

THE WAGWORKER



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How Toronto Built a Great Labor Temple

For several years the Union men of Lincoln have been talking about a Labor Temple. If words were legal tender Lincoln would now have a Labor Temple that would make the Coliseum at Rome look like an Indian tepee. As it is, nothing tangible has been done. The Central Labor Union has appointed a committee to write to the secretaries of central bodies in cities having Labor Temples with a view to learning how the temples were built and how they are conducted.

Last summer the editor of The Wagworker had the pleasure of attending the international convention of his union at Toronto, Canada, and there saw a Labor Temple that was a delight to the eye. The story of how the Toronto Unions secured this splendid Temple ought to be interesting, and the simplicity of the plan ought to be an inspiration to Lincoln Unionists. Those who falter because they think the sum needed is too big an undertaking are invited to ponder on the Toronto plan.

The initial steps towards securing a temple in Toronto was taken by the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council—corresponding to our own Central Labor Union—in March, 1904. A special committee was appointed and delegated to outline a plan whereby a building might be acquired for the purposes of education, organization and recreation. Within a month the committee reported, recommending the purchase of the old Atheneum Club building, Nos. 167-69 Church street, at a price of \$30,000. Then it outlined the plan, which was as follows:

The organization of a stock company for its purchase and management, capitalized at \$40,000, divided into 40,000 shares of \$1 each. The report was received and the committee given power to act. Nobody arose and hinted that perhaps somebody would get a "bit" out of it. Nobody arose to declare that the scheme was impossible. Everybody agreed to help a little. The committee incorporated, formulated a constitution and opened subscriptions. They didn't wait to sell all the stock. Within ninety days subscriptions to the amount of \$10,500 were paid in. Then the company paid \$5,000 down, gave a mortgage for \$25,000, and took possession. The preliminary steps were taken in March, and on December 21 of the same year the Toronto Unions were housed in a magnificent building. The building has a frontage of 50 feet, with a depth of 112 feet, and is of a substantial and imposing character. The basement contains bowling alleys,

a billiard room, reading and smoking room, plunge baths, shower baths and other lavatory accommodations, and a caterer's room, with cooking stove, cutlery, etc. On the ground floor the business agent's office, the board room, two large lodge rooms and two committee rooms are situated. On the first floor is a large assembly hall, with sitting accommodation for 1,000 people, and two lodge rooms. The second floor contains three lodge rooms and the third floor a well equipped gymnasium and caretaker's rooms. The building is heated by steam and lighted by gas and electricity.

The Temple is managed by a board of fifteen directors elected annually, the officers of the company being a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and associate secretary. The staff of employees includes a bookkeeper and stenographer, caretaker and assistant, bowling alley boys and billiard room attendants, bowling alley boys and cigar stand attendant. Revenue is obtained from the billiard and poolrooms and the bowling alleys, meeting rooms, assembly hall, cigar stand, business agent's office, etc. Over fifty different local unions in the city have subscribed for stock in the Temple, and there are from five to a dozen meetings of different unions on each night, and space is so limited that it is even suggested that the company may acquire the two smaller buildings next door.

Of course Toronto is about five times larger than Lincoln and has about six times as many union men. But what of it? Couldn't 3,000 union men—and there are that many in Lincoln, including the railroad brotherhoods—raise \$10,000 without any trouble? A five dollar note for five shares of stock from every unionist in Lincoln would put the unions in possession of a splendid Labor Temple just as soon as the mechanics could build it. And the rentals would not only pay interest on the deferred payments but would pay dividends to the stockholders.

Now what's the use of fooling away time on it? All that needs to be done is to lay aside a lot of foolish jealousies, a lot of foolish delay, and get right down to business. Every dollar that the unions of Lincoln pay out for rent is a dollar wasted. Enough has been spent for rent in the last ten years to have paid one-third down on a Labor Temple that would meet every requirement. Every day's delay merely emphasizes the unwisdom of the local unions in not rising to their opportunities.

THE PRINTERS.

Will Nominate Officers Sunday and Vote on Them Wednesday, May 16.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will meet in regular session next Sunday afternoon, and there is an immense amount of business to be transacted. The final disposition of the revised constitution is scheduled for the first order of business, and after the regular business is transacted the union will proceed to nominate officers for the ensuing year, including one or more delegates to the international convention at Colorado Springs in August. The delegateship is the ripest plum, as it is the coveted honor. Last year Lincoln had two delegates and it is thought that the same number will be allowed this year. There are no avowed candidates as yet, although several aspirants have coyly admitted that they are in a receptive mood.

Owing to the heavy assessment the Colorado Springs Club project was allowed to drop, but despite the expense a lot of the boys have declared their intention to make the trip if they can find "subs." Speaking about the 10 per cent assessment, the boys are not kicking on paying it, but they are anxious to know something about its disposition and the probability of a reduction in the near future. It is causing a great many hardships among a number. There is a suspicion that the strike benefits are so large in many places that a lot of "snitches" prefer to loaf all the time for the benefit than to work and pay the assessment. For instance, in Omaha the benefit for married men is \$11 a week, on which there is no assessment. If a man

works four days at the scale he draws \$12, on which he pays \$1.20, leaving him \$10.80. It is reported that some of the strikers refuse a day's work when offered because they can get along on the benefit. If this is true, and the same situation obtains in other cities, the men behind the assessment want to know it. The men who dig up the 10 per cent are pretty unanimous in declaring that the man on the strike benefit list who refuses to work a day when it is offered to him, ought to be summarily removed from the benefit list.

BEATRICE PRINTERS ORGANIZE.

Fourteen Charter Members and Make a Scale of Wages.

The competent printers of Beatrice organized themselves into a Typographical union on April 29. The young union starts out with sixteen charter members and was organized by Organizer Pat Boyle of Omaha. The following officers were elected: President—D. C. Jenkins. Vice-President—M. M. Falk. Recording Secretary—Sherman Bly. Financial Secretary—Frank Wilson. Sergeant-at-Arms—A. G. Nelson.

The union starts out with bright prospects, and the boys are very enthusiastic. They have set an example that the printers of Fremont, Hastings, Kearney, Auburn and Grand Island should follow. Nebraska City used to have a union but gave up its charter some time ago. Alliance had a union for some time, but was forced to give up its charter because seven competent printers no longer remained in the city. The editor of The Wagworker assisted in organizing a Typo-

graphical Union in Fremont in 1894 and was honored by election to the office of vice president. But the hard times came on and the eligible printers drifted out of town until there were not enough left to hold the charter. But Fremont is a good printing town now, and it ought to have a Typographical Union. Indeed, the union owes it to the fair employers of Lincoln and Omaha to insist upon the establishment of a union in Fremont.

AUXILIARY NOTES.

What the Better Halves of the Printers Are Doing.

Every member of the Auxiliary is urged to be present at a special meeting May 8 for the election of international officers and a delegate to the Colorado Springs convention. The meeting is to be held with Mrs. C. H. Turner, 1202 P Street.

The ladies have bought a box of union-made laundry soap, which they are hoping to dispose of. It is a good white soap, made by the College City Soap Works of Galesburg, Ill. The ladies will sell it at cost, making seven bars for a quarter. It is good, both for your clothes and your conscience. Mrs. Turner, 1202 P Street, has the selling in charge.

Friday, May 4, the Auxiliary met with Mrs. Radabach. The chief business was the nomination of delegates to the international convention at Colorado Springs.

Master Richard Metcalf Maupin has begun to return some of his numerous calls.

We are glad to report an improvement in the health of our little ones. Mesdames Pentzer and Odell have successfully nursed their children through a siege of the measles. Lillian Wathan is not gaining as rapidly as her parents would wish, but they are hoping much from the warm, sunny days that must soon come. Gladys Greenley is able to be out again.

Mrs. C. S. Heacock has returned to Quincy, Ill., for an extended visit with her mother.

All we can hear from Printerville is sewing, housecleaning and gardening. Mrs. Bargrover reports the onions up and growing fast, but we couldn't hear about Mrs. Locker's chickens.

Mrs. Chas. Righter has recovered from a severe sickness and is able to attend the meetings again.

Joe Hatch is stepping high these

days, all because Mrs. Hatch presented him with a nine-pound boy last Thursday. Mother and son are getting along nicely.

OVER A BARREL.

That's Where the Omaha Painters Have the Bosses Just Now.

The Master Painters' Association of Omaha is doubled up over a barrel just now. Recently it appealed to the Union Busters' Association for help, saying that all it wanted was assistance in putting the "open shop" system in vogue. Then the painters fished a letter from the Master Painters asking for a conference. Then the bosses complained about the scale and the painters quit. The bosses made a grandstand play about being able to get plenty of non-union men, and the union men immediately went to contracting as individuals. The result is that the bosses are frantically advertising for men and offering 10 cents an hour more than the minimum asked by the union. And while the bosses can't get competent men every union man in the city is working and making more money than if toiling for wages. Then the bosses pitifully called upon the Union Busters' Association to put a stop to all painting and decorating, hoping thus to starve the union painters into submission. But the foxy quillers running that association refused to bite off a chunk of that size. The union painters in Omaha have all the best of it, and are wearing smiles that couldn't be hid under forty coats of paints.

BARBERS ACT.

Cut Thirty Minutes from the Working Day and Quit at 7 P. M.

A delegation from the local Barbers' Union called at The Wagworker office last Friday and announced that hereafter all union shops would close promptly at 7 o'clock every evening except Saturday. The opening time remains the same.

"There'll be no Sunday opening of barber shops in Lincoln," declared one of the delegation. "Nobody is thinking about such a thing."

The general public is invited to make note of the fact that the journeymen barbers quit work at 7 p. m. now, instead of 7:30 p. m.

The "Omaha Plan's" Success

The Wagworker suggests to the Central Labor Union as a means of a rousing interest in the work of that body, as well as a means for giving it some tangible reason for its existence, that it proceed without delay to inaugurate in Lincoln what is known as the "Omaha Plan" of boosting the Union label. Hundreds of label schemes have been tried, with more or less success, but not one of them has ever come within shouting distance of the "Omaha Plan" for success. The gentlemen who conceived that plan ought to have their memory perpetuated in bronze and marble by grateful union men of all trades.

Briefly the plan is this: A list is made of merchants handling Union-made goods, and the goods are classified by names, not by labels. For instance, under the heading of shoes will appear firm names, together with the names of the firms manufacturing the Union-made shoes handled by the aforesaid firms. The prospective buyer merely keeps one of the lists in his or her pocket, and when wanting a pair of shoes looks up the firms handling Union-made shoes, goes into one of the stores, calls for a shoe by name, and is assured that it will be Union made. The same thing prevails in all classes of goods—shoes, shirts, collars, clothing, shirts, overalls, brooms, starches, cigars, tobaccos, hats, caps, neckties, etc. It makes it easy to purchase Union-made goods.

A committee of the Omaha Label League has charge of the list, and a revised list is published each week in the Western Laborer. The publisher has absolutely no control over the department. The merchants do not pay a cent for the advertising, the expense being paid by the various Unions in the shape of due to the League. The merchant who has Union-made goods and wants them listed, notifies the League's committee, investigation is

made, and if the merchant's claims are all right he gets in the list. It is valuable advertising and in every city where the plan has been tried the merchants have vied with one another in their efforts to get Union-made goods.

In Omaha the success of the Plan has been wonderful. The Garment Workers' international officers sent a representative to Omaha to investigate and ascertain the sudden demand for Union-made clothing. The Hulskamp shoe people were so astonished at the receipt of scores of telegraphic orders for Union-made shoes for women that they wrote to the Central Labor Union and asked for an explanation. The Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union sent a representative to Omaha to investigate the plan, and as a result that great body is enthusiastically pushing it wherever it has a local.

The manager of the shoe department in one of Omaha's largest department stores told the editor of The Wagworker that within six months after the Omaha Label League got busy he was compelled to search the country for Union-made shoes for women or lose a big share of his trade. "We can tell a Union woman the minute she comes in," he said. "She never mentions the label, but she asks for a shoe that is made by a Union firm, and when we hand it to her she merely looks at it, tries it on and if it fits, and suits, she takes it. When she starts to look our clerks simply smile and say, 'Yes, the stamp's there, all right.'"

A year ago clothing firms that never paid a bit of attention to the label have had to wake up. As a result they are now boasting of the big stocks of labeled goods they carry.

The Central Labor Union in Lincoln ought to get busy right away. If it will take up this Omaha plan and work at it industriously it can make this good old town sit up and take notice.

The Protest From the Colorado Springs League

Two or three weeks ago printer circles were stirred up by a protest sent out by the Woman's Label League of Colorado Springs, charging that the management of the Union Printers' Home at the place was spending the money of union men with members of the Citizens' Alliance, known to be violently opposed to organized labor. The protest was signed by the League's officials and pointed out with seeming accuracy several instances wherein the money of union printers went to fill the coffers of union haters. Before publishing the protest The Wagworker waited to hear from the trustees and superintendent of the Home. The reply has come to hand, and both protest and answer are here given. The protest of the Colorado Springs Woman's Union Label League is as follows:

Colorado Springs, Colo., April 16.—To the Editor of The Wagworker: Woman's Label League, No. 81, Colorado Springs, was organized March, 1903, to extend the use of all union labels, to create a demand for union made goods, and to assist organized labor generally in securing better hours, wages and conditions.

A year later the Citizens' Alliance was formed here. Its object, as stated in the public press, over the signature of its secretary, was "to compel every union man to tear up his union card, and beg for an Alliance card before getting a day's work."

During the days of proscription and persecution which followed, the union women, under the lead of the Label League, concentrated their trade to those firms which withstood the fierce pressure against organized labor.

We believe that union men's money, wherever possible, should be spent among employers and merchants favorable to our cause. This course, we regret to say, has not been followed by the management of the Union Printers' Home, an institution in which we feel the greatest pride. The failure, after repeated supplications by the League members and others, to effect a discontinuance of this practice, has created such universal dissatisfaction as to lead to the voicing of this protest.

It is our earnest desire to confine a discussion of this matter largely to those who will have a voice in its solution, and avoid such publicity as will reflect discredit upon the Home.

We submit the following facts, details of which will be furnished by the League on application.

In the Typographical Journal each month is a list of firms supplying the Home with necessities. Among the list appears the following who are members of the Citizens' Alliance, a copy of whose roster is in our possession:

Shields-Morley Grocery Co.; Seldomridge Bros., hay and grain; Ira J. Morse, commission merchant; O. E. Hemenway, grocer; Giddings Bros., dry goods; Perkins Crockery Co.; McCracken (now McCracken & Hubbard), furniture; Lowell-Meservey, hardware; Hallett & Baker, undertakers; and others.

Holbrook & Perkins, although in the Citizens' Alliance, employ union clerks and carry union label goods.

Giddings Brothers are especially bitter against union men. They will allow no union clerk in their employ. A member of the firm of the Lowell-Meservey Co. declared with oaths that he wanted every union man driven from the state and the leaders hung. Shields & Moreley refused goods to grocers who catered to the union trade. From this it will appear that the old union printers are being fed, clothed and buried by Citizens' Alliance people. Reputable union firms have repeatedly offered to furnish all these supplies at prices and terms at least equal to those now paid, but are denied the opportunity of bidding on same. We will furnish a list of such firms to those who desire more definite information.

We know that this matter is within the province of the Board of Trustees and ask that in voting for said officers on May 16, that you elect only those who are favorable to such action.

Respectfully,
MRS. LILLIE E. GOMER, Pres.
MRS. ELA WEST, V. Pres.
MRS. ELEANOR D. SMITH, Sec.
Committee Woman's Label League.

This protest was sent broadcast over the country, and it was up to the Home management to get busy. On April 21 the Colorado Springs Typographical Union held a hurriedly called special meeting and adopted the following resolution:

Colorado Springs, Colo., April 22, 1906.—To the Officers and Members of All Sister Unions: Ladies and Gentlemen—At a special meeting of Colorado Springs Typographical Union No. 82, held this day, the following resolution were adopted, with one dissenting vote:

Whereas, A circular purporting to emanate from the Woman's Label League of Colorado Springs, reflecting upon the character and union integrity of the Board of Trustees and Management of the Union Printers' Home, and by inference charging every member of Typographical Union No. 82 with disloyalty to union principles in permitting to exist within its jurisdiction conditions detrimental to the interests of the International Typographical Union, has been circulated throughout the I. T. U. jurisdiction, and

Whereas, The members of this union are thoroughly informed of the absolute falsity in every particular of the statements contained in said circular and of the malicious intent which actuated them to be made and circulated; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this union hereby instructs its Executive Committee to prepare a statement denouncing in the strongest possible manner the wholesale falsehood contained in said circular, and the perpetrators thereof, and cause the same to be sent, under seal of Typographical Union No. 82, to all sister unions throughout the I. T. U. jurisdiction; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this circular be reproduced in the Typographical Journal and in the Labor News of Colorado Springs.

W. J. SNIDER, President.

J. T. REAMES, Secretary.

This was sent out to every local Typographical Union in the United States and Canada, and was accompanied by the following statement of the local executive committee:

After the most careful and conscientious investigation, this committee is in a position to state upon their honor as union men, that the statements contained in the circular in question are absolutely without foundation in fact.

Investigation further develops the fact that the circular was especially designed as a personal attack upon members of the Board of Trustees of the Union Printers' Home and its management.

It has been ascertained, and is herewith stated, in justice to the members generally of the Woman's Label League that they were probably in ignorance of the contents and real purpose of the malicious and false publication.

During the course of the investigation, the committee obtained evidence, upon which charges were preferred, under sworn affidavit, against a member of Typographical Union No. 82, accusing said member of the authorship of the publication. A committee was immediately appointed for the purpose, and the trial will proceed at once. This fact accounts for the one negative vote to the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

The Union Printers' Home is one of the strongest forces for unionism and the union label in the country. Every article of use or consumption in the institution bears the union label where it is possible to procure the same, and all the merchants with whom the Home deals are compelled to keep lines of union label goods. At the present time there is no Citizens' Alliance here. During the Cripple Creek labor troubles nearly all the merchants in the city became members of the Alliance many being coerced into joining, but the organization went to pieces eighteen months ago, and the merchants as a class are not antagonistic to the union label, and, in fact, have done everything within their power during the past several months to demonstrate their friendship for the Typographical Union and the Union Printers' Home.

You are aware that No. 82's membership is not large, and that without the material co-operation of the business community (Continued on another page.)