

# THE WAGWORKER



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## WITH LIVE ONES

Speaking of "live ones" the boys who edit and publish the Daily Nebraskan may not be members of trades unions, but they certainly up and coming. The Thanksgiving "football edition" of the Daily Nebraskan was a hummer. And it was the product of union labor from "kiver to kiver."

There are things doing in union printer circle in Omaha. A few weeks ago the committee of 190 closed a two years' contract with the World-Herald at an increase of 25 cents a day for the first year and 50 cents a day for the second year. Then it closed one for three years with the Daily News on the same terms. This made 'em so enthusiastic that they went over to the Bee office and closed a five-year contract on the same basis.

After four years of fighting with results that were not pleasing, the Omaha union has decided to change its course of action. As a result of the determination the strike management has been taken out of the hands of the executive committee and put in the hands of a special committee of eighteen. C. C. Vaughan has been made chairman and F. A. Kennedy secretary of the special committee.

All of which reminds us. A few years ago Omaha union men of all crafts were in the habit of pointing to Lincoln as the "jumping off place" of unionism. They were always complaining that the Lincoln situation made it hard for them to get results. It's different now. In these good days a lot of Omaha men feelingly point to Lincoln as a sample of what Omaha ought to do along union lines.

Here's hoping that the printing situ-

ation in Omaha will be speedily bettered. There ought to be a spirit of "forget and forgive" up there. This is not time to cherish animosities; no time for the recriminations; no time for personal grudges. There'll be glory enough for all if the situation up there is cleared up without further loss of time.

The Electrical Workers of Lincoln are determined to have some beneficial changes made in the matter of wire inspection. What they want is an inspector of outside and inside wiring, and they are going after it in a systematic way. By the way, speaking of "live ones," the Electrical Workers are setting an example that a whole lot of other unions and union men would do well to pattern after.

In the course of some remarks on the proposition to have union men take part in the charter revision work, Delegate Kelsey raised a laugh at the meeting of the Central Labor Union Tuesday night. He told of a visit to Des Moines and related what he heard a union man say in criticism of the commission plan.

"I spent considerable time discussing the plan with a friend of mine who was opposed to it. This friend was a republican, and he was a perfect gentleman, too," said Mr. Kelsey. After the laugh subsided Mr. Kelsey explained that he didn't mean it just exactly like it sounded.

This is a fact: The other night the editor of The Wagworker stood in a cigar store and saw a man who carried a union card come in and buy a package of scab tobacco, a plub of "scab" chewing tobacco and a "scab"

cigar. And this man has been heard to spout about his unionism until the dictionary retired exhausted.

The Painters and Decorators are preparing to have another "smoker" and when they do have it there will be plenty of good cheer. The Painters and Decorators know how to have a good time.

Wouldn't it be fine business if we could class among the "live ones" the sheet metal workers, the teamsters, the garment workers, the glove makers, the motormen and conductors, the

retail clerks, the stationary engineers and several others? The apathy of the street railway men is hard to understand, especially the employes of the Citizen's Railway Company. The company has actually advertised in The Wagworker that it is more than willing that its conductors and motormen should organize.

The British trades unionists have upwards of sixty representatives in the House of Commons. American trades unionists have two in the American (Continued on page 8.)

### JUDGE LEE ESTELLE COMING.

One of the Leading "Juvenile Judges" of America Will Speak at the Oliver Theatre Sunday Afternoon.

Judge Lee Estelle, judge of the juvenile court of Douglas county, will speak at the Oliver theatre Sunday afternoon, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. Every young man, and every father in Lincoln, should hear this splendid man. No man has devoted more thought and study to the child problem than Judge Estelle. No man's heart beats warmer than his for the boys and girls—the future fathers and mothers of the republic. No other man has had more experience in juvenile court work.

Lawyer, judge, lover of humanity—Judge Estelle is doing a magnificent work, a work for God, for home and for country. His earnestness grips you from the start; his message holds you; his oratory fascinates you and his appeal finds ready response in every honest heart.

The editor of The Wagworker has known Judge Lee Estelle for twenty years, and every year Judge Estelle has grown bigger, better and of more service to humanity. He is dealing with the problem of the "Now," and that is the way to solve the problem of the Future. Lincoln audiences have heard the world's greatest orators, thinkers and students. But Lincoln has never heard a man with a bigger message than Judge Estelle's, nor heard a man better able to deliver his message.

The Oliver theatre should be packed to the doors next Sunday afternoon—and the father of a boy who fails to seize the opportunity is untrue to his obligations to the boy, to the community and to the country.

## CENTRAL UNION

The meeting of the Central Labor Union Tuesday evening was full of lively interest, and the results of two or three of the moves initiated will be beneficial if the delegates do not get "tired" and lay down before the game is ended.

It was decided that organized labor ought to be represented in the framing of the new city charter preparatory to going to the commission system of city government, and in accordance with that decision a committee of five men was named. The committee consists of Messrs. Locker, Betz, Pickard, Schwab and Kelsey. This committee will ask to be permitted to participate in the deliberations of the joint committee named by the city council and the Commercial club.

The central body also decided to get busy and enforce the plumbing ordinances of the city—or have the ordinances repealed. The Plumbers' Union will immediately prepare complaints setting forth specific violations of the plumbing ordinances, and these complaints, together with the witnesses and the specifications, will be filed by the secretary of the Central Labor Union, who will immediately file the complaints and take charge of the prosecution. There is going to be something doing with the people who have flagrantly violated the plumbing ordinances to the detriment of public health. There is no "bluff" about this—the Plumbers and the Central Labor Union means business.

T. C. Kelsey, who represented the central body at the recent Denver convention, made an interesting report of the convention proceedings. Delegate Kelsey enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest union man in point of membership at the convention. He

proudly showed a card bearing date of 1864. He paid a glowing tribute to the intelligence of the men who made up that convention, and his report was full of lively interest.

The central body means to be represented at future meetings of the American Federation of Labor, and a "delegate fund" will be started at once. From now on five per cent of the organization's gross receipts will be set aside for this purpose. The next annual convention will be at Toronto, Canada, and a Lincoln man will be there. Perhaps the 1910 convention will be held in Lincoln. Who knows?

The central body unanimously endorsed the candidacy of Will M. Maupin for deputy commissioner of labor by appointment of Governor Shallenberger. The resolutions of endorsement were strong, and were ordered forwarded to Governor Shallenberger at once.

It looked good to see a delegate from the Horseshoers' Union present at the meeting. Now let the Sheet Metal Workers get busy. And let the Musicians enforce the attendance of their delegates. The regular attendance ought to be not less than double what it is now.

Two dollars was ordered sent to the central body at Akron, Ohio, for the place of Mr. Peterson, who has left the city.

To dollars was ordered sent to the central body at Akron, Ohio, for the defense of the two union men charged with murder. This case bids fair to equal the celebrated Idaho case of the Western Federation of Miners.

President Rudy is absent from the city, and in his absence Vice President Quick presided.

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## HOME INDUSTRIES WORTH FOSTERING

A Series of Articles Relating to Lincoln Business Enterprises That Should Command Lincoln Support

### THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS INSURANCE COMPANY

When one sits down with statistics at hand and figures on the amount of money sent from Nebraska to foreign insurance companies, one is astonished at the total.

Then, after one figures out how much of this money is returned in payment of losses, one gets mad to think what a lot of financial suckers the people of Nebraska have been all these years.

Go back east, to the big insurance centers, and see the huge granite buildings—five, ten, fifteen, twenty-five, thirty stories high—that are owned by insurance companies. Millions and millions of dollars invested in these huge buildings—and Nebraskans who should have had more business sense have furnished a goodly portion of the money. Year by year the golden tide of money has flowed into the coffers of these big eastern insurance companies, and year by year there has been a thin trickle westward—the paltry return these companies have made in payment of losses. But there is, to be sure, a larger trickle westward. It is money sent eastward by Nebraskans in the shape of insurance premiums, and then borrowed back on farm mortgages—the interest on which goes to swell the coffers of the insurance kings, to furnish them with money to speculate on Wall street, to buy big automobiles, hold "monkey parties" at Newport, tour Europe and do the high society act in winter.

Actually, in our blindness, in our fetich worship, we have actually come to believe that we just had to contribute our money to those big eastern companies. So we've scraped and toiled and moiled to keep those eastern insurance companies stocked with good money, and then we've toiled and moiled some more to pay the interest on that same money after we have borrowed it back on mortgages on our farms and our little homes—thinking all the time what a fine lot of unselfish patriots those eastern magnates were for loaning us our own money.

Now on the dead square, Mr. Nebraskan, don't you think it high time that we commence to get wise to this

financial game, and learn to keep our money at home, where it will fill the channels of local trade, build big buildings in our midst and keep Nebraska and Lincoln labor employed?

For every dollar Nebraska sends east in the way of fire insurance premiums less than 20 per cent is returned in the shape of policy payment. Eighty cents, less the local agent's commission, is retained in the east. Any wonder they build thirty-story buildings and play high jinks in the speculative markets?

There are fire insurance companies right here at home that are just as safe—or safer—as the so-called big companies in the east. The premium you pay these home companies is retained at home. The surplus of the companies is loaned to local people, who build homes, employ labor and engage in business enterprise. These local insurance companies employ labor and pay good wages that are in turn spent to the advantage of every citizen. They spend a great deal of money with local printing concerns. In short, every dictate of commonsense, every dictate of civic pride, every dictate of state enterprise, demands that we give our insurance business to the numerous local insurance companies that have demonstrated their soundness.

Now there is the Farmers and Merchants Insurance Company, for instance. Founded in 1885, it has enjoyed nearly a quarter of a century of business success and has made a record that is not excelled—from the policyholders' standpoint—by any fire insurance company in the whole country. In its twenty-three years of business it has paid more than a million and a half in losses. It has total assets approaching half a million. Its whole business career has been marked by conservatism, enterprise, promptness and concern for the welfare of its patrons. It has money invested in buildings that are a credit to Lincoln. Its chief officers live here, patronize local business concerns and are a part of the life and energy that are making Lincoln a great city. The money you pay the Farmers and Merchants Insurance Company is not sent east to improve eastern cities. It is retained at home to further develop Lincoln and Nebraska; retained here

to keep moving in the channels of trade, and thus keep labor employed and business active.

Mention some big Lincoln enterprise of the past ten or twelve years and then inquire concerning some of the men who have had a hand therein. You'll find officials and stockholders of the Farmers and Merchants Insurance Company in every one of them. Read the company's record and you will discover that its policies are as safe as the safest.

Really, now; can you not see where it is to your interest to give your business to a home concern?

The officers of the Farmers and Merchants Insurance Company are George W. Montgomery, president; M. C. L. Funkhouser, vice president; L. P. Funkhouser, secretary; Louis E. Wettling, treasurer. The headquarters are in the handsome five-story brick and stone building at the corner of Fifteenth and O streets—a building that is a credit to Lincoln.

Hartford, Conn., has been made a city of millionaires by reason of its prestige as a center of insurance business. The millionaires have been made by the unwise western policy of continually sending money east for something that the west could and should have furnished for itself. And why shouldn't a Lincoln-made fire insurance policy—issued by a Lincoln company that has a record of twenty-three years of square and successful business—be just as good for you as a Hartford-made policy? If for ten years Nebraska would retain at home the money annually sent outside the state for premiums on fire and life insurance policies, the amount would run into the millions, and Nebraska's business would be the wonder of the country.

Perhaps some time we'll have sense enough to furnish ourselves with what we need and are able to furnish, instead of sweating to raise the money and then send it off for others to use to their profit.

Look up the expiration date of the policy on your little cottage, Mr. Workingman, or upon your big house, Mr. Businessman, and then make a note to have the next policy written by a local company. It will be to the mutual benefit of all of us.