

THE WAGEWORKER



VOL. 3

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, APRIL 25, 1908

NO. 4

Temple Directors Have Amended Articles

The Board of Directors of the Labor Temple Building Association held the regular meeting at the usual place Monday evening. Two important amendments to the articles of incorporation were adopted. The first one sets forth more clearly the purposes of the corporation and cures a defect in the original articles. The second amendment provides that absence of a director from three consecutive meetings unseats the absentee, provided no valid excuse is presented. This was adopted for the purpose of keeping the board full of active members. The attendance has been splendid so far, everything considered. The majority of members have attended practically every weekly meeting since last September.

Fairly satisfactory reports of progress in the Temple benefit were submitted. The time given for boosting this benefit was too short to insure the best results, but several of the directors have shown commendable zeal and a goodly number of tickets were sold.

An unusually fine offer of a site was reported by a committee selected for the purpose of looking up the matter. This site is centrally located, and is in unusually fine shape for a Temple building, being almost square, with two good fronts and an alley in the rear. It is far and away the best offer yet submitted, price and location considered. The board will investigate further.

It is the firm intention of the board to purchase a site before June 1, paying down all the money realized by that time. It will then be up to the unionists to get busy and either make good or lose what has been invested. If the union men as a whole would show one-half the zeal that the directors of the association have shown, it wouldn't be six months before there would be a building well under way. But try as they may, fourteen directors can do nothing by themselves.

The proposed "labor revival," dated for May 20th, was discussed, and it was agreed that it would be a splendid boost for the Temple project. The directors individually pledged themselves to do all they could to make the affair a rousing success. If possible to arrange it this "revival" will be held two nights, but at any rate there will be one night—May 20. Complete explanation will be found elsewhere.

May 1 the secretary and treasurer will begin collecting in the pledges, and it is hoped that by June 1, if not sooner, sufficient funds will be in hand to make possible the purchase of a site without loading the association down with debt.

The following directors were present: Dickson, Ihringer, Chaplin, Weckesser, Maupin, Mayer, Kelsey, Evans, Pickard, Walker excused.

Secretary Ihringer reported that by the next meeting the specially prepared books for the secretary and treasurer would be ready for use. By June 1 the first annual statement of

receipts and expenses will be ready for publication.

Secretary Kates of the Central Labor Union appeared and asked the members present to report back to their unions and have a resolution adopted and sent immediately to the senators and representatives in congress, demanding immediate action on a matter of vital interest to workmen.

Pledges amounting to about \$100 were received.

THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

A Bunch of Live Ones Always Playing the Union Game.

Messrs. Mayer and Betz, who represented Lincoln at the third annual district council of the Electrical Workers at Sioux City, are back home, and they are enthusiastic over the work accomplished. This district council, composed of delegates from the locals of Iowa and Nebraska, held its first annual meeting in Omaha two years ago. At that time there were seven locals in the district. The second annual meeting was held in Iowa last year and fifteen locals were represented. This year twenty-one locals were represented.

Mr. Betz was honored by being elected vice president of the district, and Lincoln was put in line for the 1908 council. This will be left to a referendum vote, but it was generally agreed that Lincoln would be the place. Iowa had the last two and Nebraska the first one, so it looks like Lincoln this time. The members of the local will see to it that if Lincoln loses it will be through no fault of their own.

Work was reported good all over the district, and getting better all the time. The building of toll lines is being pushed everywhere, and this is furnishing a lot of work.

The Lincoln Telephone company has installed exchanges in Davey and Waverly, and these will be in complete service in a week or two.

Locally work is fairly good, enough to take care of the "permanents" and give the "floaters" enough to make the next point in good style.

THE BRICKLAYERS.

They Felt the Heavy Hand of Taft in Injunction Matters.

Members of the International Bricklayers' and Masons' Union have no particular reason to love William Howard Taft. One of his first injunctions—and he became a past master in the art of issuing injunctions—was aimed at the union bricklayers. The case happened in Cincinnati in 1891 or 1892.

The union bricklayers of Cincinnati became involved in a contest with a contractor named Parker, and listed him as unfair to organized labor. Parker secured an injunction against the bricklayers, enjoining them from posting him as unfair to their union. This injunction was upheld by Judge Taft on appeal and made permanent by him. Further, he mulcted the

union bricklayers in the sum of \$2,500, asserting that Parker's business had been damaged that much.

The concrete foundation for the main part of the new Christian Science church at Twelfth and L streets is being put in. This means a big job of brick work this summer, as this church will be one of the largest and finest in Nebraska.

Work on the new Y. W. C. A. building is underway, furnishing several jobs. Work is also in progress on several other buildings, and the indications are good for a rushing season.

Leatherworkers' Union Ball, Pitt's Hall, May 5.

A LABEL BOOSTER.

Visits Lincoln to Arrange for Big Union Label Exhibit.

H. S. Baxter, advance representative of the Union Label Advertising Show, given under the direction of the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, was in Lincoln, Monday. He came to complete arrangements for an exhibition in Lincoln.

In company with the committee appointed by the Central Labor Union he closed a date with the auditorium management for May 20.

This show will appear in Fremont on May 19, and in Beatrice on May 21. It promises to be the biggest and best "union label boost" ever given in Lincoln—and heaven knows it is needed in Lincoln.

Mr. Baxter left Monday evening for Beatrice to complete arrangements for an exhibit in that city. He stated that it was the hope of the promoters of his enterprise to have at least four companies on the road next year.

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JUDGE ESTELLE'S LECTURE.

Practical Talk on How to Save the Boys and Girls.

Judge Lee Estelle of Omaha, judge of the juvenile court of that city, lectured at the Auditorium last Thursday afternoon on how to save the boys and girls. Less than one hundred people heard him, although one would have been pardoned for believing that after such a big parade of "boy savers" about a week before, the big auditorium would have been crowded. But there is a difference between paying a quarter to learn something practical about boys, and riding a prancing horse in a parade or breaking into public print as a philanthropist. The Civic League was conspicuous by the absence of its members.

Judge Estelle's lecture was splendid. No summary could do it justice. He knows children, and they are instinctively drawn to him. He gains their confidence and treats them as boys and girls, not as embryo criminals. "And not one of them has ever thrown me down," said Judge Estelle. His defense of the child labor law was worth going miles to hear. Men and women who are really interested in the work of saving boys and girls—enough so that they will not stop at parades and banner carrying—will rejoice to know that Judge Estelle will lecture at some fifty Chautauquas this season, taking the work of the juvenile courts as his subject. One man like Lee Estelle can save more boys and girls than all the grand-standers that ever paraded with flying banners and brazen instruments. He goes at it in a practical, not a hysterical way. Here's to Lee Estelle, and men like him who are doing things.

Leatherworkers' Union Ball, Pitt's Hall, May 5.

TO ALL UNIONS.

Expected to Help Defray Expenses of the "Label Exhibit."

All unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and therefore with the Lincoln Central Labor Union, are requested to take notice that they have been asked to levy an assessment of ten cents per member for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the "Label Exhibit," and entertainment at the Auditorium on May 20th.

This entertainment is to be absolutely free to the public, and this will necessitate the levying of an assessment to pay for the use of the Auditorium and for the necessary advertising. Incidentally it may be stated right here that the Wageworker will not charge nor accept a penny for boosting the "show" all within its power. It is estimated that \$75 will

cover every expense if the show is held only one night and not to exceed \$125 if two nights are filled. Each affiliated union is urgently requested to take action on this matter at its next meeting and report to W. M. Maupin, Auto 2266 or Bell A 3129.

Leatherworkers' Union Ball, Pitt's Hall, May 5.

THE POOR THINGS.

Helpless Clerks in a Country Town Plead for Assistance.

Col. "Jack" Ryder, deputy labor commissioner, has received a plaintive plea for help from clerks in Greeley Center, Axtel and other places in Nebraska. These clerks complain that they are being worked too long hours, and they beg, beseech, implore and plead that Mr. Ryder come to their rescue and do something to help them out. One of these letters is a pretty fair sample of all of them, and the one here given is a classic worthy of preservation on the records of every trades union:

"Clerks are worked to death, from 7 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock and after every day, besides keeping open a few hours on Sunday to accommodate the dear people. It is really more than the poor clerks can stand for. It gives us no chance for rest, no chance for enjoyment, no chance to spend any time with our families, no chance to attend church, or indulge in any other kind of outside pleasure. Therefore we appeal to you to help us if it can be done."

After giving due consideration to several of these plaintive appeals, Mr. Ryder said:

"This bureau has been instrumental in bringing about a better condition in this matter of closing stores in two or three towns, but only because the merchants were willing generally. One or two storekeepers in any town can block the effort, and so all we can do is to appeal to their sense of fair play, and to ask the men and women of the towns to aid the clerks by doing a little of their trading in the day time. If women clerks are worked over ten hours in any one day, the deputy commissioner can have the employer prosecuted, if the clerk will make complaint. This they are afraid to do, and so the violators of the law go unpunished."

Mr. Ryder did not say so, but as a good union man himself he knows full well that the little words, "This they are afraid to do," explains the whole trouble. The clerks in Greeley, Axtel—and Lincoln—haven't got sand enough in their craws to organize and make a concerted fight for decent hours and wages. What they are afraid to do for themselves they ask some one else to do for them. One shudders to think what hours the skilled trades would be working, and the wages received, if the tradesmen had been afraid to organize and had depended upon a labor commissioner to help them out. Why don't the clerks in every fair sized town get busy and organize? They ought to be ashamed to ask Ryder or anybody else to get for them what they can and should get for themselves. "Jack" Ryder is a worker, but it is too much to expect him to shorten the hours of a lot of jelly-spined clerks who haven't got courage enough to make even a show of demanding decent treatment.

Leatherworkers' Union Ball, Pitt's Hall, May 5.

WE FAILED DISMALLY.

The other day the daily papers told of how John A. Drake of Des Moines, Iowa, son of ex-Governor F. M. Drake, found \$2,000,000 in the pocket of an old coat. The "find" consisted of stock certificates in a gold mine worth the above stated amount. As soon as we read it we hunted up our old coats and searched the pockets. This is all we found: A piece of tobacco about as big as a hazel nut, a stub of a lead pencil, five newspaper clippings, notice of payment due in a fraternal order, two old letters, one given by wife to mail and forgotten; a piece of string, a penny, a badly soiled two-cent stamp, a pants button, an old street car transfer and a few matches and toothpicks. No gold mining stock or other collateral.

ORGANIZATION REQUIRED.

Is mere beggarly existence to be the reward of wage-earning labor? That is the natural economic policy of the profit-making employing concern. The individual wage-earner cannot obstruct that policy. It requires organization to have effect upon it.—Railroad Telegrapher.

Free Moving Picture Union Label Show

On Wednesday evening, May 20, at the Auditorium, the trades unions of the city, acting in concert through the Central Labor Union, will give a free moving picture show. In addition to the moving pictures there will be views of many interesting places, portraits of prominent citizens, including public officials of the international unions, and songs by a noted singer, accompanied by illustrations. All in all it will be one of the most interesting exhibitions ever offered in Lincoln—and it will be absolutely free to the general public. Children under fifteen years of age will not be admitted unless accompanied by parents.

During the evening the labels of the various skilled trades will be shown upon the screen, and a capable lecturer will explain them, tell where they may be found on the articles purchased, and give the general public the reasons why union made goods should be called for. This feature of the entertainment should prove immensely popular with both unionists and non-unionists—to the former because it will help the label movement and to the latter because it will gratify a curiosity and disabuse many of the ideas that trades unionists are anarchists.

This exhibition is given by and under the direction of the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, and is intended as an educator of the general public. The lecturer will give a concise history of trades unionism, tell what its objects and aims are, and summarize what unionism has accomplished in behalf of the toiler during the last twenty years.

Remember, the date is May 20, the place the Auditorium, and the admission free. Invite your friends. The women of Lincoln are especially invited. If the union men can only get the earnest attention of the women of Lincoln for a little while, until trades unionism is fully explained, there will be a sudden slump in the demand for goods made at the expense of human flesh and blood.

There are four in the party comprising the "Union Label Show." C. J. Morrow, lecturer; Arthur Elphinstone, singer; Charles Hudson, pianist; Harry Berry machine operator and electrician.

The following moving pictures will be shown: Hearts Bidding. Her First Bike Ride. The Plank. A Case of Arson. The Pearl Fisher. The Quiet Hotel.

The following illustrated songs will be sung: "Yesterday," "Captain Baby Bunting," "When the Moon Plays Peek-a-boo."

Forty-eight pictures of labels will be shown, together with numerous scenes in this and other countries.

This exhibition is paid for by the unionists of Lincoln, and every unionist should proceed to boost it. Invite your non-union neighbor and his wife. Invite the professional men and their wives. Invite the business men and their wives. Invite the members of the Woman's Club, your lodge friends

and your church friends. The success of this exhibition depends upon the number of people you can prevail upon to attend.

At the Auditorium May 20. Admission absolutely free.

THE PRESSMEN.

Special Meeting to Take Action on Question of Delegate.

The Pressmen's Union will meet in special session this (Saturday) evening for the purpose of transacting some special business that was put over from the last regular meeting. One item is a decision on the matter of sending a delegate to the international convention this year. It is likely that the local will decide not to send a delegate this time, owing to the heavy expense incurred by the recent strike for the eight-hour day.

Graves & Mulligan is the name of a new job printing firm, with a shop in the Windsor Hotel building. Mr. Graves is a member of the Pressmen's union.

Work is reported good and getting better. This is "campaign year," and already political work is beginning to show up in the different shops. And of course it is going to the union shops, for in campaign year all the politicians dearly love the union man.

CONSCIENCELESS CORPORATIONS

Missouri Pacific Maims Man Then Violates Contract.

Because the Missouri Pacific railroad discharged him from a position which it had promised him would be for life, James Semple, of South Fourth street, yesterday filed suit in the district court for \$15,000 damages. Semple was formerly a brakeman in the employ of the road and March 27, 1897, both his legs were cut off below the knees by the cars. He states in his petition that the road offered him \$750 and a clerical position for life if he would waive all claims upon them for damages. He says he accepted the proposition and was paid the money and was given a job as bill clerk in the freight office. He began work in December of that year at \$50 a month, and later the company, of its own accord, raised his salary to \$61.50. On March 18 of the present year he was discharged from the company's employ, he says, without any excuse except that the company found it necessary to reduce expenses.—Leavenworth Times.

MUST NOT FORGET

Members of organized labor must not forget that the supreme court has handed down a decision which declares it unlawful to boycott. They should also remember that it is not only lawful, but eminently proper for them to ignore their enemies and buy the product of their friends—the employers who treat them square and pay living wages.

UNION LABEL EXHIBITION

Grand exhibition of Union Labels, together with an exhibition of Moving Pictures, with Illustrated Songs and an interesting address on Union Labels.

**AUDITORIUM, WEDNESDAY EVENING
MAY 20, 1908**

Under the auspices of the Lincoln Central Labor Union and Affiliated Bodies, and presented by the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. Four thousand feet of Moving Pictures. Forty Union Labels. Four Illustrated Songs. Special Music. Numerous interesting views taken in this and other countries. An evening of pleasure and profit.

ADMISSION ABSOLUTELY FREE

Children under 15 years of age not admitted unless accompanied by parents. The women of Lincoln are especially invited. Everybody invited to attend.

C. J. Morrow, lecturer; Arthur Elphinstone, singer; Charles Hudson, pianist; Harry Berry, electrician.

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