



THE HOME OF THE TRADES UNIONS OF LINCOLN, NEB.

No reference to Labor Day or to the industrial life of Lincoln would be complete without a word about this city's Labor Temple. Very little is said about it, yet it is really one of the strong factors in the social and industrial uplift. Modest in appearance, not vaunting itself, yet doing a splendid work, the Labor Temple is worthy of being classed among the active forces that are making for better citizenship. Five years ago, almost to the day, the first real step was taken looking towards the establishment of a Labor Temple in Lincoln. Union men had been talking about it and dreaming about it for several years, but until then it had not progressed beyond the talking stage. Then a few "live wires" foregathered in the home of one of them and said: "We are going to do things." It was slow work and often full of discouragement. But week after week this little company met; a dollar here, a quarter there, little by little the money came in until in time the fund amounted to about \$800. And there it seemed to stick. Lack of confidence—that bane of the workers—seemed to have put in its deadly work. Yet the promoters did not despair.

Three years next month this faithful little band got together, feeling a bit

"blue" but still determined, and said: "We will invest that \$800 in a bit of property, and then if the workers fail to come through the loss will be their own. A little investigation disclosed what looked like a golden opportunity. By paying \$1,000 down and agreeing to pay \$2,500 more inside of sixty days, and another \$2,500 in another ninety days, with the balance of \$13,500 to run several years under a mortgage, the association could get possession of the building that is now the Labor Temple—although it looked like almost anything else more than it looked like even a possible Labor Temple.

"Let's take the chance," whispered one.

"Come on; let's go to it," was the unanimous reply.

Then these hopeful and self-sacrificing men went to a bank and borrowed enough to make up the initial payment of \$1,000. They didn't even pause to consider how that \$2,500 was to be raised in sixty days. They paid the thousand and set to work remodeling the building. That is another part of the story, however. They just felt that their cause was so just, the Labor Temple such a vital necessity, that in some way they would pull it through. And they did! A few days before the second payment was due

that sturdy bunch of progressive unionists hustled out after it—and they got it. In fact they not only raised the second payment of \$2,500, but they raised enough to discount the third payment of \$2,500. And then the Labor Temple was as much of a fact as the government building.

In just three years after real and tangible work began, this handsome Labor Temple property, worth conservatively \$30,000, has been secured. It originally cost \$19,500, and it is not only more than half paid for, but improvements that would have cost upwards of \$5,000 if put upon any other building have been added. That brings us back to the remodeling.

Before even a start was made towards raising the second payment a small army of work men were inside the building, tearing out partitions, tearing out floors, tearing out old plumbing and wiring—"ripping the insides out of it." Much of the material needed in remodeling was donated by friendly business men. Electrical workers made a picnic of putting in new wiring. Plumbers called it a holiday when they marched into the building and put in an entirely new system of plumbing. The painters and decorators made the paperhanging and dec-