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Among the Live Ones In This Good Town

Emmett Flood is stirring up the animals down east. You remember Flood—he is the organizer who performed such good work in Lincoln a few weeks ago. When he left here he went to Chicago to spend a couple of weeks with his family. From there he was ordered down into West Virginia to help the striking tin plate, iron and steel workers. He went to Morgantown, W. Va., and the chief of police ordered him out of town. No one charged Flood with being a vagrant. There was no charge against him at all. But he was a "labor agitator." He was trying to help honest workers secure a small share of justice, and of course that was awfully wicked. Couldn't stand for that kind of a man in Morgantown. And the "interests" higher up, knowing that they had the mayor, and that the mayor had a tool in the chief of police, gave the mayor the tip that Flood would have to go. The mayor gave the chief the tip, and the chief gave Flood the order to "move on!"

You've got a photograph of that square-chinned Irishman "moving on," haven't you? He's still in Morgantown. So is Frank Morrison, and several other labor leaders. And they are standing on their rights, and they will stand there until some subservient judge sends them to jail for acting upon their rights as freemen. Fine situation, isn't it, when a man who is helping workmen secure justice is ordered out of town? But that's what we've come to in this "land of the free."

Secretary Frank Hart of the Nebraska Federation of Labor, reports that the locals throughout the state are coming into the fold in a most gratifying manner. Already some thirty unions have affiliated, and more are reporting every day. Within a couple of weeks Secretary Hart will have printed copies of the constitution of the Federation, and each local union will be supplied with copies. In the meanwhile, if your union has not yet affiliated, get busy!

The indications are that Lincoln will be well represented on the visitors' list at the St. Joseph convention of the International Typographical Union. In addition to Delegates Locker and Freeman, a dozen or more printers will be on the spot to add their voices to the general enthusiasm, and Mrs. Hebbard, the Auxiliary's delegate, will be accompanied by several members of that organization. When the Lincoln bunch reaches old Joe Robideaux's town it will make that sleepy burg sit up and take notice.

The presence of Miss Mary McDowell in Lincoln on Labor Day is now assured. The Labor Day committee has received definite assurance from Miss McDowell that she will be here on the Saturday before, and that if arrangements are made she will speak in two churches in Lincoln on the Sunday preceding Labor's great holiday. The Wagworker, acting for the committee, will be glad to receive offers from the down-town churches. Miss McDowell will preach a gospel that is as fully inspired as the gospel of the Nazarene, for it will be based upon the Nazarene's gospel. She will preach the gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man—with especial emphasis on the brotherhood of man. Lincoln people who fail to hear this talented woman will miss something well worth while. Mary McDowell is the head worker in the University of Chicago Settlement in Chicago. She it was who organized the packinghouse girls and led them in their fight for treatment just a little better than the average swine owner accords his pigs. She told the world the awful horrors, the nastiness, the filth, the immorality of the stock yards and packing houses during that memorable strike. The newspapers of Chicago closed their columns to her, but she spoke from the public platform, and she aroused the sleeping conscience of Chicago. Mary McDowell is a better citizen than any of the smug-faced financiers who are growing rich at the expense of human flesh and blood and posing as "leading citizens." She can't vote, but the imported slaves of the employers can, and do. That's the way the "business interests" of Chicago manage to retain

their power to loot. But hear this splendid woman tell it. She will open your eyes.

"The State," published in Omaha by the advocates of "personal liberty," and printed without the union label, says: "The next governor of Nebraska will be elected upon the flat-footed declaration that he is opposed to prohibition."

We have said time and again that the gentlemen interested in perpetuating the distillery and brewery interests in this state were a set of chumps in their selection of men to handle the publicity end of their campaign. The above declaration proves it. "The State" is edited by a damphool who thinks he is earning his money by making such assertions. If his employers think so, it only proves how easily they can be separated from their money. The Wagworker is not an advocate of state-wide prohibition. It does not believe state-wide prohibition would be effective if adopted at this time. But the man who runs for governor of Nebraska on an anti-prohibition platform in 1910 is defeated 50,000 before the race starts. This does not mean that the successful candidate must advocate prohibition—it simply means that a candidate on a platform specifically opposing prohibition will stand about as much show as a yellow-legged chicken at a Methodist camp meeting. The men who are backing "The State" are fooling away their money as long as they pursue their present policy.

Will some advocate of "protection" please answer:

Bricklayers, working in an unprotected industry, receive from 50 to 75 cents per hour. Briers working in carpet factories—and carpet manufacturers enjoy the highest rate of "protection"—receive 4 cents per hour. Why the difference?

Linotype operators on daily newspapers receive from 50 to 70 cents per hour, and there is no protective tariff on daily newspapers. The carding machine tender in a cotton mill—and the cotton manufacturers are protected to the limit—receive 13 cents an hour. Why the difference?

Taken as a whole the workmen in the unprotected industries receive from 175 to 250 per cent higher wages than the workers in the highly protected industries. Why the difference?

The Wagworker will give space for reply.

Here's a little pointer for some who may need it, and who could profit by observing it:

The time to strike is not when times are hard and business dull.

W. C. Boyer, who is sabbing for Frank A. Kennedy as editor of the Omaha Western Laborer, while "Saddle" homesteads a Dakota ranch, is an adept with the shears, but evidently has not sufficient control of the pencil to write a credit line.—Pueblo Industrial Review.

Come on, now, Bill! We're awfully anxious to reprint what you say about this when you see it.

The Wagworker desires to apologize to unionists in general and the Garment Workers in particular for the appearance in last week's issue of an advertisement of the "Skirt Store." The editor was absent when the paper was made up and the enterprising ad solicitor, forgetful of the facts turned in the copy. The "Skirt Store" is deserving of the patronage of those who are opposed to unions and desire to purchase the product of unorganized and underpaid labor. The Wagworker does not make it a point to accept advertising from such concerns, however. Hence the apology.

We have been asked to join in a news paper crusade against the "mail order houses." We beg to be excused. Business firms that advertise in The Wagworker need have no fear of the mail order grafters. Business firms that do not advertise in this great organ of industrial betterment have only themselves to blame if the mail order grafters get 'em.

The Wagworker will, as usual, issue a special "Labor Day Edition," and it goes without saying that it will be

a beauty. It will be illustrated, contain some historical sketches, some special articles of interest and the news of the labor world.

Fred Murray, business agent of the Building Trades Council of Omaha, and Charles E. Rigby, representing the Structural Iron Workers of the same city, were in Lincoln on business last Tuesday and called at Wagworker headquarters. The structural iron work on the new state fair building is being performed by non-union labor working at very low wages. They came down to see about it, and gathered a few pointers that should interest the taxpayers of the great state of Nebraska—the people who are paying out the money.

Here's the best one we've heard lately, taken from the Bricklayer and Mason:

"A brother of No. — asked a non-union bricklayer the other day if he would not join the union. The non-union bricklayer replied that he would lose too much money. 'How is that?' asked the union bricklayer. Said the non-union bricklayer, 'If I had to stop on a rainy day I would lose \$3.60. By not belonging to the union I would only lose \$2.00 on a rainy day.'"

Now that the theatrical season in Lincoln is closed with the exception of the Oliver, it is to be hoped that the Theatrical Workers' Association will send representatives to the Central Labor Union. Their excuse heretofore has been a good one, but what's to prevent them from getting in line now?

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

August Meeting Was a Short One, But full of Lively Business.

Lincoln Typographical Union met last Sunday and transacted a lot of business in record time. The heat was intense, which may account for the temperature of some of the discussions. A few instructions were given Delegates Locker and Freeman and some financial business transacted. A special committee was appointed to investigate certain matters of interest to the local.

Mrs. Hoffmeister is almost wholly recovered from her recent severe illness.

Mrs. Frank Coffey and youngest son are in Lincoln and will probably remain for several months. Mrs. Coffey has been confined to her room almost continuously since returning to Lincoln, but is now recovering.

The convention meets in St. Joseph next Monday, and while there are no definite announcements as to who will attend from Lincoln the indications are that there will be a lot of them ere the convention adjourns. Mr. and Mrs. Will Bustard announce their intention to be there. Mrs. Will Maupin will attend, and Mr. Maupin will try and get down a couple of days. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coffey will try and put in a couple of days. H. C. Peate will probably register early in the week.

Henry Devlin has taken his card and departed for other fields.

Colonels Mulhall and Peterson came up from Beatrice Sunday to attend union meeting.

The "subs" will probably have fat picking next week. St. Joseph convention, you know.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Important Meeting Scheduled to Be Held Next Tuesday Evening.

The Central Labor Union will meet in regular session next Tuesday evening and there is every reason why it should be well attended. There is a probability that the central body will be called to account by the American Federation of Labor for not unseating the delegates from the Electrical Workers' Union. This is a matter that can not be staved off much longer, and when it comes up it means a lively fight.

Treasurer Evans will probably have his report of the recent benefit ready to submit. The benefit, kindly tendered by the Grace Hayward Stock company and Manager Zehrung of the Oliver was held last Friday night, and while not as largely patronized as at least one former benefit was financially successful. The house was well filled and the company gave a delightful performance of "The Defaulter." The central body's treasury is considerably richer by reason of the benefit.

and the thanks of the organization are due Manager Gaatz of the company and Manager Zehrung of the Oliver.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

A Few Newsy Notes About the Boys Who Manipulate "Juice."

Everett E. Betz, former president of the Lincoln local and now secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska-Iowa district, was married Sunday to Miss Sophia L. Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Miller. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents, 126 South Fifteenth street, Rev. W. Z. Zenor, pastor of the East Side Christian church, officiating. Miss Winnifred Miller, sister of the bride, officiated as bridesmaid, and Mr. Harvey Day, was groomsmen. Miss Beulah Postal played the wedding march. The ceremony was witnessed by relatives only. Mr. and Mrs. Betz departed almost immediately for a wedding journey which will include Niagara Falls, the great lakes and other resorts. The trades unionists of Lincoln, among whom Mr. Betz has been active, extend their hearty congratulations to the newly married pair and wish them a long and happy married life.

The strike of the inside men continues at Omaha, but the men are gradually winning out. Word was received early in the week that six firms had "come across" with signatures to an agreement, with indications of more to follow.

Organizer Hamilton, to whom has been given the task of whipping the Reid faction back into the old regime, is now visiting central bodies and threatening them with the loss of their charters if they do not immediately unseat the Reid delegates and make room for the faction recognized by the Denver convention. He will probably be in Lincoln in a short time, and there will be some fun.

THE MUSICIANS.

Sensational Reports That Are Calculated to Mislead.

The sensational reports in the daily papers concerning the meeting of the Musicians last Sunday are calculated to mislead the public. There is really nothing to excite anyone. The Musicians are amply able to handle their own affairs and to deal justly with all concerned in the present difficulty.

The difficulty is not over the use of non-union musicians in the band engaged to give concerts in the park. Neither has it to do with the fact that the park concerts have operated to discontinue engagements at another place. It is wholly regarding a very simple law of the union. Mr. Hagenow, who took an active part in raising the concert fund, was given charge of the concerts. The musicians employed are union men. Mr. Hagenow, who directs the band, is not an active member of the union. His attitude towards the union is not a secret. At no time has he ever been favorably inclined. Several years ago, which director of Hagenow's band he succeeded in blocking an attempt to organize a union. When the musicians did organize they made a clean sweep and Mr. Hagenow came into the fold. Later he was placed on the honorary list, he having declared his withdrawal from the professional field. He is now asked to resume full membership, he being again acting in a professional capacity. That is the whole thing in a nutshell, and upon that basis the matter will be settled. There is nothing save a laugh in the declaration of a Hagenow partisan that Mr. Hagenow is the only man in Lincoln who can act as a band director. That Mr. Hagenow is a good director is beyond dispute, but if he were to suddenly drop out, if he should suddenly be removed from the scene of action, there is no doubt some one could be found who could direct a band in god style.

There is no doubt that this controversy will be amicably settled. Mr. Hagenow can not afford to refuse to comply with the rules and regulations of the organization. Nor can the organization afford to wink at violations of its rules and regulations.

By the time the union meets again the difficulty will doubtless have been adjusted.

INJUNCTION DENIED.

The petition of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company for an injunction against its striking employees at the Elwood plant, Goshen, Ind., was denied by Judge Baker in the United States circuit court.

"Hours Too Long" Says Government Report

In an important report made by Professor Irving Fisher of Yale University to the National Conservation Commission, and just issued by the government printing office at Washington, it is expressly and unequivocally stated that the most careful investigations show that the eight-hour day results in a higher individual and general efficiency both as to quality and quantity of product. Professor Fisher says:

"The present working day is a striking example of the failure to conserve national vitality. In order to keep labor power unimpaired, the working day should be physiological—i. e., it should as would enable the average individual to completely recuperate over night. Otherwise, instead of a simple daily cycle, there is a progressive deterioration. A reduction in the length of the work day would be a chief means of improving the vitality of the workmen, as well as the worth of life to them.

"The fatigue of workmen is largely traceable to their long work day and serves to start a vicious circle. Fatigue puts the workman in an abnormal frame of mind. He seeks to deaden his fatigue by alcohol, tobacco, exciting amusements, and excesses of all kinds. The momentary relief which he thereby purchases at the expense of an increasing susceptibility to fatigue, resulting sooner or later in complete depletion of his vital energies and in the contraction of tuberculosis or other fatal disease. The decrease in the length of the working day has not diminished the total output.

"An instance in which the eight-hour day superseded the nine-hour day with entire success is the case of the Salford Iron Works, of Mather & Platt, at Manchester, Eng., which changed to the eight-hour day in 1895. As the firm's products were subject to keen competition in both home and foreign markets, it was obliged to look carefully after the labor cost, and its conclusion that such cost did not increase in consequence of the reduction in working hours was reached after extremely accurate comparisons by accountants, who of course took into consideration the saving in consumables, wear and tear fuel, etc. The bureau of labor inquired of Messrs. Mather & Platt if they were still on the eight-hour basis, and received a reply dated May 24, 1904, in which they stated that:

"Our experience since the first year in which it (the eight-hour system) was tried has fully borne out the conclusions then arrived at, and we are fully satisfied that as regards the comparison between eight and nine hours per day, the balance of advantage is in favor of the shorter period. (a)

"In 1904, the hours of labor of about 45,000 workmen in British government factories and workshops were reduced to forty-eight hours per week. Of this number, 18,600 received a reduction of five and three-fourths hours a week, and 24,300 had their time reduced two and one-half hours a week. With no change in piece rates the workmen were able to earn as much as formerly. Day workers received an increased hourly rate of pay to make their earnings per week of forty-eight hours equal to those per week of fifty hours. It was not found necessary to increase the number of day workers. (b)

"In 1899 the owners of the great Leiss optical goods factory at Jena, Germany, introduced the eight-hour day and then made careful records of the results. In 1903 it was announced that although the aggregate number of hours worked had decreased 15 per cent the output per hour had increased 16.2 per cent. (c)

"At Liege it was found in a sulphuric acid establishment similar to a foundry (d) that shortening the working day from eleven hours to ten, from ten to nine, and so on gradually down to seven and one-half, resulted, in each case, in an increase of the output.

"The Solvay Process Company, of Syracuse, installed in 1892, a system of three eight-hour shifts in place of the two previous shifts of eleven and thirteen hours, respectively. It was stated by the assistant general manager in 1905 that the change had considerably lessened the wear and tear on the men, and that they could be

called on to do their best work at their highest state of efficiency which had not been possible on the two-shift basis. President Hazard of the company writes:

"In general, I can say that the results of the change from a twelve-hour shift to an eight-hour shift were very satisfactory and have continued to be so. While the immediate result was to considerably increase the cost per unit of product, the efficiency of the men gradually increased, so that at the end of about one year the first increase has been overcome and the cost per unit of product fell to a point even lower than had been obtained under the twelve-hour shift, and further, the time consumed per unit of product has since been so reduced that we are today and for some time have been operating with a smaller number of hours per unit of product than we had under the twelve-hour shift.

"Further proof of the benefits of the change to the three-shift day is furnished by the records of the Solvay Mutual Benefit Association for 1891 and 1904. The days lost per man by sickness each year fell from seven and one-half days in 1891 to five and one-half days in 1904.

"It is not maintained that in all cases productivity will be as great in eight hours as in nine. Cases to the contrary could also be cited. The point to be insisted upon is not that it is profitable to an employer to make the work day shorter, for often it is not, but to show that it is profitable to the nation and the race. Continual fatigue is inimical to national vitality, and however it may affect the commercial profits of the individual, it will in the end deplete the vital resources on which national efficiency depends.

"In the interests of this efficiency a longer time at noon for lunch is usually necessary. The present economy of lunch time is short-sighted, tends to food bolting, indigestion, a drowsy and tired afternoon, and inferior work. This has been shown by actual experience. (e)

"The accident bulletins of the Interstate Commerce Commission contain frequent records of disasters caused by the long hours of railway employes. In a recent bulletin, No. 27, two collisions are attributed to the mistakes of employes who have been on duty much longer than the instinct of safety should allow. Collision No. 2 (f), which killed two and injured thirteen, was due to the mistake of the station operator, who had been on duty from 7 a. m. to 3:30 p. m., and who had returned to duty at 8 p. m. The collision took place at 12:30 a. m., the next morning."

(a) New York Labor Bulletin No. 25, June, 1905, p. 249.

(b) Board of Trade Labor Gazette, July, 1905, reported in New York Labor Bulletin, No. 28, March, 1906.

(c) New York Labor Bulletin, No. 25, June, 1905, p. 249.

(d) See L. G. Fromont, "Une Experience Industrielle de Reduction de la Journee de Travail." Brussels, Solvay Institute, 1906.

(e) See especially description of a French experiment cited by Hubert Higgins in "Humaniculture," New York (Stokes), 1906.

(f) Accident Bulletin, No. 27, January to March, 1906.

PRESS FEEDERS AND ASSISTANTS.

Will Withdraw From Pressmen's Union and Organize Themselves.

At the last meeting of Pressmen's Union No. 106, the feeders and assistants decided to withdraw and re-organize as a local of their own. Their intention is to obtain the charter of No. 48, which was held in Lincoln several years ago, and then proceed along authorized lines.

There is no division in the ranks, the pressmen being in favor of the move and wishing the assistants and feeders all manner of success. The new local will begin active work as soon as possible, and The Wagworker confidently expects it to give a good report of itself.

The local's delegate to the international convention submitted an interesting report at the last meeting of the union. A full report of the convention will appear in the current issue of The American Pressman.