

# THE WAGEWORKER



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## The Labor Temple Now or Never, Friends

Monday evening, October 12, the directors of the Lincoln Labor Temple Association held a meeting and made some history. At that meeting the directors decided to take the plunge and either get a Labor Temple or die trying. With that in view a committee was appointed to make the final negotiations for the two-story brick building at 217-219 North Eleventh street, formerly occupied by the Woodruff-Collins Printing company. Tuesday morning the committee met the owner, Mayor Love, and made the initial payment, after agreeing upon terms of purchase. The consideration is \$18,000, on terms that will make it easily possible for the trades unionists of Lincoln and Havelock to own a home of their own if they so desire.

The building in question is admirably located for the purpose in view. It is near the business center of the city and convenient to all the street car lines, yet is not so close that the cars will interrupt any meetings that may be going on, even though all the windows are open. It will take some money to remodel the building so as to make it suitable for meetings and occupancy for business purposes, but already there is assurance that enough rentals will be forthcoming to pay all fixed expenses, all expenses of maintenance, and leave a handsome balance for the sinking fund. It is the intention of the directors to equip three union halls on the second floor, leaving one large hall 50x60 feet, as an assembly room and dancing hall. One room on the ground floor will be rented for some business purpose, preferably a restaurant, and the other will be used by the association. It will contain a billiard and pool room, card room, cigar stand and office for the superintendent of the building. It is figured that the cigar stand and billiard tables will pay the salary of the superintendent of the building. With twenty-two unions paying rent, together with the possible securing of several fraternal organizations as tenants and the rental of the assembly hall for dancing parties and public meetings, there is no doubt that the stockholders in the association will in time receive a handsome interest on their investment.

No one has been asked to donate a dollar to the association, nor will any one be asked for donations. But stock in the association will be sold at \$1 per share, this stock being non-assessable. Every dollar paid in will be represented by tangible real estate values. Already several unions are stockholders and have paid for goodly blocks of stock. Enterprising and loyal unionists as individuals have subscribed, and the initial payment was enough to satisfactorily bind the bargain. It remains to be seen whether the unionists and business men of Lincoln and Havelock will come across and make sure the purchase of the building.

Originally the Lincoln Labor Temple Association was organized with a capital stock of \$50,000, the intention being to sell enough stock to purchase a building site and erect a Labor Temple thereon. A number of things happened to make this seemingly impossible, although there was some stock sold. The money thus received was put in bank and remained there until Monday.

The articles of incorporation are such that the property, when paid for, can never be alienated from its original purpose—that of a labor headquarters—save by sale. It will be impossible for any one man ever to secure a controlling interest, or for any single union or organization ever to secure control. It will remain a Labor Temple.

The building committee expects to begin right away the task of interesting union men and business men in the project, and raise the money to pay for the property by the sale of stock. It is not necessary for The Wageworker to picture the benefits to Lincoln, to the trades unions and to the business men arising from a project of this character. It will provide a home for the wage-earners of the city. It will act as a balance wheel between wage earner and wage payer; it will interest men more and more in Lincoln. It means a social and moral uplift in many ways. A Labor Temple—a labor headquarters—such as is contemplated, and such as will be secured, will perform a distinct

service to thousands of men that other institutions can not do because they are not able to reach and interest the men. The Y. M. C. A. is a magnificent institution, but in the very nature of things it can not and does not offer attractions that appeal to many men—attractions in themselves harmless, and often helpful. Mechanics like to get together and talk over their trades; they love to smoke their fragrant pipes, to indulge in a friendly game of cards or pool, and mingle socially with those they work beside during the weary hours of the day. It will benefit the employers because it will make possible an easy method of securing men when the occasion arises. It will benefit the worker by aiding him at all times to secure employment. It will create civic pride, because it means more property owners—and a property owner is always a conservative to a greater or less degree.

It is the intention of the board of directors, if everything goes well, to add a third story to the building just as soon as possible, and thus make possible an assembly hall that will accommodate fully a thousand people. The building itself is 50x100 feet in size, and expert builders are a unit in declaring that the walls are amply strong to carry another story. It is open on three sides, thus insuring good light and ventilation, and is in a location that insures a steady increase in value as the years go by.

The association, through its directors, asks the unionists, the business men, the professional men and the churchmen of Lincoln to join hands and help secure for all time this valuable adjunct to the social and material welfare of Lincoln.

### GLOVEWORKERS' BALL.

First Annual Function of "Baby Union" Was a Great Success.

The Gloveworkers' Union of Lincoln is one of the youngest, and perhaps the smallest, unions in Lincoln, but neither size nor age counts with it when it comes to making a success of its social affairs. This was proved Wednesday night when the Gloveworkers' Union gave its first annual ball at Fraternity Hall. Certain it is, if

some of the older and larger unions have a more successful or profitable annual ball this winter they will have to go some.

Nearly one hundred couples enjoyed the dancing program, the music for which was rendered by Bruse's union orchestra. The programs were dainty little affairs, a miniature glove being attached to each one, and these will be treasured as souvenirs by nearly all who were there. The dancing began promptly at 9 o'clock, and continued until a late hour. The members of the union were tireless in their efforts to show their guests a merry time, and they were highly successful. As a social affair it was equal to any affair of the kind in the history of local trades unionism. The Gloveworkers of Lincoln have every reason to be proud of the success attending their first annual ball.

### IN LOS ANGELES.

How a Labor Temple Pays in the City of Angeles.

The labor unions of Los Angeles have a Labor Temple which stands on a 100-foot by 125-foot lot. The building is 80 feet by 125 feet, seven stories high. The Union Labor Temple association is incorporated under the laws of the State of California, and is capitalized at \$100,000, divided into 100,000 shares at \$1.00 each, restricted to union men. The property is now valued at \$175,000. Although not entirely finished, sufficient space is occupied to produce a rental of \$500 a month. This does not indicate that the campaign engineered by General Otis to rid California of trades unionism has met with any encouraging success.

### THE BARBERS.

Expect Something Good at the Meeting Next Wednesday Evening.

When the Barbers' Union meets next Wednesday evening the members expect to hear something good, for Delegate McBride will be back from the national convention at Milwaukee and have his report ready. Advance reports from the convention are to the effect that it was a warm one, and that a lot of business of deep concern to the organization was transacted. The local union is growing in num-

bers with gratifying regularity. Seven new members have been added during the past month, and there are several applications on file. The organization is full of ginger and always ready to take a front place in the work of boosting for unionism. The Wageworker cheerfully acknowledges that it has no better supporters than the Union Barbers of Lincoln.

### BLOOD POISON.

Sam Chaplin of the barber firm of Chaplin & Ryan, is suffering from a severe attack of blood poisoning and is confined to his home on South Twenty-fifth street. While his case is a serious one the attending physician is assured that the patient will be up and around in a short time. A lot of friends are hoping that Chaplin will be on duty again in a few days.

### IN WINNIPEG.

Canadian Unionists Find a Labor Temple Pays Them.

The Winnipeg Trades Hall building is owned by the Trades Hall Co., the predominating stockholder in which is the Bricklayers' and Masons' union. The Typographical union, Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Moulders and Stonecutters are also considerable stockholders, and a small amount is held by individual union members. The building is 52x100, four stories and basement, the whole of which, with the exception of part of the ground floor, is used for halls and committee rooms. The building has cost the company about \$60,000, the cost being considerably augmented by a calamity which overtook it when just nearing completion, it being wrecked by a storm.

### GONE TO WASHINGTON.

W. Dickson, a leading member of the Carpenters' Union, packed his grip the first of the week and hiked down to Washington, D. C., to look into a little proposition that has been made to him. He will help receive President Sam Gompers and will march in the big parade that greets the chief of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Dickson didn't tell us what he had in view down there, but if it is good enough for him to consider we hope it pans out all right.

## Church and Union Should Work Hand in Hand

There is a big strike in Omaha. The employees of the street railway company are carrying on industrial war against their employes. On the one side are the managers of the company with Mr. Wattles, a business man of high standing, president of the company, president of a bank, president of the Corn Exposition, president of about everything else in Omaha, at their head; on the other side are the men who run the cars.

The gist of the matter is this. Some five years ago the men formed a union. The company has always refused to recognize it, and Mr. Wattles now says that in the future they will employ no man who does not agree to remain outside of any union of street railway men.

When the news of this strike was heralded abroad in the newspapers it had a strange psychic affect. More than nine men out of every ten immediately chose one side or the other and assumed that that side was practically in the right. As the strike progressed each side accumulated a mass of evidence and argument to support its cause.

One side reasoned that things have come to a pretty pass if business men cannot run their own property, to suit themselves. The demands of organized labor are unreasonable, many of their regulations are unnecessary and some of them are childish. They call attention to the fact that riots have marked the course of most strikes, from which this one has not been entirely free; the consequent loss of property, and the occasional loss of life. They deplore, most of all, the disregard of law which is inherent in the union or is fostered by these attempts to enforce unreasonable demands. They shudder at the shadow of anarchy that is creeping over the land.

The other side protests that there are no such persistent violators of the law as the great corporations. That under the most rigid construction, but little of the property they operate is their own. Their rails are laid upon the public streets. They lay claim, not only to the streets they occupy, but to all the rest, preventing any competing company from carrying people for a lower fare. They are pay-

ing dividends on watered stock. The railroad men and most of the great industrial forces of the United States have been unionized to the vast benefit of the laborer without any corresponding loss to his employer. The riots are largely the work of the lawless element which abounds in cities. Even if strikes are accompanied by riots, the union, in the end, leads to industrial peace and the common good; just as the Reign of Terror, with all its horrors, destroyed a system under which the poor of France had rotted for a thousand years.

As strikers they are not even given the rights promised them by the constitutions of the state and nation. A peaceable assembly, being addressed by a Congregational minister, meeting on a private lot, was recently forcibly dispersed by the sheriff and chief of police.

Which side has your sympathy on the start? Which side is entrenching itself firmly in your opinion every day? Labor or capital? It is a more important question than perhaps you think for, upon the equilibrium of the answers depends the success or failure of these parties in Omaha. It is hard to win or lose a strike against the pressure of public opinion. Probably that is no more than asking to what class you belong, but are you sure that your class opinion is right?

What side should the press take? Of course the advocates of special privilege will have no hesitancy in deciding. They have already spoken. But how about the progressive press, those who claim to be fighting for the common good? Have they any sympathy to offer?

And the church? Is the church interested in this question? Call Mr. Wilson, president of Princeton university, to the stand for a moment.

Q. "What, in your view, is the mission of the Christian church?"

A. "To my thinking, the Christian church stands at the center not only of philanthropy, but at the center of education, at the center of science, at the center of philosophy, at the center of politics; in short, at the center of sentiment and thinking life. And the business of the Christian church, of the Christian minister, is to show the spiritual relations of men to the great world processes, whether they be physical or spiritual. It is nothing less than to show the plan of life and men's relation to the plan of life."

Has that church, founded by a carpenter, who gave to the ambassador of John the Baptist this proof of His divinity, that he brought good news to the poor, any especial sympathy for either side?

It would be especially interesting for me to know what that particular branch of the church universal which claims as a minister the man who was driven from the rostrum at Omaha by the sheriff and the chief of police, has to say upon this question. I confess with shame that there is no more servile apologist for the vested interests than its official organ, which recently deliberately decided that the New Testament was mistaken and that extreme wealth is favorable to Godliness. I know that union labor regards this church and all churches as the bulwark of its enemies. But, from the days of Cromwell, this church has always boasted that it stood for the Liberty of the oppressed. If there has been a partial eclipse perhaps the shade is passing. On which side does the sympathies of the Congregational church naturally fall?

Of course there are plenty of wrongs and rights on both sides. This is no attempt to poise the balance of justice. But hundreds will rush to the defense of Mr. Wattles and his associates. Who is willing to extend a hand in sympathy to the man that works?—Newman Grove, Nebr., Reporter.

### THE GOVERNOR REGRETS.

A committee consisting of Misses Sturm and Edstrom and Mr. A. H. Potter, representing the Glovemakers' Union, called on Governor Shallenberger Tuesday to extend to him an invitation to attend the first annual ball of the union. Governor Shallenberger expressed regret that a previous engagement out of town would prevent his acceptance and said he would try to arrange it so as to be present at the second annual ball of the organization.

## LABOR TEMPLE ASSOCIATION HAS BOUGHT A HOME

At 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, October 12, the board of directors of the Lincoln Labor Temple Association closed a deal for the purchase of the two story brick building at 217-219 North Eleventh Street. This is the building until recently occupied by the Woodruff-Collins Printing Co. The lot is 50x110 feet, and the building 50x100 feet, two stories high. The walls of the building have been carefully inspected and the verdict of experts is that they will easily and safely carry another story.

The purchase price is \$18,000, at terms that will make it easy for the unionists of Lincoln to pay out if they will only hustle a bit and take an interest in maintaining a home for the trades and labor unions.

Nobody will be asked to donate a penny towards paying for this property. Every dollar subscribed will be represented by an equal amount of stock in the association, and this stock will represent an investment that will in due time pay handsome interest.

The workingman who wants to save money will find this an investment equal to or better than a savings bank deposit.

It will pay even greater returns in social and moral uplift. This property offers a good investment for business men, for it means a protection against industrial disputes; it means a better class of customers the year 'round.

It is now up to union men and women of Lincoln to take hold and make this project a success. It is respectfully suggested to the merchants of Lincoln that good business judgement urges them to lend a hand.