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CENTRAL LABOR UNION

At its meeting last Friday night the Central Labor Union got down to business, and after amending the constitution so as to provide for a more equitable system of dues, proceeded to take a hand in some important civic matters.

Heretofore the dues to the central body have been \$1 a month for unions having less than twenty-five members, and \$1.50 for unions having twenty-five or more. This was not equitable, as several small unions were paying considerably more per capita than the larger unions. Hereafter the dues will be \$1.50 a month per union and 2 cents per capita. Every time a delegate is present 25 cents of the dues are remitted. Thus, if all three delegates of a union are present at both meetings in the month, the union is rebated the \$1.50 dues and pays only the 2 cents per capita. It is believed—and hoped—that this system will result in a larger attendance.

A committee consisting of Kelsey, Coffey and Maupin was appointed to prepare a revised version of the constitution and by-laws.

The delegates also took cognizance of the "meat strike" by adopting the following resolutions:

Whereas, Unlawful trusts and combines have secured practically absolute control of the food products of the country and the distribution thereof, thereby enabling them to exact exorbitant prices from the people; and

Whereas, There is now manifest upon the part of the people a disposition to resent these exorbitant demands by what is in effect a boycott of certain trust-controlled products, notably the meat supply of the country, but which is in fact merely a process of pinching the belly to make up for the results of not properly using the franchise; therefore be it

Resolved, By Lincoln Central Labor Union, representing the allied trades union of Lincoln, that we are in hearty sympathy with any movement calculated to prevent further extortion by trusts and combines, and ready at any time to join hands with fellow workers elsewhere to boycott those who deal unjustly.

Resolved, That we recommend in all kindness and fraternal spirit the necessity of informing ourselves more fully before exercising the franchise, and use the boycott of the ballot against the aforesaid trusts and combines.

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to sister bodies in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, and that a copy be furnished to the official organ of the American Federation of Labor.

The following resolutions demanding an amendment to the homestead laws were adopted:

Whereas, The present homestead laws are antiquated, preventing by their harsh and unreasoning terms many deserving people from securing possession of lands now vacant, and

Whereas, Avenues of employment in the congested centers of trade are constantly narrowing, making the struggle for existence more intense each year; therefore be it

Resolved, By Lincoln Central Labor Union, representing the allied trades unions of Lincoln and vicinity, that we demand of our representatives and senators in congress a modification of the homestead entry laws; first, to do away with the present demoralizing and unjust lottery plan of distribution; and second, to provide for a joint homestead entry making it possible for two persons not owning land to file upon a homestead, only one being required to live thereon, the other being permitted to remain where employment may be secured and wages earned to help improve the land, the homestead later to be divided between the two and patents issued separately. Such an amendment to the homestead laws would be of real benefit to people now landless, relieve the congestion in the large cities, settle up more rapidly fertile lands now vacant, develop our common country and inure to the good of all the people.

Resolved, That this body call upon the friends of labor everywhere to join with it in demanding of congress the amendments herein mentioned. Be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this body, and copies thereof be furnished the press of the city.

Some time ago the matter of putting mail boxes on street cars was agitated in certain quarters. The Central Labor Union goes on record as

opposing the idea by the adoption of the following resolutions:

Whereas, There is a movement on foot in certain quarters to establish in Lincoln a system of mail boxes on street cars, ostensibly for the better service of the public, and

Whereas, Such a system would not tend to better a service already excellent and superior in most respects to other cities of the same size, but rather tend to lessen the opportunities for the employment of more men in the mail service, and

Whereas, There is grave danger that the pretended interest in the welfare of the public is but a cover to insure federal intervention in case of labor disputes; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Lincoln Central Labor Union, representing the allied trades union of the city of Lincoln, that we protest against the proposed placing of mail boxes upon the street cars, urging in furtherance of this protest the following cogent reasons:

Under a federal court decision rendered during the now famous American Railway Union strike, backed by federal bayonets, an arrogant corporation was enabled to defeat labor's demands for just wage and conditions by having the postal laws so ridiculously stretched that even Pullman sleepers attached to trains carrying mails were declared to be, per se, "mail cars."

A street car carrying a mail box becomes in effect a "mail car," and should the street railway employes at any time become involved in a controversy as to wages and hours, they could at once be put under federal injunction and thus restrained from the exercise of their American rights and privileges, a process already resorted to entirely too often in industrial disputes.

Street car collection of mail would result in further demoralization of a service already inadequate by reason of greater delay in the running of cars, and impose another hardship upon men already overworked and underpaid.

Mail boxes in street cars would give the cars absolute right of way, further emphasizing an already existing evil.

Resolved, That this protest against the proposed plan of street car mail collections be spread upon the minutes of this body, and that copies therefor be furnished to the press of the city.

The usual number of bills were allowed. Under the head of "good of the order" several good short talks were made. The committee appointed to visit the unions and urge better attendance of delegates reported that it was making the rounds, and the better attendance at the meeting demonstrated that the committee had been busy.

BITING SARCASM.

Striking Tin Plate Workers Will Show Difference in Banquets.

Striking tin plate workers of the American Sheet and Tinplate company in Pittsburg district have been invited to attend the banquet of their fellow strikers to be given at Bridgeport, Ohio, next Saturday night. All who can get car fare and one cent admission will go. The admission fee of one cent is to pay for oil for the torches. The banquet is to be a "take off" of the recent swell banquet given by the Carnegie officials at Pittsburg, which is said to have cost \$100 per plate. The starving workmen who have been on strike since July 1, offer the following bill of fare:

Watercress, crackers, peanuts, smoking tobacco, cob pipes and river water. Instead of having gold fish, human or otherwise, swimming in pools the strikers will have snowballs in dinner pails otherwise empty.—San Antonio Dispatch.

SURE, MIKE!

Speaking of the International Labor Press Association the St. Louis Labor Compendium says:

"Non tam potentia sua quam negligentia nostra!"

You bet your life! We don't know what it means, but if the Labor Compendium said it, then it goes with us, and don't you forget it. Wed out giv' dam or the high rows off he executiv' ounce it any more. That's flat. We are tired of trying to pay composition and press bills with hot air supplied by the Jim Duncans and others.

ATTACKS ON SUNDAY LAWS.

Senator Schulz, of New York, has introduced (by request) the old proposition to create a commission to examine and revise the laws regulating labor on Sunday. Labor regards this as a disguised attack on the laws prohibiting work on Sunday. It is Senate bill no. 13, and referred to finance committee.—Rochester Journal.

ISN'T IT THE TRUTH?

Once upon a time a tariff was placed on steel, so the American workman would not have to compete with "pauper labor" of Europe. The effect of the tariff has been to make paupers of our American workmen, and from our view point, has improved the condition of the European workman.—Fort Scott Sentinel.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS

The social dance given at the Temple Thursday evening by the local Electrical Workers for the benefit of the Temple was a success in every way. The only trouble was that there were more people ready to dance than could well be accommodated in the small space at the disposal of the Temple management. The Musicians' Union donated the music and the entire proceeds of the social were turned over to the Temple association. The committee having the affair in charge is to be congratulated upon their success.

The arbitration board will meet at Springfield, Ill., on February 15, and resume negotiations looking to peace between the two factions.

Joseph Tazelear, a member of the Painters and Decorators' Union, and an organizer of the American Federation of Labor, was a delegate to the Toronto convention. He was a member of the laws committee, which considered the case of the Electrical Workers. He touted for the executive council from the first, and before the committee had been in session five minutes he demonstrated beyond a doubt that he was intensely prejudiced in favor of the McNulty-Collins faction. Well, Joseph conceived the idea that he could beat Joe Skemp for the secretary-treasurership of the Brotherhood of Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators. But Josephus now has another think coming. Skemp left him at the first quarter post.

Talk about hard luck! "Jim" Hannon, a union Electrical Worker of Buffalo, N. Y., recently went up against a live wire and was so badly burned that he was laid up in a hospital for weeks. When he recovered he went back to work, but before he had got in a full week he fell from a pole and broke both legs.

President Reid has just secured the first closed shop agreement ever signed by Electrical Workers in Detroit.

President Reid has just made the astonishing discovery that Philadelphia is the greatest "rat" breeding place in North America. Gosh all hemlock! Any of us union printers could have told him that at any time during the past twelve years.

The strike at El Paso, Texas, has been won. The town is "closed" now, with an eight-hour day and a \$4 scale.



There may be some labor editors who imagine that the International Labor Press Association has "died a bornin'." Never were men more mistaken if they have been seized with such a notion. The association is alive, prospering, and has promise of big things. True the membership is growing slowly—but surely. To date twenty-seven members have been enrolled. Secretary-Treasurer Maupin will next week send to every member a cut of the association's label, which is found at the head of this department this week, and which will be found at the head of the editorial columns hereafter. Smaller labels will be provided for stationery in a short time.

Every labor editor in the United States and Canada has already received copies of the association's constitution, its "proclamation" and a personal letter from the secretary-treasurer. The objects of the association are legitimate—to secure better business at more remunerative prices; to insist upon something better than "hot air" resolutions from international conventions of the crafts and the American Federation of Labor; to cut out the advertising fakir; to increase the advertising field by offering a more thoroughly organized press system of reaching the consumer of union made goods.

The secretary-treasurer has recently noted several labor papers making sarcastic comment on this thing of "hot air" resolutions in support of the labor press. Strange as it may seem, a number of these papers have not yet joined the Association. They ought to be getting into the game right.

At the Toronto convention of the American Federation of Labor the assembled labor editors issued a proclamation and asked that it be presented to the convention. The request was denied, and an effort is now being made to shift the responsibility. The facts are these:

The editors appointed a committee to present the proclamation to Secretary Morrison with the request that he have it read from the platform. Secretary Morrison handed it to Vice President Duncan, who was in the chair. Duncan handed it back and Morrison gently laid it upon the table. That night the committee made inquiries and Duncan said that Morrison was responsible. The committee went to Duncan, and returning with the

report that Duncan objected to read any thing that had the name of "Jim" Eagan, of the Toledo Union Leader, on it. Eagan was the delegate of the Ohio State Federation of Labor and was denied a seat because the Ohio Federation had ignored the demand of the executive council to unseat the Reid Electrical Workers' delegates. The proclamation was not read to the convention. The members of the International Labor Press Association indignantly refused to let Jim Duncan or any other "high brow" of the Federation, censor their membership. Three weeks ago the secretary-treasurer of the association sent a copy of the proclamation to Secretary Frank Morrison with the request that it be printed in the Federationist. A letter from Morrison conveys the information that the proclamation was turned over to President Gompers, editor of the Federationist. We are waiting.

Every week the labor press is asked to publish a lot of matter sent out from the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor. It costs money to set type. If the Wageworker had published all that the executive council asked it to publish during 1909, the composition would have cost something like \$75. In payment for this the American Federation of Labor offers the usual "helter dust" resolutions of support for the labor press, and then refuses, through its officials, to give the organized labor editors a hearing before the convention. On the editorial desk of The Wageworker is a spindle, and on the spindle is several columns of "copy" sent by the executive council. And it is going to remain there or be dumped in the waste basket when the spindle is full, unless the Association's proclamation appears in the Federationist. As secretary-treasurer of the Association the editor of The Wageworker has no advice to give the members on this matter. But as a brother editor it asks them to follow suit.

When the Association was organized it was decided to make the initiation fee and the 1910 dues \$2.50, provided application was made within three months. Notice is hereby given that after March 1, 1910, the initiation fee and first year's dues will be increased to \$5.

The secretary-treasurer is now in communication with several big firms looking towards the making of some profitable advertising contracts for the Association membership.

THE CIGARMAKERS

The United Cigar Stores company has announced that it is about to invade Lincoln, and it is given out that the new store will be at the corner of Twelfth and O, in the new Ganter block. This corporation is one of the biggest in the country, but it is not, as some imagine, a branch of the American Tobacco company. It is a corporation by itself, but it is big enough to practically control the cigar end of the tobacco trade. It has unlimited capital and the best sales system ever devised. It does not handle union made cigars, but handles every known kind of "scab" tenement house cigars and factory cigars. It cuts prices and it gives coupons. Wherever it has gone it has taken firm root. It remains to be seen whether it will win out in Lincoln.

Local cigar manufacturers have heretofore contented themselves with allowing the union cigarmakers to do about all the boasting that has been done for Lincoln-made cigars. Instead of organizing an advertising propaganda themselves, the manufacturers have been content with complaining because they were not given "proper support." If the entry of the United Cigar Stores company will have the effect of waking local manufacturers up and inducing them to move along proper lines of publicity, it will be a good thing. This thing of building up "home patronage" is a matter of education. People must be taught the good effects of standing by home institutions. There are five or six cigar factories in Lincoln, and if the men who conduct them would wake up, display a bit of enterprise and spend a little money in educational work, they need not fear any grave results from the competition of the big corporation. But the union cigarmakers must not be expected to bear the burden. They have spent dollars in boosting for Lincoln made cigars where the manufacturers have spent dimes. The Wageworker is quite willing to warrant that the union cigarmakers will join hands with the manufacturers in an educational campaign, and that the cigarmakers will

bear their just share of the expense. It is possible to so arouse local pride as to make Lincoln one of the big cigar producing centers of the country. The local cigar dealer who does not push Lincoln made cigars is standing in his own light. The Lincoln smoker who does not buy Lincoln made cigars in preference to the tenement made cigars sold by the United Cigar Stores company is not doing his duty as a citizen. It is time for everybody—especially Lincoln cigar manufacturers—to wake up.

The Cigarmakers' International Union of America has just closed one of the most prosperous years in its recent history. In 1909 there was a distinct gain in membership, and as a result the receipts were increased. A further result was an awakening of a new spirit among the rank and file. During 1909 the gain in membership was 4,000. In 1908 the expenses of the international exceeded the receipts by nearly \$70,000, but in 1909 the receipts exceeded the expenditures by upwards of \$50,000.

It takes four languages for the official organ of the cigarmakers to reach the membership.

T. W. Parker, a member of the Lincoln local and president of the Central body, has made up a nice little list of subscribers for The Wageworker. Every cigarmaker in Lincoln ought to be on the list.

E. W. Brooks has gone to Beatrice to work.

Business is slow for the cigarmakers at present.

The cigarmakers are going to get busy at their next meeting and get something started to help trade.

The Commercial club is taking up subscriptions to help home industries. They can help the cigarmakers some by clearing up their cigar case at the club rooms and filling it with home-made goods.

Golden promises don't count with me.

Business has got to come our way; I can keep busier than a bee

Giving some union a lift every day.

T. W. PARKER.

THE TEMPLE DIRECTORATE.

Regular Monthly Meeting Held at the Temple Monday Evening.

The first monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Labor Temple Association was held last Monday evening. Heretofore the board has met weekly, but hereafter will meet but once a month, leaving the bulk of the work to the trustees.

President Chaplin having been retired from the board it was necessary to elect a trustee in his place, and also select a new presiding officer. R. L. McBride, the newly elected representative of the Barbers was elected to the board of trustees, and immediately elected president.

The matter of opening the billiard room on Sunday was informally discussed and the trustees instructed to inquire as to the law. It is felt by a majority of the board that allowing stockholders the privilege of the billiard room on Sunday, just as the Commercial Club and fraternal club rooms are open on Sunday, will be appreciated by the workers and will result in good in more ways than one.

Manager Rudy was instructed to secure estimates on the probable cost of adding the third story to the Temple building.

Several bills were allowed, and then followed a general discussion as to "ways and means." The matter of furnishing the library went over for a time to give opportunity for better information as to the cost.

For the first time the Musicians' Union was represented by a director and Director Bingaman appeared for the first time as a director-at-large. The attendance was fifteen, the largest in the history of the association.

FEDERAL UNION ORGANIZED.

First Meeting Held at Labor Temple Last Monday Evening.

The start of a Federal Union was accomplished at a meeting held at the Temple last Monday evening, at which time a score of building laborers met and signed up. So far only the building laborers have been approached, but the scope of the organization will be enlarged.

The desire for organization was manifested to a splendid degree, and that a federal union will be the result is no

longer doubtful. Another meeting will be held at the Temple next Tuesday evening, and all laborers not now affiliated with some union are requested to be present and hear what a Federal Union means and learn what it can accomplish for the now unorganized laborers.

President Coffey of the State Federation presided at the meeting Monday evening, and he and several other trades unionists talked about the benefits of organization. But the best talks along organization lines were made by colored men. They are eager for it, and they are in dead earnest. Those present at Monday night's meeting will see to it that practically every unorganized working man is notified of next Tuesday evening's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Sunday afternoon meetings of the Lincoln Economic Educational League are beginning to attract a good deal of notice. This is a working class movement, intended for extension of economic knowledge to working men and women. The league hopes to make these lectures a "Workers' University Extension" in fact as well as in name. The meetings begin promptly at 3 p. m. and close at 4 o'clock. The program for Sunday, February 6th, is as follows:

Music—"The Marseillaise," Mrs. F. J. Webb.

Tenor Solo—"If I Only Had the World to Give You," Frank R. Webb.

Lecture—"Whither Are We Drifting?" Clyde J. Wright.

These meetings are held at A. O. U. W. hall, 1007 O street.

GOD'S TRUTH.

"What we ought to strike at first, and strike at hardest, is the bottom monopoly, the parent of all. Men lived without gas and electric lighting. Men lived, drawing their water from wells and springs, before waterworks. Men lived without railroads, the telegraph and the telephone. Aye, men have lived and could live again without money. But no man ever lived, no man ever can live, without land.—Henry George.

Well, Lincoln is pretty "wet" right now, anyhow.