

State Historical Society

THE WAGWORKER



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Temple Boosters Still Boosting Away

This is the way the Labor Temple stock subscription stands to date:

Carpenters' Union	Shares	115
Typographical Union	Shares	115
Electrical Workers' Union	Shares	128
Barbers' Union	Shares	100
Omaha Carpenters	Shares	5
Vallejo I. B. E. W.	Shares	5
Capital Auxiliary	Shares	5
Barbers' Union	Shares	100
Painters and Decorators	Shares	100
No. 18	Shares	100
Leatherworkers	Shares	100
Electrical Workers, Fremont	Shares	5
Cigarmakers	Shares	10
Plumbers	Shares	20
Individual subscriptions	Shares	434
Total	Shares	1,160

At the meeting last Monday evening the Labor Temple Committee took the first preliminary step in the publicity campaign that will be started soon after the dawning of the new year. Five thousand copies of the articles of incorporation, together with a brief description of the plans unionists have in mind for a Labor Temple, will be printed and distributed to the general public.

Just to show that trades unionists in other cities are interested in Lincoln's movement for a Temple, Fremont Leatherworkers' Union No. 32 bought two shares of stock. Other unions are cordially invited to do the same.

The committee decided to skip next

Monday night, owing to the nearness of Christmas, and the next meeting will be held on December 30. Unions that have not yet sent a representative to the committee should get busy before that time.

H. J. Pickard showed up from the Plumbers' Union with the proper credentials and will take the place of former committeeman A. V. White, who has left town. Mr. Pickard got the glad hand.

Every member was present at the last meeting with the exception of Committeeman Walker of the Barbers' Union, and he sent an excuse that was deemed amply sufficient.

The committee is planning something big in the way of publicity soon, but until all arrangements are made—definite can be announced. But it will be a three times winner when it is pulled off.

Due notice should be taken of the fact that this committee has been meeting some ten weeks without a skip, and the absentees have never numbered more than two. Chairman Dickson comes in from University Place every week, and other members often pass up social enjoyment to give their time to the good work. If 75 per cent of the union men in Lincoln would boom the Temple project as hard as the members of this committee have, we'd dedicate the Temple next Labor Day instead of merely laying the corner stone.

Fremont Leatherworkers' Shares 2

moral welfare of the community. The Ohio child labor law is hardly more advanced than the child labor laws of other northern states. New York—by no means a "radical" state—has recently strengthened its child labor law, at the instance of Governor Hughes, by providing that no minor under the age of 16 shall be permitted to work in any mine or quarry. In factories children between the ages of 14 and 16 may be employed, but not at night—that is, not between the hours of 11 p. m. and 6 a. m.

Even the south is no longer "enemy's country" for the earnest advocates of restriction of child labor. Of late progress in that section has been gratifyingly rapid and substantial in the premises, and it is hoped that in a few years its child labor laws will be fully abreast of those of the states that have taken the most advanced position in opposition to this evil.—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE CARPENTERS.

General Organizer Michler Works Up Renewed Interest Here.

William D. Michler of Kansas City, general organizer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, has been in Lincoln for several days, assisting the local union in many ways. Mr. Michler has strengthened the lines in many places and has succeeded in removing several difficulties that lay in the way of further success. The good results of his work are already manifest.

Mr. Michler conveys the welcome information that the American Federation of Labor is preparing to put an organizer in Nebraska early in the year for the purpose of organizing a state federation and putting a number of local unions into the harness. This is something that has been long needed.

The meeting of the local Tuesday night was addressed by Mr. Michler and his talk was listened to with great interest and approval. He will go to Kansas City this week and remain with his family until after the holidays, and expects then to return to Nebraska to do some work in various cities where the carpenters maintain organizations.

Brother Flynn, who has been working in Lincoln for some time, bid the boys good-bye Tuesday and on Wednesday started for his old home in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

The first of the week Mrs. Frank

Naracong of University Place received a telegram from Oklahoma announcing the sudden death of her younger brother, Mr. Irwin. Mrs. Naracong is the wife of the president-elect of the local carpenters' union.

Business Agent Dickson says that when he is in his office he often receives calls for union workmen of other crafts. He suggests that the local unions give him the address of their secretaries and information as to how he can locate men when they are called for. In this way he can be of great service to all the unions while taking care of the business of his own union.

WRONG MAN SENTENCED.

Operator Sentenced for Forgery Pardoned by Governor.

Governor Hoch of Kansas has granted a pardon to James G. Jarboe, a telegraph operator sentenced to the penitentiary for forging a telegram on which he tried to secure transportation from Dresden, Kansas, to Colorado Springs. Jarboe asked the Rock Island for a job as operator and was sent to Dresden. When he got there he found the job filled, and nothing was open but a night job as watchman and mail tender. He declined and asked for return transportation, which was promised. He waited for four or five days at his own expense, but the transportation did not come. So he fixed up a fake telegram authorizing conductors to carry him to Colorado Springs and signed the division superintendent's name to it. He got as far as Goodland when the operator at Dresden, mad because Jarboe had refused to stay, thus throwing the night work on him, "flagged" Jarboe and the conductor handed him over to the officers. Jarboe was advised to fight the case, but declined, saying he was guilty of forging the superintendent's name. He received an indeterminate sentence of from one to seven years.

Now that he is out his first duty should be to return to Dresden and throw the switch for the dirty pup of an operator who peached on him.

GOOD MAN SICK.

Robert Strain, member of the Barbers' Union, is quite sick at his home in University Place. Brother Strain is one of the old union standbys, and he has a host of friends who are wishing for his speedy recovery.

Lincoln Made by Lincoln Unionists

The Wagworker has taken occasion to speak of Richard L. Metcalfe's now famous book, "Of Such is the Kingdom," and in its humble way do something to add to its sale. On merit alone the book should sell by the hundreds of thousands. In sentiment, in inspiration and in helpfulness it has Rev. Charles Sheldon's "In His Steps" backed off the board—which is expressive even if not in harmony with the spirit of both books. But there is another reason why "Of Such is the Kingdom" should be boosted for fair by union men and women—it is a union made book "from kiver to kiver," and it looks it. It is as pretty as a book can be made and sell for a dollar. The man who wrote it, while not a trades unionist by membership—only because he is not a craftsman—is a trades unionist in sentiment and in practice. When he got ready to have the book printed he submitted the manuscript to union print shops and asked for estimates. It is not strange that two or three shops employing "free and independent workmen" asked for a bid and offered cut prices. Such shops can bid low because they don't pay wages. But the author refused to consider their estimates, declaring that it had to be put out by union men. And it was. The printers were members of the International Typographical Union, the pressmen were members of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, the binders were members of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, and the

engravers were members of the union of that craft.

The sale of this book has not been more than it deserved—not by some million or two copies—but when the average sale of the average book is considered it has been phenomenal. It is now in its tenth thousand, and still going like buckwheat cakes on a December morning.

Recognizing Mr. Metcalfe's friendship for union labor the following resolution has been adopted by the Lincoln Allied Printing Trades Council and Local No. 120 of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders:

"Resolved, By Local No. 120, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders and Lincoln Allied Printing Trades Council, that we congratulate our fellow townsman, Richard L. Metcalfe on the great success of his book, 'Of Such is the Kingdom'; that we congratulate Lincoln on being the home town of a volume that is destined to be known the world over, and that we point with pride to the fact that all who worked upon that famous publication were union printers, union pressmen, union bookbinders and union engravers."

This resolution will be suitably engrossed and signed and presented to Mr. Metcalfe.

"Of Such is the Kingdom" is advertising Lincoln the world over, and while doing that it is also advertising that Lincoln's union men in the allied printing trades are first-class mechanics and capable of doing the best work in their line.

ASSESSMENT REDUCED.

Pressmen Get a Christmas Gift of Five Per Cent.

The union pressmen of Lincoln were notified last week by receipt of an official notification that on and after December 18 the strike assessment would be only 5 per cent. It has been 10 per cent. The notice is positive evidence that the strike is being won despite injunctions and threats of imprisonment for contempt.

Local pressmen are feeling good. The benefit list is practically nothing, and overtime work has been common for several weeks.

A former member of the union is serving as a strikebreaker in a local "rattery". He is a prominent church worker who selfishly seized a chance to benefit at the expense of his fellows.

NOT ORGANIZING JAPS.

San Francisco, Dec. 14.—Advice from Honolulu state that it is denied officially by the secretary of the Honolulu trade and labor assembly that any representative of the American Federation of Labor is in Hawaii seeking to organize the Japanese plantation laborers into a union allied with the federation.

AFTER STILLINGS.

Incompetent Public Printer is Having a Heap of Trouble.

The following special dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald appeared under a Washington date line on December 16:

"Organized labor is actually on the trail of Public Printer Charles A. Stillings, who is charged with being hostile to organizations in the great printing office. Senator Burkett the other day presented a resolution passed by the Central Labor Union of Omaha, praying for legislation under which Stillings will have to be removed.

"Some serious charges about the Stillings administration are made, one just came to light. Last summer several hundred people in the bindery at the big establishment were laid off indefinitely on the ground that there was no work for them. Right afterwards, members of congress who had business at the congressional library discovered that it was impossible to consult bound volumes of recent periodicals, because these had been held up at the printing office for a year or more. There was no sufficient force in the bindery to bind them, and the library's facilities were badly crippled as a result. It is charged that hundreds of tons of unbound

magazines and thousands of books that need rebinding are stacked up both at the library and at the printing office, awaiting attention, while it is given out that there is no work for the binding force. Congress is going to find out, if possible, what the facts are, and there may be legislation of the sort the unions want. Last session it was charged that incompetency at the printing office delayed adjournment many hours, to the great disgust of members."

WASTING THEIR TIME.

Corporation Promoters Waste Time and Postage on Wagworker.

The "M. O." Publishing Bureau, 119 Nassau Street, New York City, is wasting a lot of valuable time and considerable postage in sending The Wagworker its mess of "predigested editorial" in opposition to municipal ownership. The stuff comes in the shape of newspaper clippings and alleged facts in opposition to the municipal ownership of public utilities.

The Wagworker gently fires the stuff into the waste basket without opening it. We opened the first batch or two and that was enough. The gentleman who collates the "copy," Mr. Grant, has got a nice, easy job, and we congratulate him. But The Wagworker man is more than seven years old.

The labor paper that would print any of the dope sent out by Mr. Grant needs an editor who is not in the habit of buying gold bricks and biting at the padlock game. The "M. O." Publishing Bureau is expensive, but the eminent corporationists who are footing the bills evidently think they are getting their money's worth. But the small amount they invest in sending their stuff to this humble little labor paper is not well invested.

FALSELY ACCUSED.

Charges Against Union Men at Goldfield Were Unfounded.

Goldfield, Nev., Dec. 13.—The discovery was made today that the union miners or their sympathizers had nothing to do with the cutting off of light and power through a break in the Nevada & California Power company's wires. Armed repairmen, returning from a search for the break, reported that an ice and snow slide in the White mountains had caused the poles to collapse, the impact snapping the wires.

A SURE GO.

It looks like the Lincoln Labor Temple would be a go. The Wagworker is booming it for fair.—Western Laborer.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Elects Officers and Winds Up Its Work for the Year.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209 met with Mrs. J. E. Worley on Friday of last week and elected officers for the ensuing year. The officers-elect are as follows:

President, Mrs. Fred W. Mickel.
Vice President, Mrs. J. E. Marshall.
Secretary, Mrs. C. B. Righter.
Treasurer, Mrs. C. E. Barngrover.
Chaplin, Mrs. G. M. Wathan.
Guide, Mrs. F. McKenney.

Executive committee, Mrs. W. C. Norton, Mrs. August Radebach, Mrs. H. W. Smith, Mrs. Charles Simmons.

This was the last meeting of what has been a very satisfactory year for the organization. The Auxiliary has pushed the label with vigor, has enjoyed many social good times, and has added much to the good work of unionism. The organization has not been depleted by death, for which the members are thankful. However, death has visited several Auxiliary homes, and when it did the members strove to exemplify the fraternal teachings of unionism by extending the hand of help and sympathy.

The next meeting will be held on January 10 at the home of Mrs. Compton, and it is to be hoped that this first meeting in 1908 will find the full membership present. There is much work that needs to be done which the Auxiliary can do, and every member should try to do her full share.

A committee has been appointed to assist No. 209 with the silver anniversary ball on February 25.

Have you any stickers left?

Mrs. Tompson, 402 South Twenty-fifth street, and Mrs. Peat, 1557 North Thirty-first street, have been on the sick list.

Mrs. Radebach returned from her Chicago visit sooner than expected.

Mrs. A. L. Compton has moved to 2029 N street.

Mrs. Creal, one of our "used to be" members, has had a lovely Christmas present of a little daughter.

LABOR SUNDAY.

Rev. Charles Stelzle Wants to Know Sentiment of Unionists.

Shall we observe Labor Sunday on the Sunday before Labor Day in September, or on the second Sunday in May, which would bring it in harmony with the resolution adopted by the last convention of the American Federation of Labor with reference to the observance of that Sunday as "Labor's Memorial Day?"

For three successive years the Presbyterian Department of Church

and Labor, of which I have the honor to be the superintendent, has been advocating, with considerable success, that the 11,000 churches in our denomination discuss the labor problem on the Sunday preceding Labor Day. Hundreds of thousands of workmen, besides large numbers of employers, have attended church on that Sunday, to hear the labor question discussed. It has been found, however, that on account of the fact that most ministers take their vacation during the weeks immediately preceding the first of September, not sufficient preparation could be made to make the most of this opportunity. It has, therefore, occurred to me that the second Sunday in May would be more advantageous, first, because we shall have a better chance to get ready for it, and now, second, because the American Federation of Labor has decreed that the second Sunday in May shall be observed as indicated above.

But I desire to get the personal opinion of those who are directly interested, and I shall be glad to have the readers of this journal write me very frankly as to what they think about having the churches of America, not only the Presbyterian, but the other denominations as well, declare that the second Sunday in May shall hereafter be known as "Labor Sunday" throughout the churches of America.

Address me at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.—Rev. Charles Stelzle.

KILLED CHILD LABOR LAW.

Ohio Circuit Court Declares the State Law Unconstitutional.

An Ohio circuit court has pronounced unconstitutional the anti-child labor law of that state, which prohibits the employment of minors under 14 in any factory, mine or other establishment. The court regards the act as an unwarrantable interference with the liberties guaranteed to the people of Ohio by their state constitution as well as by the organic law of the United States.

This decision will astonish all friends of child labor legislation and a good many legal students of the questions involved in such legislation. Certainly the precedents are all against the opinion of the Ohio court. Legislation restricting child labor and prohibiting it entirely under certain ages and conditions has been the rule, rather than the exception, for a number of years, and decision after decision from the highest state courts has sustained such interference with "liberty" as an entirely valid exercise of the police power of the state—the power to safeguard the health and

Methodist Church and Labor

To the Editor of The Wagworker: The Nebraska annual conference of the M. E. church sends the following memorial to the General Conference, which sits at Baltimore, Md., next May:

"To the General Conference of 1908. Dear Fathers and Brethren, Greeting: The Nebraska Annual Conference hereby submits to your judgment and action the following memorial:

"Believing that the prevailing conditions and current changes of the social system indicate imperative and specific duty of the church in the interests of the kingdom of God, it is therefore our petition that you do order and appoint a commission, to which shall be referred the consideration of the relation of the church to the social problem with specific regard to the moral aspects of the relations of capital and labor, the promotion of international peace, the purification of politics, the problem of intoxicating liquors, the protection of the Sabbath, of the family and of the youth and other questions of urgent moral import. We further suggest that the said commission be instructed to deliberate during the ensuing four years, and also, during that time, to move the church at large to vigorous and purposeful thought concerning these themes and at the end of that time to report to the general conference of the year 1912 in the following particulars, subject to the final expression and action of said general conference:

1st. What principles and measures of industrial, political and moral reform are so evidently Christian and righteous as to warrant the specific endorsement and support of the church?

2nd. How can the existing agencies of the Methodist Episcopal church be wisely used or improved with a view to promoting the principles and measures thus endorsed?

3rd. To what specific co-operation in

this behalf shall we invite the several evangelical denominations?

"4th. How can our courses of ministerial study in seminaries and conferences, be modified with a view to better preparing our preachers for a social ministry and for efficiency in moral reform?"

The following comments may render the foregoing more interesting to the readers of The Wagworker:

First, the General Conference to which this petition is addressed is the Supreme legislative body of the M. E. church. It meets once in four years, remains in session for an entire month and represents a constituency of more than three million members. There is probably no other body which can express or influence so large a portion of the public sentiment except the Federal Congress and the National Conventions of two great parties.

Second, the action petitioned for would touch several subjects of vital moment to the laboring classes, such as the rights of organized labor, the hours of work, the employment of children, the Sunday rest, the living wage, co-operation and profit-sharing and the relation of the liquor question to the labor question.

Third, it should be noted that the action indicated is not yet taken by the General Conference but is merely petitioned for by the Nebraska Conference. Hence it is desired that this petition be as strongly supported as possible. Any expression of approval which may emanate from labor organizations or the labor press will be very helpful to this end and will be regarded with great interest and respect by the General Conference. The writer of this article will be grateful for any expressions of this kind that may be forwarded to him and will see that they are put to effective use.

Ever a friend of labor,
WILLIAM N. BALCH,
1601 So. 16th St.