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Electrical Workers Hold Big District Council

The district council convention of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, held in Lincoln during the first five days of last week, was the most successful in the history of the council. The district is composed of Iowa and Nebraska, and so successfully has the management looked after affairs it is now proposed to add three more states to the district—Wisconsin, Michigan and South Dakota.

The work of the district council began Monday afternoon, and from thence on until Friday evening business sessions were held. There were fourteen accredited delegates from as many locals in the two states, and several visitors. Among the latter was Vice-President Fitzgerald of the International Brotherhood.

But business was not the only thing considered. The social side was not overlooked, and the local members of the Brotherhood spared no pains to make the stay of the delegates pleasant. Trolley rides to suburban points of interest and a couple of theatre parties helped to entertain the guests. On Thursday evening and open meeting was held, and it proved to be one of the happiest meetings in the history of local unionism. Governor Shallenberger accepted an invitation to address the meeting and spoke for about twenty minutes, dwelling particularly upon the great opportunities for advancement that lay ahead of those engaged in the broad field of electricity. The governor was listened to with deep interest and was warmly applauded. Vice-President Fitzgerald and President Perrin of the council also spoke.

One interesting and pleasing feature of the evening was the reception accorded Mark T. Castor when he took the floor to address the meeting. He received a welcome that must have made his heart swell with pride. Mark Castor organized the local union, and he worked day and night until he got it to going. He has watched it from the day it was born, attended it while it was learning to walk, and has had the satisfaction of seeing it grow into one of the strongest locals in the entire west. He is no longer an active member, being superintendent of the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Co., and therefore deprived of the privilege of active membership, but he is as much a union man as ever. That is why he attended as many sessions as possible. And when he took the floor in response to vociferous calls he received an ovation that would please any man—and an ovation that was thoroughly deserved.

After the conclusion of the "talk-fest" a lunch was served, consisting of coffee, sandwiches, cake and cigars, and this feature of the evening was not overlooked by anybody. Just before the lunch was served a flashlight picture was taken of the crowd, with Governor Shallenberger occupying the post of honor and the officers of the local and the district council surrounding him.

The reports of the delegates were cheering. Work is unusually good all about, especially in Iowa and eastern Nebraska. It may not be generally known, but Iowa has more miles of wire and more telephones per capita than any other state in the union.

The strike on the Des Moines & Boone Interurban is still on, but from now it will receive full attention.

The Lincoln Telephone Co. has put on not less than twenty-five men since the middle of March. They are being used in the construction of toll lines.

The trouble at Sioux City has been amicably adjusted and everything is moving smoothly in that bailiwick.

Vice-President Fitzgerald reports that the entire district is practically solid for the Reed regime, and that the McNulty faction is all but a memory. It is believed that a couple of more months will see a complete recognition of the Reed administration.

Work is unusually good in Omaha, the independent company of that city having been thoroughly reorganized and supplied with ample funds to push its big exchange projects to completion. That means the employment of a large number of men—and the agreement is that they shall be members of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The delegates left Lincoln full of praise for the welcome extended to

them, loudly declaring that the "Lincoln bunch" was about the best ever.

The following district council officers were elected for the following year:

President, R. E. Perrin.
Vice-President, C. E. Dohl.
Secretary-Treasurer, E. E. Betz.
Executive Board, George Pulver, C. J. Glaser, C. E. Dohn, W. L. Mayer, J. N. Krah, Dubuque, Ia.
The following delegates registered during the progress of the council convention:

S. E. Perrin, Sioux City, Ia.
C. J. Glaser, Burlington, Ia.
C. E. Dohn, Omaha, Neb.
R. O. Dusk, Waterloo, Ia.
J. N. Krah, Dubuque, Ia.
J. C. Mead, Davenport, Ia.
Robert Stanley, Des Moines, Ia.
George Pulver, Boone, Ia.
S. J. Conrad, Cedar Rapids, Ia.
W. C. Gould, Omaha, Neb.
F. P. O'Brien, Sioux City, Ia.
W. L. Mayer, Lincoln, Neb.
James Fitzgerald, grand vice-president of the Brotherhood, of Des Moines, was also registered.

A committee composed of Messrs. Mead, Stanley and Dusk presented resolutions thanking the Lincoln membership for the splendid entertainment afforded.

The following ringing protest rela-

suppose that in order to arrive at a good understanding of the nature and cause of the original controversy Samuel Gompers would have cited and weighed the evidence given by both sides instead, he quotes approvingly, the testimony given in behalf of McNulty and Collins and practically nothing from the reply made by General President Reid and General Secretary Murphy.

"Be it further resolved, That we request President Gompers and the executive council to take immediate steps to relieve us from the burden of the unjust decision and to place the rank and file of the I. B. E. W. in good fellowship with the A. F. of L. and that we demand that the A. F. of L. and all affiliated organizations recognize the constitution of the I. B. E. W. as adopted at the St. Louis convention September 15, 1908, and adopted by referendum vote of our entire membership. And be it further resolved

"That copies of these resolutions be sent to Samuel Gompers, J. J. Reid, the Electrical Worker, and all the district councils throughout the United States and Canada."

The following from the Cleveland (Ohio) Citizen will be interesting reading to the Electrical Workers of District No. 6:

"Now the Pacific Coast district, comprising all the Pacific states and British Columbia, have swung into line for the new administration, and against McNulty and Collins. In a

the same time elected a committee of which George Quick is chairman to act with others on the advisory committee. The central body's representatives will insist upon a building that will in itself be educational because of its architectural beauty.

Delegates Locker, Chase and Kelsey were appointed fraternal delegates to the Ministerial Union and instructed to attend the meetings of the clerical organization as often as possible. Rev. Mr. Batten was present as the fraternal delegate of the Ministerial Union and made a short talk.

A small contribution was made to the striking batters and the matter of an educational secretary and a labor exchange were discussed at considerable length.

FEELING BETTER ALREADY.

Omaha's Hysterics Gradually Subiding as the Days Go By.

The liquor question is one of conscience and not a trade union principle. Therefore, the Central Labor Union has no more right to commit the labor movement against temperance reform than the temperance reformers would have to commit it to prohibition, if the followers of that belief should happen to have a majority of the delegates present at a meeting. Every union man is free to knock or hurray for the daylight saloon law, and that is just exactly what they are doing. Omaha generally comes out of her difficulties all

Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

The earnest members of Capital Auxiliary No. 11 have decided to take hold of the "Labor Temple Day" pledge business, which means that very few union men will miss an opportunity to subscribe one day's wages to the stock of the Lincoln Labor Temple Building association. Just as soon as the proper pledges can be secured from the printer the members of Capital Auxiliary will begin hustling for signatures. They will not confine themselves to union men, either, but will give every man they can meet an opportunity to assist in erecting a handsome Labor Temple in Lincoln. The Auxiliary met last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. George Locker at Normal, and when the proposition was submitted they accepted it eagerly.

Division No. 98, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, has earned a reputation for making "reunions" of the craft in Lincoln events to be remembered. But the reunion to be held the latter part of June promises to eclipse all former records, both in the welcome extended and the number of visitors. The committee in charge is working night and day to get every possible arrangement completed. Engineers are coming from all parts of the country to participate in the social and educational features, and many of them will bring their pilots along with them—which means that the women will be numerous.

Labor Commissioner Maupin will issue a formal call next week for a meeting to effect a permanent organization of a Nebraska Federation of Labor. He now has a complete list of secretaries of local unions and brotherhoods in Nebraska with the exception of the Order of Railway Conductors. The conductors refuse to have anything to do with the project, being convinced that they are strong enough to go it alone, and fearing that they might incur "entangling alliances."

If the managers of the Lincoln Traction Co. are wise they will immediately see to it that their conductors pay a little more attention to the safety and comfort of the passengers. There has been a marked decline in politeness since the merger. The people of Lincoln were taught by the Citizens' Railway Co. what polite attention and careful service really meant, and they will not stand for the old order of things again.

The city park was never in better shape than now. It will be a beautiful resort during the summer. But there should be some other attractions than green grass and shade. There should be band concerts at least three times a week, including Sunday afternoon. The park commission has no funds at its command wherewith to pay for music, but it might be possible for the city council to appropriate something, and whatever it did give could be supplemented by individual donations. Why wouldn't it be a good move for local unions to donate about 10 cents per capita, and then ask business and professional men to "come across?" Certainly the Traction Co. would subscribe liberally, as band concerts would mean greatly increased collections of fares. The Wagerworker will subscribe \$5 towards a fund to maintain band concerts at the city park during the months of June, July and August. Who will be the next to subscribe?

Do not forget "Labor Temple Day." You will soon be approached and asked to subscribe to the stock of the Lincoln Labor Temple association to the amount of the wages earned by you on May 12—or any other day you may designate in case you "lay off" on that date. Remember, this is not to be a donation—it will be a subscription for which you will receive non-assessable stock in an association that is certain to pay dividends in good time. If the sum of \$3,000 can be realized on "Labor Temple Day," the board of directors of the association sees its way clear to immediately begin negotiations for a building site, and a site once secured means the speedy erection of a splendid Temple building. Come on, now, and don't rear back against the breeching. Put aside your little hammer until the time comes to drive nails in the

Temple. Boost a little bit and see how nice it is to be a booster.

The retail clerks of Columbus were successful in their efforts to secure 6 o'clock closing every evening in the week except Saturday. They will now perfect their organization and ask for a charter from the Retail Clerks' International Union.

From now on the Sanderson shoe store will be a constituent part of the Miller & Paine store. As a result more clerks get the short week. This store will in future close Saturday evenings just the same as any other evening in the week.

The old brick building on the northwest corner of Twelfth and O streets has been demolished. In its place will be erected a modern four-story brick and stone office building. The Castle, Roper & Matthews building on N street, just east of the Fraternity building, is being pushed rapidly. It will have a white brick front, and will be one of the prettiest buildings in Lincoln. Building operations are in full swing, and as a result the building trades are rejoicing.

TWO VICTORIES FOR "PRINTS."

Large Offices in Los Angeles, Cal., and Quincy, Ill., Unionized.

The International Typographical Union made two notable victories during March.

During the month the Los Angeles Printing company, which had been non-union for twenty years, was signed up. The victory was complete, not one of the old employees being taken into the union.

After running on a non-union basis for three years, the McMein Printing company, one of the largest book and job plants in Quincy, Ill., has agreed to pay the wage scale of Typographical Union No. 59 and will hereafter operate under union conditions. This company publishes the Reliable Poultry Journal, and in consequence that publication is now on the fair list.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

THE PLUMBERS.

Brief Bits About the Boys Who Hit the Pipe Regularly.

Organizer Fay did not remain in this vicinity long enough to accomplish much of benefit to the local union. Just as he got things to going nicely he was called elsewhere, and as a result the local union has not been much the gainer. But the boys are still plugging along and are more than holding their own. Work is better than usual and the outlook is considered brighter than for a long time past.

Bert Chapman has resigned his position as inspector in the water department and gone to Kansas to accept a better one at his trade.

Ed English is working somewhere in Kansas, the exact whereabouts not being known to the writer. He might drop a few lines to The Wagerworker and tell his pals how he is getting along.

H. J. Pickard felt pretty badly bungled up the first of the week but managed to keep out of a sick bed.

MEMBERSHIP IN LABOR UNIONS.

Here is an estimate of the present membership of labor unions throughout the world:

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| North America | 3,000,000 |
| Great Britain | 2,500,000 |
| Germany | 2,500,000 |
| France | 1,500,000 |
| Austria | 700,000 |
| Russia | 250,000 |
| Spain | 250,000 |
| Italy | 150,000 |
| Belgium | 150,000 |
| Holland | 75,000 |
| Australia | 200,000 |
| Scandinavia | 200,000 |

Total of organized labor, 11,475,000

HOW ABOUT IT, LEE?

L. L. Ingraham, formerly president of Lincoln (Neb.) Typographical Union No. 209, has purchased a ranch at King Hill, Idaho, where he will make his future home. We hope success will be his, as the soil around him is a good investment, and it will probably not be long until he will be a bloated landowner.—April Typographical Journal.



District Council No. 6, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Governor Shallenberger in Center of Group

tive to the action of the American Federation of Labor was adopted without a dissenting vote:

"Resolved, That while we deplore the condition that exists in our international organization, we recognize that each and every organization must be governed by majority rule of its own members. Therefore, be it resolved

"That we approve of the action of the special convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers held at St. Louis, Mo., September 15, 1908, that we recognize the legality of said convention, that we recognize and are governed by the laws enacted at said convention, and further, that we recognize the general officers elected at this convention and accepted by referendum vote of the members of our international organization, as legal and bona fide officers of the I. B. E. W., and pledge them our undivided support; and be it further resolved

"That we condemn the action of President Gompers and the executive council of the A. F. of L. in rendering their unjust decision against the majority of and in favor of the majority of the I. B. E. W. be it further resolved

"That we ask President Gompers and his executive council to accord to us the same impartial fairness that he asked for in his editorial on Justice Wright's decision which reads:

"Any reasonable person would suppose that in order to arrive at a good understanding of the nature and cause of the original controversy, Justice Wright would have cited and weighed the evidence given by both sides instead, he quotes approvingly the testimony given in behalf of the Buck Stove and Range Co., and practically nothing from the defendants." Applying his own statement to our case by changing the name of the parties concerned, we have it to read:

"Any reasonable person would

district convention just held resolutions were adopted demanding that Samuel Gompers, president A. F. of L., insist that a referendum vote be taken to settle the controversy in the I. B. E. W. No. 114, of Toronto, and No. 153, Marion, Ind., are locals that have just cut loose from McNulty and Collins and sent their reports to Secretary Murphy. McNulty is making a desperate effort to stem the tide and make federation officers believe that his repudiated administration is still in favor. Under date of March 8, McNulty sent out another "confidential" letter to some of his adherents requesting them to get locals and individuals to send letters to the A. F. of L. executive council commending that body for endorsing McNulty and Collins. There has been such a general protest against the executive council's action in this respect all over the country that McNulty is trying to neutralize the effect. He is great on the "confidential" business."

IN HOOSIERDOM.

Indiana has the headquarters for ten international organizations: Barbers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Locomotive Firemen, Miners, Painters and Decorators, Reed and Rattan Workers, Sawsmiths, Teamsters and Typographical Unions. Of these organizations, three—the Reed and Rattan Workers, Locomotive Firemen and Bricklayers' Unions—are not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Demand a High School That Will Be Worthy of the City.

The Central Labor Union has gone on record as opposed to the proposed site of the new high school, claiming that it is so low as to be unsanitary, subject to floods, without adequate street railway facilities and not located in a slightly place. The body at

right and the excitement of the past week will be no exception. Cheer up! It is still the best town in the world—bar none.—Omaha Western Laborer.

BARRED OUT.

Omaha Electrical Workers Not Allowed in Central Labor Union.

The two Omaha locals of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Omaha have been denied representation in the Central Labor Union of that city because they belong to the Reed faction of the Brotherhood. This is called the "seceding body," the McNulty faction having been recognized by the American Federation of Labor convention at Denver.

There is some talk of organizing a "McNulty local" in Omaha in order to secure representation in the central body. The barred out Electrical Workers do not seem to be worrying about it. The Reed faction is the whole thing in this western country.

CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE.

State Organization Will Meet at Lincoln Saturday Afternoon.

Secretary John J. Ryder has sent out notices for a meeting of the Nebraska child labor committee to be held at Lincoln, Saturday, April 17, at 2 p. m. The special matter to be considered is a constitution and a better general organization for the work in the state and to aid the work of the national committee. The meeting on Saturday will be held in room 204, Administration building, state university.

ANOTHER "DAYLIGHT" STORE.

Sanderson's shoe store has been taken over by the Miller & Paine Co., and like the big store will hereafter close on Saturday evening at six o'clock. This fact should not be overlooked by workers who insist upon the short hour day for themselves.