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Among the Live Ones Here and Hereabouts

Has your local selected its member of the general Labor Day committee yet? If not, better get busy. Labor Day is only about six weeks off, and if it is to be celebrated in Lincoln as usual, now is the time to get busy. Several locals have selected their committeemen. The celebration last Labor Day is an evidence of what can be done by intelligent and tireless effort. It was the greatest celebration in the history of Lincoln unionism.

Of course Mayor Love had a right to appoint whomever he pleased to the position of city weighmaster, but in appointing a successor to T. C. Kelsey the mayor had no warrant for insulting the faithful official who has had charge of the city scales for the last four or five years. "I want a man who will not be run by the hay sellers on market square," Mayor Love is reported as saying. That is an insinuation that is not borne out by the facts. Mr. Kelsey took charge of the city scales when that branch of the city's business was conducted about as loosely as a business could be conducted. He made it a source of profit to the city and a credit to his business-like judgment. He was faithful and until the mayor's insinuation appeared in his notice of appointment of another, there never was the faintest intimation that Mr. Kelsey was not doing his whole duty. The displacing of Kelsey is not a matter of surprise—unless it is surprising that it did not occur sooner. But there are several thousand people in Lincoln who know Kelsey was not displaced because of inefficiency. A better man for the place never held it.

Sam Chaplin thinks "chicken" awake and dreams "chicken" asleep. That's why he made a mistake the other day and drove a nail through his hand instead of through a board. This is an explanation of why Chaplin is carrying his left hand around in a bandage and his chair left vacant in the barber shop.

The management of the Lincoln Traction Co. took special pains to declare that the increased wage scale was in no wise due to the fact that the men had organized. Of course it wasn't. The increase is due wholly to the generosity of the management. But isn't it funny that it took the management five or six years after the advent of "prosperity" to get their generosity in working order, and that when it did begin to work it was within a week after 85 per cent of the motormen and conductors had organized a union and received a charter from their international? Let there be those who fall to remember that the organization had nothing to do with the increase, we suggest that the management have their statement repeated daily in the papers. There is little enough of humor in the daily papers these days, anyhow.

The Central Labor Union will meet next Tuesday evening, and by that time it is expected that the Labor Day committee will be ready to organize. This meeting ought to be a rouser. There have been "doings" in the organized labor field since last the central body met, and when it meets again there ought to be representatives from a couple of new unions on the spot.

Bert Chipman came up from Kansas City a few days ago and will visit with relatives in Lincoln for a time. He has been in Kansas City for several months. It looks good to see Bert around among 'em again. He is always a booster for unionism. His old enemy, rheumatism, still gives him a twinge now and then.

Capital Beach is a mighty pretty place these days, and you'll enjoy an afternoon and evening there with your family. You'll hear a lot of good union made music. And you will be entertained by a number of other attractions furnished by the management. This amusement resort is worthy of liberal patronage, and there is no better place to send your wives and little ones for a day's outing.

The Boot and Shoe Workers will hold their 1911 convention in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The union bricklayers of Council Bluffs draw the line at working with

convict bricklayers, either with or without stripes. A lot of union men responded to a call for bricklayers at the bathing beach at Manawa, and were astonished to find several men on the ground clothed in prison stripes and minus the union card. The union men withdrew at once.

Here is another sample of what unionism stands for: Last week Walter E. Allen, a member of the Electrical workers' Union at Sioux City, died, leaving a widow and a couple of small children. The union buried him. More than that, it held a special meeting the day after the funeral and raised \$100 for the widow and orphans. And there will be more money forthcoming when the widow and orphans need it. It is such organizations as this that the Kirbys, the VanCleave's, and the Parry's would put out of business.

If ever the cigarmakers needed the support of their fellow unionists they need it now. The prohibition wave has worked havoc with their business. Why? Because millions of cigars made by union men and women were sold in saloons, and now that the saloons have been put out of business that source of demand has been closed. You can help them wonderfully by asking your grocer to carry Lincoln made cigars. Begin a systematic demand for Lincoln made cigars right now, and if it is made as strong as it should be, in another six months will see the present force of Lincoln cigarmakers more than doubled.

If there is any one class more than another in Lincoln that needs the benefits of organization it is the laundry workers. The girls in these establishments work long hours at work ill-suited to them. Their pay is not at all commensurate with their labors. Watch the laundries closely this summer. You'll see girls taken from the terrible atmosphere therein, hot and moist, and carried fainting to hacks to

be driven home. The writer has seen it happen more than once. The Lincoln laundry that first unionized, shortens its hours and raises its wage scale, is going to make more money than any laundry ever made in Lincoln. It will have 2,500 earnest boosters behind it.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION. Installs Officers and Obligates a Couple of New Members.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 installed its newly elected officers last Sunday. Then President Bingham assumed the gavel and brought the local through a mass of business in record time. Two new members were obligated. Delegate Coffey reported from the State Federation of Labor and the union immediately and unanimously voted to affiliate. It also drew a warrant for its initiation fee and the first quarter's dues.

The newly printed copies of the constitution and bylaws were passed around. Then the union proceeded to do a little financial stunt, the vote being unanimous.

The August meeting will be held just prior to the St. Joseph convention, and at that time whatever instructions the delegates need will be given.

TEAMSTERS.

The newly organized Team Drivers' Union held a short meeting Saturday evening and transacted a lot of business. The interest in this organization is growing, and another month will doubtless see the membership well around the hundred mark.

THE MUSICIANS.

First July Meeting was Put Through in Jig Time.

The Musicians met last Sunday at noon, and rushed through their business in jig time. It took just twenty minutes to transact all the business—and it amounted to a whole lot. But the executive committee had paved the way by getting everything ready. Then again, it was frightfully hot, and many of the members were due for engagements at 2 o'clock with dinner still to eat.

Secretary Kendrick read the quar-

terly report, which showed 133 members in good standing. This makes the Musicians' Union the largest in Lincoln. It also enjoys great financial prosperity.

STREET RAILWAY MEN. Midnight Meeting Was a Hummer and New Members Taken In.

The Motormen and Conductors held a special meeting at Bruse's hall at midnight last Saturday night, and in the language of one of the men it was a "hum dinger," whatever that is.

A dozen new members were added to the roll, and the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the rank and file was good to see. The members are taking hold in earnest, and they are proceeding cautiously. Conservatism is in control, and will continue right along.

The meeting lasted until 2 a. m., and it was full of ginger to the end. Some of the speeches made were worthy of men who have been in the movement for years.

An effort is on foot to secure the presence of President Mahon in the near future, and if he comes there will be a meeting that will shake the building to its foundations.

PAYS FOR HIS NERVE. Violator of Contract Labor Law Convicted and Fined.

Norman Thackarey, foreman of the Arnold Print Works in North Adams, Mass., was convicted of violating the alien contract labor law, in the United States district court last Tuesday, and fined \$200. It was contended he induced Clifford Galard and Bernard Tugwell, two English mill hands, to come to this country and work in the plant of which he was foreman.

SAMUEL GOMPERS IN LONDON.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, landed from the steamer Baltic at Holyhead, and arrived in London at 1 o'clock on June 27. He was met by Davis J. Shackleton and James A. Sedon, members of the House of Commons, and other labor leaders.

How They Conspire Against Union Labor

The truth is that the trouble between the Pittsburg Railway company and its employes was part of the general plan now being carried out to break up the labor unions. There have been a number of conferences held by big employers of labor, most of whom are members of the National Manufacturers' association, to devise ways and means of crushing all organizations of workmen by concerted action all over the country. It is said here that the steel trust first suggested that such an effort be made and that the Lake Carriers' association acted with the steel trust in interesting all other organized employers of labor in the scheme.

The crusade against organized labor was decided on, according to the story told here, over nine months ago when Van Cleave was president of the National Manufacturers' association, and it was agreed that the program would be followed out just as soon as the campaign was over.

The action of the Lake Carriers' association in declaring for the open shop and establishing a blacklisting system was part of the plan.

It is stated here that the steel trust declared for the open shop in its sheet and tin plate mills in pursuance of the program agreed upon over nine months ago, and that in similarly declaring for the open shop the Republic Iron and Steel company is now carrying out its compact to join in the movement to destroy the labor unions.

Proof of the conspiracy has been obtained, according to reliable authority, and this evidence, so it is said, shows that the hat manufacturers had joined in the agreement.

The claim also is made that the Pittsburg Railway company deliberately planned to have its employes go on strike and that the scheme was to inaugurate in this city a general crusade against organizations of

street railway men all over the country.

So far as the attack on street railway unions is concerned, the crusade ended in failure because of the attitude assumed by Mayor Magee. The mayor found that, under an old law, he had the power to seize the properties of the railway company and operate them on behalf of the municipality. He accordingly served notice on the officers of the railway company that if the strike was not settled he would take advantage of that law, seize the company's property and operate the road.

This threat brought the company to time immediately. All its carefully laid plans to continue the strike until the unions were destroyed were abandoned.

It has been learned that weeks ago the railway company here had arranged with other street railway companies in at least a dozen cities to detail all their extra men to Pittsburg just as soon as the strike was declared. And among the companies that had agreed to send men to Pittsburg to take the places of the strikers was the International Railway company of Buffalo.—Special to Buffalo Republic from Pittsburg.

BARBERS TO HOLD CONVENTION.

First International Assembly of the Craft in Many Years.

Something in the way of a novelty for the Journeymen Barbers' International union is soon to take place. The novelty will be in the form of an international convention, and may be called a novelty because it is the first that the organization has held for a long time. It will be held in Milwaukee, beginning October 5, and will occupy about one week.

The organization was formed in 1887 in Buffalo, N. Y., at a meeting that was attended by five men representing five local unions of barbers. The membership, which when formed was about 150, and the membership is good standing at the present time is about 26,000. Conventions were held each year until 1894, when it was decided that they should be held each three years, and since then there has been no international convention of the barbers. In support of this policy the argument is advanced that considerable money is saved.

One of the matters that will be brought up at the Milwaukee convention will be a proposition to establish a home for barbers, something after the nature of the home of the International Typographical union. Jacob Fischer, international secretary of the barbers, visited the Printers' Home several months ago, and expressed much satisfaction with what he saw. He will make a full report of his visit during the convention.

THE CARPENTERS.

Installed Officers and Transacted a Lot of Other Business.

Local No. 1055 installed the following officers Monday night at the regular meeting:

President, S. D. Swab.
Vice-President, E. M. Heywood.
Recording Secretary, C. H. Chase.
Financial Secretary, E. S. Acott.
Treasurer, John Pim.

The attendance was small on account of celebration of the Fourth. Next meeting is a called meeting, and the matter of labor on the proposed band stand will come up.

The local is invited to send two delegates to the dedication, at Indianapolis, Ind., of the new headquarters building, July 22, but this will hardly be done on account of the expense. We will have some more to say about this later.

Bro. N. B. Rickard of University Place is still laid up with rheumatism and his wife is barely able to be around from the same cause. They have been laid up for two months or more.

Bro. A. J. Marsh of Eureka Springs, Ark., is keeping his dues up. Says he does not care to become a back number, even if he is clear away from any local.

FOR RENT—1221 South 15th St., choice 5-room cottage, with bath, sanitary closet, city water, furnace, gas for lighting and cooking, fine lawn and shade, first-class location. See M. L. Williams, 1445 C St.

JOHN F. KIRBY, THE NEW ROLAND

Mr. John Kirby, Jr., the new president of the Manufacturers' Association, was most bellicose in his attitude toward organized labor in his inaugural address at the time of his recent election. He said among other absurd things: "The way to handle the animal that we have been fighting is to take him by the horns and shake the cussedness out of him."

That is not exactly a new policy; Mr. Van Cleave has been trying that and Mr. Post and Mr. Parry before him, and yet the Organized Labor "animal" so far from hanging to existence by a mere thread as Mr. Kirby asserts in another part of his speech is really stronger and lustier than ever. It may not be entirely safe to take the "animal" by the horns. Someone else might be thrown.

Mr. Kirby waxed very abusive and, as usual with such attempts, resorted to misrepresentation instead of stating facts. He seemed especially angry that representatives of the American Federation of Labor had accepted invitations to speak before women's clubs and that the Y. M. C. A. even desired information on the labor movement and that men of standing in the community should associate with leaders of organized labor. Such wild abuse might contain possibilities for grave public mischief were it not neutralized by its own vicious stupidity.

Mr. Kirby as the Bombastes Furioso of the Manufacturers' Association is likely to do more harm to his own class and colleagues than to the hosts of labor. He is likely to complete the revolt which started with an outburst in his convention against Van Cleave's abuse of organized labor. Some employers have been wont to charge labor unions with harboring the fire-eating type of demagogue whose speech savored of recklessness and exaggeration. But if this were ever in a degree true of labor's representatives it might have been accounted for by the burning sense of wrong which conceivably would render a man bitter and violent in his statements; but we hear very little nowadays of this type of labor orator. Strangely enough the Manufacturers' Association adopts the irresponsible, bitter, reckless tone and its hated opponent the labor union manages to keep sweet tempered even under remarkable provocation.

Mr. Kirby forgets that under our American institutions the workers are not in a separate class, there is not the old time status of master and servant, but all are in some sense masters of their own destiny and all equally valuable as citizens of our country. None may gainsay the right of the workers to organize for self-improvement and for the uplift of the whole people. Mr. Kirby makes the mistaken assumption that labor has no rights except those accorded by the employers and that the organization of labor is maliciously mischievous.

But the people of our country know better. They know that the labor union is an economic necessity, that it is here to stay and that the mouthings of the Kirby's and Van Cleave's but discredit the cause which they profess to represent.

The labor union was born of the impositions and injustice of employers, who, confident of their strength, treated the workers

just as Mr. Kirby would have them treated now. He would have them regarded as slaves and criminals. He would deny them all rights before the law, and then grossly misrepresent their effort to obtain justice.

We fear that Mr. Kirby suffered somewhat from exasperation and trepidation. He finds that the sensible and fair-minded employers of the country are not to be fooled by the bitter, vindictive, and virulent abuse which the Van Cleaveites delight in heaping upon the labor unions. There are a good many employers who have met the labor unions at close quarters and who like them. They have dealt with unions for a period of years and find the dealing satisfactory. Such men can not be fooled or coerced into joining the Manufacturers' Association and contributing money in order that the labor unions may be vilified and hounded out of existence.

While the labor unions much prefer to spend their resources in the constructive work of organization, and regret the expenditures made necessary in court proceedings and unjust injunction cases, yet we can say truthfully that the fierce attacks of the hirings of the Manufacturers' Association in the last two years have but raised up friends for the labor movement on every side. Despite the depression of the past year and a half the unions have held their own and there is no trace of any ill effect from the attacks of the Van Cleaveites, and they are now moving forward. Such persecution has always made the persecuted flourish. The result seems to worry Mr. Kirby. It looks as though he were not too cheerful or too hopeful in taking up the bad job where Van Cleave let it off.

If the Manufacturers' Association had any desire to become a force for good or to range itself with the constructive and progressive organizations of our time it should pray for a president who would evidence a sufficient amount of well-balanced gray matter in his cranium to refrain from such mouthings as those by which Mr. Kirby immensely amused the whole country recently.

We said in our editorial last month: "It is needless to say that we entertain neither hope nor desire that the National Association of Manufacturers shall elect as its president some supine employer who has neither the courage, intelligence, nor the honesty of his convictions; but he need not be an extremist or a fanatic or centuries behind the times. A man filling so responsible a position should be an employer representative in character, representative in business, and representative of the best conceptions of American manhood and citizenship."

Mr. Kirby is none of those things, we regret to say, but the effect of his time-worn tactics will be to make his own colleagues ridiculous rather than to inflict any great damage on the workers.

Meanwhile the labor movement goes serenely on its way, building up and perfecting its organization co-operating with every civic, reform and educational force which makes for progress. A comparison of the work achieved by the labor union in its constructive efforts and the destructive tactics of the Kirby's and Van Cleave's should draw a parallel which no sensible employer can afford to ignore.—American Federationist.