

THE WAGWORKER



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Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

Lincoln Local No. 265, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, should be counted among the "very live ones." It is hustling at a great rate, and in order to make progress faster, it has just elected L. E. Clifford to the position of business agent. Mr. Clifford will devote his time to work in the interests of the organization—with a little time thrown in to help some other unions if necessary. The local has made no mistake in selecting Mr. Clifford. He is "on the job" all the time, and he knows the game from Alpha to Omega.

The District Council of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, consisting of Iowa and Nebraska, will meet in Lincoln early next month, and the local electrical workers are planning to give the delegates the time of their lives. This is No. 6 of the Second Division, and twenty-five local unions in Nebraska and Iowa will be present, together with the executive board. The convention will be presided over by E. E. Betz of the Lincoln union. Mr. Betz was vice-president of the district, but became president when District President Fitzgerald resigned to accept the position of second vice-president of the International. W. L. Mayer will represent the Lincoln local as delegate.

The Lincoln union is paying its allegiance to the "Reed" administration. This is true all over Nebraska and Iowa. The "McNulty-Collins" regime seems to be up against it good and hard, notwithstanding the fact that it won out at the Denver convention. Up to date at least 85 per cent of the local unions are re-submitting to the Reed administration, and President Reed and Secretary Murphy are getting out the official journal in spite of the efforts of McNulty and Collins to prevent it.

The whole trouble is to be deplored, but certainly if a majority—an overwhelming majority of the union electrical workers want to stand by the Reed-Murphy administration it should be taken as evidence that the Reed-Murphy administration is in the right.

On Thursday evening, March 11, Mr. Edwin M. Zabel and Miss Margaret Barngrover were united in marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Zabel will be at home to friends after April 1 at 1229 Wood street, Lincoln. To this young couple The Wagworker extends its heartiest congratulations and its wishes for a long and happy married life. Mrs. Zabel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barngrover, formerly of Lincoln but now of Loveland, Colo. Mr. Barngrover was a member of Lincoln Typographical Union for many years, and Mrs. Barngrover was a charter member of Capital Auxiliary.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209 will hold its next meeting with Mrs. W. E. Moore, 721 South Eleventh street.

Several months ago J. P. Morrison, a linotype operator, and at one time foreman of the Sioux City Journal composing room, departed from Sioux City, leaving his wife and five children penniless. Mrs. Morrison would like to learn of the whereabouts of her husband, that he so heartlessly deserted. Labor papers will confer a favor on the family if they will copy this notice, and thus aid in locating Morrison. Address F. H. Lawrence, secretary Typographical Union No. 170, 1700 West Fifth street, Sioux City, Iowa.

Louis B. Maupin left last Wednesday for North Platte, Nebr., where he will occupy a responsible position in the McDonald State Bank. For four years last past he has been in the employ of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of this city.

The Dairyman Publishing Co. has removed from the Western Newspaper Union building and is now occupying the new building two doors north of the old location. The new quarters are commodious and well lighted and will permit the company to enlarge its business. The Dairyman Publishing Co. is one of the fair printing companies of Lincoln and is entitled to the patronage of union men and women. It publishes the Nebraska

Dairyman, the Country Merchant and does a general job printing business.

The union musicians of Springfield, Mo., are certainly live "ones." The local, No. 150, has just purchased a twenty-five-foot lot in the heart of the business district and will proceed immediately to build a home for itself. That listens mighty good. Here's to unbounded success for this bunch of Missourians.

The union printers of Omaha have assessed themselves 5 cents a month each for the benefit of the locked-out hatters, the assessment to continue until the trouble is ended. "A little fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind." The union printers of Omaha have been through the mill, and they know how to feel.

Lincoln Pressmen are getting into the game at a lively rate. For a month past the local has been prosecuting a vigorous campaign for new members with most gratifying results. A number of new members have been added, and new life has been instilled into some of the old members. When the International meets in Omaha next June Lincoln local expects to be represented, not only by a live delegate, but by a bunch of "live visitors" who will be able to boast that Lincoln is one of the good towns so far as union conditions are concerned.

Martin B. Madden, president of the Associated Building Trades of Chicago, and M. J. Doyle, business agent of Electrical Workers Union No. 134, have been indicted on the charge of extortion. Bond was fixed in the sum of \$5,000 each. They are charged with extorting \$1,000 from the Nelson Piano Co., for the alleged calling off of a strike, and with extorting \$700 from Joseph Klioka under similar circumstances. Martin B. Madden, better known as "Skinny" Madden, is one of the editors of the Building Trades Journal, and Doyle is business agent of the Electrical Workers, No. 134, an adherent of the McNulty-Collins faction. In a recent issue of the Building Trades Journal appeared a long tirade against General President Reid, which wound up as follows: "Watch this ilk should be labor's slogan!" The Electrical Worker, quoting the above "slogan" got back with this hot one:

"Thanks 'Skinny' Madden and Mike Boyle of No. 134. While labor is watching us grow, the grand jury have evidently suspected your practices of extortion and put you under \$10,000 bond to prove your innocence. We ask honest men for recommendations." And we rather guess that will hold 'em for a while.

John W. Bramwood was secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union for more than twelve years. Last month he resigned on the ground of ill-health and was succeeded by John Hays, second vice-president. Secretary-Treasurer Hays came out in the March Journal with a formal announcement, and the Journal contained the correspondence between Bramwood and President Lynch relative to the resignation. But we failed, after diligent search, to find in the March Journal one word commendatory of the retiring official.

The lemons that a man hands out are not a bit sweeter when they are returned.

Henry S. Hudspeth, formerly president of New Orleans Typographical Union, and candidate for president of the International against James M. Lynch a year ago, was arrested last week on the charge of fraudulently obtaining money from the union. Rumors of crookedness on the part of Hudspeth have been floating around for the past six or eight months. When Hudspeth was a candidate for president of the International The Wagworker supported him. For this The Wagworker begs forgiveness. It does not ask pardon for having opposed James M. Lynch, but it cheerfully acknowledges that next time it supports a man for that position he'll have to furnish a certificate of character.

San Francisco's pressmen have had

the eight-hour day for several years, but the union in that city paid \$16,000 in assessments to help their eastern brothers secure that twentieth century workday.

"The Street Car Men's Union held two open meetings this week, which resulted in the enlistment of several new members."

Wait a minute! Don't get excited. This does not refer to the street car men of Lincoln. Not much. It refers to the street car men of Omaha. There is no union of street car men in Lincoln. That's why they are the poorest paid men in the street railway service in any city the size of Lincoln in the United States, so far as this paper is able to learn. And that's why about 40 per cent of them are working for less wages now than they were receiving a month ago.

The Jewelry Worker, published at Chicago, advertises that it is the "official organ of the International Jewelry Workers of America." For several months last past we have eagerly scanned each issue of the Jewelry Workers of America. For find the label of the allied printing trades, but our search has been in vain. It isn't there. Yet the Jewelry Workers' Union is doubtless pleading for recognition of its label. Somebody ought to call at the editorial rooms of the Jewelry Worker and wake the editor and publisher up.

The unions of Sioux City united last week in a series of "labor revival meetings," and speakers of national reputation were brought on to boost for unionism. The "revival" was a huge success, despite the fact that a lot of men who are always boasting of their unionism did not exhibit any interest in the meetings.

The inaugural parade in Washington on March 4 was a big one, and the line was said to be four or five miles long. But from the "platoon of mounted police" at the head of the column to the "rag-tag and bob-tail" not a single trades union was to be seen in the line. Perhaps the unions were not invited. What?

The bricklayers and carpenters of Bloomington, Ills., have organized a joint council and will co-operate on all construction work.

J. C. Skemp, general secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, has issued his semi-annual report covering the period from July 1 to December 31, 1908, which has just been received by the local members. The total disbursements for the six months are shown to amount \$108,197.06 of which \$30,990 was from the death and disability fund. For organization purposes \$15,655.92 was put out, and \$23,381.22 was expended from the defense fund. The receipts were several thousand in excess of the expenditures, and the balance on hand is now close to \$150,000. Charters were issued to thirty-two unions organized during the second half of 1908.

By the way, Mr. Union Booster, did you help things along by patronizing any of The Wagworker's advertisers last week?

The attention of The Wagworker's readers is called to the advertisement of the Armstrong Clothing Co. in this issue. It talks right out in meeting, and it speaks some plain truths that union men ought to heed. It sounds like "square man" talk, too. The advertisement will interest you in more ways than one.

THE BRICKLAYERS.
Demand That Proposed Charter Be Submitted to the Voters.

The Bricklayers' Union met on Friday of last week, and after attending to the routine business of the local took up the matter of the proposed Lincoln charter. A resolution was adopted demanding that the charter be submitted to the people for approval or disapproval. There was no argument against it. The Bricklayers' Union, like nearly every other trades union, is working under the initiative and referendum.

While there has been more or less work all winter, the bricklayers are not sorry to see the spring season approaching. They can see signs of a busy season, with steady work.

LOOKS LIKE A DEAD ONE.

Charter Submission Probably Dead. But the Charter is in Danger.

Thursday afternoon the Lincoln charter was up in the house. The debate was fierce, the Lancaster county delegation standing solidly for adoption without referring it to the people. The committee recommended submission, but the amendment was lost by a vote of 40 to 39.

To be effective the charter must bear an emergency clause, and a bill with the emergency clause must have sixty-seven votes to pass. As The Wagworker goes to press the indications are that the bill cannot muster the constitutional two-thirds to pass it with the emergency clause.

The Wagworker has demanded submission. It was promised last fall when the people were asked to take a test vote on the commission plan. Then submission was refused.

If the charter fails it will be the fault of those who attempted to trick the people.

THE CARPENTERS.

Another Open Meeting Next Monday, With Senator King on Deck.

Carpenters' Local No. 1055 is getting into the game with both feet. Next Monday evening it will have another open meeting, to which all union and non-union carpenters are invited. The speaker of the evening will be Senator King of Polk county.

The Wagworker takes pleasure in recommending Senator King to the carpenters. He will make them an address that will be full of interest and full of valuable information. He is interested in the welfare of the man who toils for wages, and he is opposed to the present-day trend of legislation. His position was well illustrated by the address he made recently before the Commercial Club, a synopsis of which was published in The Wagworker last week. The meeting should be well attended next Monday night, and the union carpenters of the city should do everything in their power to secure the attendance of as many non-union carpenters as possible.

Surface indications point to a good season. Residence building will continue to boom, and there are plans on the table for numerous large blocks in the wholesale districts.

A letter from Shelby informs the labor bureau that three or four carpenters are wanted up there.

Local No. 1055 has not grown discouraged over the progress of the "educational secretary" idea. The membership is going to keep hammering away on it until it is an assured fact.

AUXILIARY SOCIAL.

Printers' Wives Will Entertain Friends On Evening of March 26.

On March 25 at Bohannon's hall, Capital Auxiliary will give a social dance to which all friends are invited. Quick's orchestra will furnish the music and a pleasant time is guaranteed to all who attend. The Auxiliary is desirous of raising money to assist in the erection of a suitable monument to the union dead at the Union Printers' home at Colorado Springs. The object is a worthy one and the Auxiliary should receive the hearty support of all who are interested in worthy enterprises.

A CRACK IN LIBERTY.

That crack in Liberty Bell is exciting the country. The cracks in the constitution don't amount to 30 cents. The crack in the freedom of the press is not worth considering.—New York Press.

PLAINLY STATED.

It should not be forgotten that Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison are to be sent to jail, not for violation of any law, but for ignoring the order of a judge. These three men have never been convicted of violating any law.—Blacksmiths' Journal.

A Little Ray of Sunshine Pierces the Gloomy Clouds

It is always best never to holler until you get out of the woods.

But the victory—for victory it surely is—from Washington, D. C., in the contempt proceedings against President Gompers, Vice-President Mitchell, and Secretary Morrison would justify any one in hollering through a megaphone, that unionists from end to end of this broad land may hear the gladdening news.

Newspaper readers will remember that the injunction in the Bucks Stove and Range Company case was originally issued by Justice Gould. It was for an alleged violation of this injunction that Judge D. Thiel Wright sentenced Messrs. Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison to varying terms in jail. Last week the appellate court, in three practically separate opinions, decided:

That the Federationist, the A. F. of L. official magazine, may tell its readers not to patronize the Bucks Stove and Range Company.

That Justice Gould's decision was in error in enjoining labor organizations from publishing or otherwise circulating, whether in writing or orally, any statement or notice of any kind or character whatsoever, calling attention to the complainant's customers or of dealers or tradesmen or the public to any boycott against the complainant.

Justice Orsdell, one of the concurring judges, said: "The sustaining of such a decree (referring to Justice Gould's decree) by a court of equity would violate the constitutional rights of the citizen."

Chief Justice Shepard, of this deciding court, said: "The only remedy for libelous or otherwise malicious, wrongful and injurious publications is by civil action for damages and criminal prosecution. There is no power to restrain the publication."

As to these words of Chief Justice Shepard, President Gompers said:

"The opinion of Chief Justice Shepard is exactly that for which the Federation has been all along contending, so far as it refers to the freedom of the press. The right to freely express opinions is a constitutional guaranty. There is nothing libelous in anything the Federationist has published in connection with this whole case."

Of course, this adjudication does not touch Judge Wright's decision; but it is the judgment of eminent lawyers throughout the country that Judge Wright's course has been substantially and virtually reversed.

This means that the shadow of the prison no longer falls on the noble, courageous and brilliant chiefs of the American Federation of Labor.

Glory, and then some!!—Cincinnati Chronicle.

JUDGE WRIGHT DISTANCED.

New Jersey Court Hands Down Decision That Breaks All Records.

The supreme court of New Jersey has decided that the Machinists' District Council shall pay \$3,847 to the Speedometer company for putting that company to the expense of hiring detectives and strikebreakers during a strike of the machinists against this unfair firm. Well, if this is not the most ridiculous use of the "law" we have ever heard of! The court reasoned that the strikers had put the company to this expense of hiring guards and strikebreakers and consequently should reimburse the company—paying the company money to break their own strike for better conditions. It surely seems that the courts of the country have been taken possession of by the employers' associations and that by awards of money damages against them and sending their leaders to jail they hope to give labor organizations their death blow.

The government and courts represent the propertied class, and it is but logical that they should render such decisions against labor unions. It is the lack of recognition of this fact that keeps the workingmen divided and impotent on the political field. However, these unjust and destructive decisions will serve to educate labor as it has not been possible to educate by other methods and there will come an awakening which will solidify the workers at the ballot box and give them possession of the government and courts. Machinists

and other workers, read and ponder on this decision and what it means to you.—Spokane World.

GUESS AGAIN, BROTHER!

Iowa Contemporary Misses the Mark in Referring to Lincoln.

Lincoln printers last week signed an agreement for an increase in wages. With this agreement they have again united friendship of employer and employe, something that has been lacking in Lincoln for so these many years.—Council Bluffs (Ia.) Times.

Our esteemed and youthful contemporary has another guess coming. Somebody has given it a "bum steer." It has been a decade and more since anything but the friendliest feeling existed between the employing printers and the journeymen printers in Lincoln. The mere fact that employers and employes can not immediately agree upon a scale is no sign of a lack of friendship. But what about the conditions in Lincoln "for so these many years?"

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 was one of the first of the western unions to secure the eight-hour day. The eight-hour law went into effect on January 1, 1906, and on February 17, 1906, the Lincoln union was working under it. It would have worked under it sooner had it not been for the fact that its nine-hour contract, made three years before, did not expire until February 17, 1906.

The agreement that went into effect on February 17, 1906, was not reached in one session. It took weeks, but at every session only the utmost friendship between employer and employe was manifested. For upward of ten years the union printers of Lincoln and the employers of union printers have been enjoying harmonious relations. Ninety-five per cent of the printers working in Lincoln are union men—yes, more than that. The union is using every effort to promote the welfare of the fair employers, and the fair employers are ready any time to acknowledge the fact. We are at a loss to understand how our Council Bluffs contemporary managed to get its facts on so crooked. Come down to Lincoln and see a good town where printing conditions are away above the average. The Wagworker rather opines it knows something about the conditions in Lincoln—and elsewhere.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Second March Meeting Will Be Held Next Tuesday Evening

The Central Labor Union will meet at Bruce's hall next Tuesday evening, that being the regular date of meeting. The newly elected officers will take their stations, and it is hoped that President-elect Hanna will be on hand to take the obligation and assume his duties. He was prevented by illness from being present at the last meeting.

The appointment of standing committees is on the slate, together with the appointment of several special committees to look after important matters. Several committees are also expected to make report.

There are several unions whose delegates have been very derelict in their duties. They have failed to attend even occasionally. As a result the central body is handicapped in its work. Every union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor is required to affiliate with the local central body, and provision is made for revocation of charter, for fines and for suspension if the representation is not regular. These penalties, however, should not be necessary. Unions and union men should take enough interest in local conditions to give the central body hearty support.

During the last year the central body was instrumental in organizing two new unions, and has under way plans for organizing two or three more. But it can not push the work of organization as it should be pushed unless every union is regularly represented by a full quota of delegates.

With a view to wiping out the possibility of further "night riding" trouble, a legislative committee is now in session taking testimony relative to the purchase of Reelfoot lake by the state of Tennessee.