

JULIUS PEPPERBERG

Independent Cigar Factory

813-815 O Street

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 18, 1910

Fred Ihringer,
Sec. Labor Temple,
Dear Sir:

I notice your announcement in the *Wageworker* that the Wage Earners of Lincoln are trying to wipe out their indebtedness on the Temple by another issue of stock. The organization you represent is a commendable one and I trust you succeed in placing the entire issue in the hands of those favorable to the Wage Earner.

You may place my name on the list for \$50.00 more stock.

Yours very truly,
R.V.P. *JULIUS PEPPERBERG*

THE EDITOR'S LITTLE EXPERIENCE

If you think it is an easy matter to take the witness stand and answer the questions fired at you by sixteen bright young fellows who want to know something, and know why they want to know it, just try it. That was an experience of mine one night this week. The debating squad of the University of Nebraska is preparing to take the affirmative of the question, "Resolved, That the trades union advocacy of the closed shop should receive the support of the public," in the debate with Wisconsin, and the negative in the debate with Illinois. These young men, ambitious and eager for information, invited me to a session with them for the purpose of ascertaining how little I know. At least that is what it looked like to me.

Glad indeed I was to be of whatever service possible to these young fellows. My great regret was that I was so incapable of shedding light on the question. But I at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I did the best I could. Grilling as was the examination, I shall always look back upon it as one of the pleasantest experiences of my life. I sat up in front, and facing me were sixteen young fellows, keen of intellect, anxious to get at basic facts, and primed to the limit with questions that went right to the heart of things. They smoothed the way for the victim—which was me—by a hearty greeting. Then they went about the business of the evening, courteously but firmly, and the only thing I can liken to the way they fired their questions is the way a gatling gun section gets busy when in action.

The questions were not haphazard, for a dozen committees had been investigating, each a separate phase of the

'open shop vs. closed shop' question, and each committee wanted to know the whys and the wherefores. The answers had to be to the point, too. If it wasn't clear they simply hammered away until they got all the information possible—which was usually not a great deal, but the very best I had in stock. From 7:30 until 10:00 the grilling continued. Had my back been turned to that bunch of inquisitors my courage would have failed me. But it was an inspiration to look into the eyes of young fellows bent on getting at the real facts, and although admitting my inability to handle the question as ably as a score of my fellow workers right here in Lincoln might have handled them, I left the chair feeling that I had at least given them a little information which, if followed up would make them far better advocates of trades unionism and the closed shop than I hope ever to become.

But, after all, the most pleasing feature of the whole thing is that the university is getting down to practical things. The young men who are delving into this labor problem are going to exercise a beneficial influence on industrial conditions in the days to come. It is enlarging their mental horizon; it is enlarging their sympathies; it is putting them into close touch with the workers upon whom the whole social fabric rests.

If I succeeded in any degree in shedding a bit of light upon the questions those splendid young fellows are studying I am more than repaid for the terrific grilling they subjected me to last Tuesday night. For the opportunity of expressing however feebly, the reasons for the union faith that is within me, I thank Professor Fogg and

the debating squad. For the privilege of meeting and learning to know such a bunch of splendid young men eager to get wise to practical things I am even more thankful. If the squad defeats Wisconsin I am going out behind the office, swell up a bit and pat myself on the back, claiming softly and to myself some of the credit. If they lose I'll merely blame them for having made the mistake of wasting their time in trying to extract information from such a hopeless subject as my humble self.

And lastly, I frankly admit that I thought of better answers to most of the questions after I had got home than the ones I was forced to give on the spur of the moment. But isn't that always the case?

—W. M. M.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Routine Meeting in Which Usual Business is Transacted.

Very little other than routine business was transacted by the Central Labor Union at its meeting last week. The principal feature of the meeting was the election of Frank M. Coffey to represent the body at the American Federation of Labor convention in St. Louis next month.

Several little matters relating to local conditions were discussed but no definite action taken. The chief work before the central body now is to finance the delegate to the Federation convention. Mr. Coffey will go down there with the avowed intention of making a game fight to secure from the Federation some recognition of this section of the middle west—something that has been woefully lacking for years.

IN A PIG'S VALISE.

Union men of Los Angeles enter suit against Gen. Otis of the Los Angeles Times for criminal libel and he is placed under bonds of \$200 for appearance in court. Editor Blighton, of *The Voice of the People*, Tucson, Arizona, is sued by capitalism for criminal libel, and he is thrown into jail and bonds of \$14,000 are demanded ere he can enjoy his liberty. We are certainly all "equal before the law."—*Miners' Magazine*.

TEMPERANCE WORK.

Jingle—Today I saw a man raising a glass of beer to his lips. I called to him to stop, spoke three words to him and instead of drinking it he dashed it to the ground, splintering the glass into a thousand pieces.

Mingle—My stars! You must be a second John B. Gough for eloquence. What did you say to him?

Jingle—I said: "That's non-union beer."—*Toledo Union Leader*.

AND THEN SOME.

What organized labor wants and should have is justice. We have compulsory arbitration now, so why talk about that. A federal judge acts as a buttinsky board of arbitration and settles the whole thing. Organized labor has enough compulsory arbitration.—*Oklahoma Labor Unit*.

Mr. Union Man, what are you doing to combat the determined effort that is being made to drive the label out of Lincoln?

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THIS YEAR'S CONVENTIONS.

October 18, New York, N. Y., United Textile Workers of America.
October 18, Detroit, Mich., International Association of Car Workers.