girls to the Lincoln force. But it seems that even this addition of 40 per cent to his working force did not begin to fill the machines, hence he ships twenty or more of them to Crete in the hope of being able to get girls to work for the wages he pays.

Crete makes some pretensions of being an educational center, but this boast will not long have a basis if Crete parents encourage the establishment of shirt factories at wages which will scarce suffice to pay board and lodgings.

Typographical Union Ball, Monday, February 25, Fraternity Hall. Quick's Orchestra.

Cleveland, O., meat cutters and butchers are now organizing.

STOP THE CHILD LABOR

Now that a rational attempt is being made to secure an adequate child labor law, we are compelled to listen to the usual tommyrot from the opponents of such a law. First we hear from the defenders of the "poor widows" who will be compelled to suffer untold hardships if their little ones are not allowed to support her and themselves. Then we hear from the eminent agriculturalists who insist that a child labor law will prevent a farmer from working his children. The "widow" dodge and the "farmer" dodge always show up in cases of this kind. The "farmer" dodge may be dismissed with a word. Firstly, the law does not prohibit child labor on the farm. But it might not be a bad thing to throw some protection around farm children. The men who talk about the benefits they received by being forced to work beyond their years upon the farm sounds good, but perhaps you have noticed that these same men escaped from the farm prison as soon as they could.

The "widow" dodge is entitled to more consideration, not because there is any truth in it, but because it is a sentimental objection and because the objection relates to woman-kind. The "widow" dodge is as baseless as the "farmer" dodge. The Clarke bill, if enacted into law, will not work an injury to one widow in a thousand. The percentage of cases wherein a widow is entirely dependent upon the work of children under fourteen is so infinitesimal that statisticians merely represent them by the minus sign. If the Clarke bill is enacted into law The Wageworker will make a guarantee for Lincoln and Omaha that if such cases are found and brought to their attention the trades unions of the two cities will take care of the mothers and see to it that the children are allowed to go to school and provided for until they are beyond the age limit fixed by the law. So much for the objections raised upon the two grounds given.

There is opposition from another source. It is based on the argument that children should be taught habits of industry—an argument that nobody disputes—and is advanced by those who want to prevent the enactment of a child labor law so they may be permitted to continue their employment of children at low wages in order to escape the necessity of employing older employes at higher wages. This argument is selfish; it is mercenary; it is heartless.

It is not denied that an adequate child labor law will work hardships in some quarters. But better a few hardships now and then than that any considerable proportion of the rising generation should be dwarfed mentally, morally and physically.

It is advanced by some who oppose the bill that Nebraska does not need a child labor law because we have no sweat shops, no mills and no mines. This opposition is not based on argument. It is based on short-sightedness. The people of a new state do not wait until murder is committed before enacting a law against murder. They do not wait until horses are stolen before they enact a law against horse stealing. It is true that Nebraska is not now suffering particularly be-

cause of child labor, but the disease is taking hold even in Nebraska, and now is the time to stop it. It would be criminal to wait until the disease became epidemic before taking steps. Child labor, like the Texas fever we used to dread so much, is much easier kept out than stamped out. We didn't wait until Texas fever was epidemic among our cattle before enacting laws. We saw it in the distance and promptly passed the necessary laws and instituted a strict and effective quarantine. Let us do the same thing with child labor. Let us quarantine against it now, rather than wait until it is epidemic and then spending years of time, enduring untold misery and disgrace, in getting rid of it.

So far the opposition to this bill comes chiefly from a couple of daily newspapers interested in hiring small boys at ridiculously low wages to deliver papers at unseasonable hours during all kinds of weather, from a few department store managers who want cheap help and are willing to sacrifice the children to get it, and from the telegraph and messenger companies. It remains to be seen whether the selfish interests of these men will be allowed to make sacrifice of the children in order to fatten their purses. It remains to be seen whether the fathers and mothers of this state will sit idly by and allow conditions to grow up that will soon be demanding the little ones in increasing numbers to keep its greedy maws sated with the blood and bodies of the helpless little ones.

It took Massachusetts thirty years to secure the enactment of sensible child labor laws, and during that thirty years tens of thousands of little ones were sacrificed on the altar of the industrial Moloch. Twenty years ago Georgia and Alabama "did not need child labor laws" because they had no child labor. Today 20,000 children under twelve years of age are working in the Georgia and Alabama mills. In Georgia, the state that did not need child labor laws twenty years ago, 56 per cent of the loom tenders are under seven years of age. Think of that, you fathers and mothers! Child labor has resulted in forcing the natural caretakers—the fathers—to work for starvation wages, and this has resulted in forcing the children of such fathers to enter the mills almost the minute they graduated from the cradles. Child labor has forced the mother into the mill, and this is destroying the chief bulwark of the American republic, the home. Child labor has found its natural result in the awful sweat shop and in the tenement factory. It is making itself felt even in Nebraska. The average wage of sewing machine operators in factories making men's goods—overalls, pants, work shirts, blouses, etc.—is 9 cents an hour, \$5.40 a week. This work is done chiefly by young women and girls, and child labor in the sweat shops and tenement factories is responsible for this miserable, ave criminally, low wage.

We do need a child labor law in Nebraska, if not to wipe out child labor, then to prevent it from ever fastening its foul clutches upon our fair state. And the Clarke bill is just the thing needed, without amendment or alteration.