

State Historical Society

THE WAGEWORKER



What's Doing Among Lincoln Trades Unionists

There is always something doing among the union carpenters of Lincoln. Every meeting sees new members added to the roll and new jobs "squared" through the persistency and diplomacy of the business agent. The meeting last Tuesday evening was a stemwinder, and five new candidates were initiated, with several more on the waiting list. Every member who is able to work is at work, and calls for men exceed the visible supply. Some time ago Paul Bartlett started to putting up two good sized residence buildings. He employed non-union men for a time, but after watching them work and comparing them with union men on other jobs he got wise. As a result the non-union men walked the plank and the Bartlett jobs were squared by putting good union workmen on them and Mr. Bartlett, although he paid the union men higher wages, realizes that he made an economical move when he unionized his work. It's the same old story—the good craftsmen are in the union of their craft.

The Sawyer flats, one of the biggest jobs in recent years, is at last completed. This gave employment to union carpenters for nearly a year. The carpenter and brick work was thoroughly union, but the plumbing and painting, let on separate contracts, went to non-union concerns.

"Dad Hallahan returned from Hastings the first of the week, where he has been working for a month or more. Business Agent Bly ran up against a queer proposition one day last week. Passing a job being done by a "scab" contractor he noticed that a non-unionist had on a carpenter's union pin. The wearer was formerly a member of the union, but was dropped, a fine of \$25 being placed against him. Mr. Bly asked the man why he, a non-unionist, was wearing a union pin, and the man insolently replied, "It's my pin, bought with my own money. I've worn it for two years and I'll keep on wearing it." Mr. Bly argued a few minutes and went on his way. A few days later he saw the man still wearing the pin. Then he got busy with the law books and he dug up something that will interest every wearer of the union button, including the above-mentioned non-union carpenter. It is a section of the Nebraska statutes which makes it an offense punishable by a stiff fine or imprisonment, or both, for a man to wear the badge, pin, emblem or insignia of any secret, fraternal or other order when he is not a member in good standing of the aforesaid order whose pin, etc., he may wear. Mr. Bly brought the matter before the union last Tuesday and was instructed to set the machinery of law in motion whenever he found a non-union carpenter wearing the pin emblematic of the union.

The Woodworkers' Journal is not far astray when it says: "You don't hear of very many welfare clubs being established by concerns who feel sure that no labor organization is liable to spring up among their employees."

The Kansas City Billiard Table company is on the unfair list. Carpenters will have no work on the new Little block, but being loyal citizens of Lincoln they rejoice to see such a fine business building going up. It will mean more building on which carpenters will have a good show.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Figuring on a Home of Its Own With-out More Delay.
Lincoln Typographical Union is figuring on securing a permanent home, and to that end will seek to make a lease on a hall, fit it up and use it for its own purposes. At the regular meeting last Sunday the executive committee was instructed to take such steps as it deemed necessary looking to this end. The purpose is to lease headquarters, and fit it up not only as a hall, but for social purposes, making ample provision for Capital Auxiliary. Plans for financing the enterprise will be made by the executive committee and presented at the July meeting.
H. W. Smith, Fred Iringer and Fred Mickel were appointed to take charge

of the work of securing a monument for the union burial lots in Wyuka cemetery. Little trouble is anticipated in securing funds with which to erect a handsome marble shaft to the memory of the deceased members of No. 209.

Three new members were elected to membership at last Sunday's meeting, and considerable business of importance was transacted. At the July meeting the officers-elect for the ensuing year will be obligated. Vice President Peat presided in the absence of President Coffey.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION

The First June Meeting Will Be Held Next Tuesday Evening.

After a hiatus of three weeks the Central Labor Union will meet next Tuesday evening. Indications are that it will be a big meeting, for several plans are in process of incubation that promise much for unionism in this city.

The Labor Temple project will come up, and it is hoped to get a bunch of canvassers started out that will accomplish something. The matter of the annual theatrical benefits will also come up. A lot of union men seem to labor under the impression that because they are not duly accredited delegates they cannot secure admission to the meetings of the central body. This is a mistake. Any union man who has a paid up card is entitled to admission, and by general consent is allowed the privilege of the floor. But only accredited delegates are privileged to make motions or to vote. It would be a good thing for the central body if union men would get into the habit of dropping in at the meetings.

THE BRICKLAYERS.

Work Has Been Slack for Several Reasons Explained Below.

On account of the cold and wet weather, and the scarcity of material, work has been a little slack with the bricklayers so far this spring. But it is picking up rapidly. Material is coming in fast, and the warm weather has started work on several big jobs. The new Little building and the Christian Science church will afford an unusual lot of work for the masons this year. These are two of the biggest jobs ever let in Lincoln.

Saturday evening, June 1, the union bricklayers of St. Paul, Minn., celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their local, and from reports printed in the St. Paul Advocate they must have had a fine time. The strike of the bricklayers and masons of Ottawa, Ont., is a thing of the past, and a formal two-year agreement has been signed by which the men agree to work for one year for 47 cents an hour. After that they are to get 50 cents.

THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

Celebrate Another Anniversary and Have a Royal Good Time.

The Electrical Workers' Union celebrated another anniversary last Thursday evening at their hall on South Tenth street. The wives and sisters and lady friends of the members provided cakes that would have taken first prize at any cooking school, and the union provided ice cream in abundance. In addition to these refreshments there was a short program, and then the dancing began. Every year the local electrical workers celebrate the anniversary of the union, and each celebration sees more new faces and a better feeling. The local is growing in strength and finances, and while doing so it is also growing in unionism.

A NEW ADVERTISEMENT.

Union Overall Manufacturers Present Claims to Lincoln Unionists
Elsewhere in this issue appears the advertisement of R. L. McDonald & Co., St. Joseph, Mo., manufacturers of the famous "Red Seal" brand of overalls. The R. L. McDonald Co. has

one of the largest factories in the country, and not only is it one of the largest, but it is one of the best from a sanitary point of view. The factory is thoroughly unionized and every garment turned out bears the union label.

The business of the company has grown to such proportions during the last few years that it recently was compelled to build factory, and when it was completed it immediately gave employment to 500 more members of the Garment Workers' Union. The growth of the business has been due to several causes, not the least of which was the fairness with which the management treated those who are in its employ. The Wageworker likes to boost such firms and such products, and every thorough unionist should feel the same way. We boost ourselves when we boost those who are friendly to us. Ask for "Red Seal" overalls and don't take no for an answer.

NOT FOR THIS PAPER.

"Canned Editorials" Not Welcomed by The Lincoln Wageworker.

Every week The Wageworker receives a mess of "canned editorial" stuff from a concern somewhere in the east. It is in the shape of proof slips and is called "Concerning Municipal Ownership." It is cunningly manufactured, and contains arguments against municipal ownership of public utilities. It costs money to get out such stuff, pay postage and hire special writers, and somebody with a selfish motive is footing the bills. An alleged New York humorist named R. N. Munkittrick, is selling some of his funny "dope" to the men back of the game. The Wageworker is not using this "canned" material, although a few of its labor exchanges are. But we like to read the matter sent us. It is so cleverly worded and the foxy game so cunningly concealed that a lot of editors who are busy and want copy in a hurry use it, not knowing that they are being used by a coterie of men who are making big money out of it. The only way "Concerning Municipal Ownership" dope can get into The Wageworker is through the business office at the rate of 20 cents an inch, and don't you forget it. And even at that price The Wageworker promises to combat the argument in its editorial columns.

FULTON STOCK COMPANY.

Continues to Draw Big House and Give Great Satisfaction.

When Jess Fulton first broached the subject of a summer engagement at the Oliver, Manager Zehring was skeptical. "It won't pay, Jess." "Well, I'm willing to take a try at it," replied Mr. Fulton. So the engagement was made, with results well known to the public. The season was a success financially and otherwise, and now for four successive years the Fulton Stock company has played a summer engagement, each one surpassing the preceding one. To date the receipts this year are ahead of a similar length of time any previous year, and the company is stronger than ever—which is saying a whole lot.

MONUMENTS VS. FOUNTAINS.

Monuments Are All Right, But Fountains More Necessary.

Mayor Brown is hustling to raise \$5,000 with which to erect a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Federal Square. This is a bully good move, and The Wageworker hopes the mayor will make it go through. We would chip in and help erect the statue were it not for one thing. The Wageworker is holding out in order to subscribe to a fund that will erect three or four drinking fountains in various parts of the city—fountains at which men, horses and dogs may slake their thirst. Five thousand dollars invested in fountains of this kind would do a blameworthy sight more good than a similar amount of money invested in granite images of dead statesmen—and Lincoln was the best of them all.

Just as soon as The Wageworker can see four or five convenient drinking fountains for men, horses and dogs in Lincoln, it will gladly chip in its mite towards a statue of Abraham Lincoln. But Lincoln can get along without another statue far better than men and animals in this city can get along without drinking fountains. When some one starts out with a "drinking fountain subscription paper" The Wageworker wants to be allowed to get in way up on the head of the list.

STRUCK CLOSED SHOP.

The Remarkable Plight of a "Rat" Printer Attracts Attention.

The spectacle of a "rat" printer working in a closed shop with the full consent of the Typographical Union is strange enough to call for more than passing comment. There is no such thing as an "open shop" in the printing business—it is either wholly union or it is unfair. But a non-union printer named Edward J. Dale is working in a closed shop and no complaint is heard except from Dale himself.

Dale was employed in a "rat" shop at Trenton, N. J., and sought to eke out his scanty "rat" wages by robbing the poor box of Holy Trinity church. He was caught in the act and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. And that's a "closed shop" for fair. But it isn't a printery, however.

AN IDIOTIC STRIKE.

Such Fool Actions Bring Disrepute on Trades Unionism.

A day or so ago 250 men in a manufacturing plant in the east walked out on a strike because they were not permitted to have beer in the shops during working hours.

It seems incredible that the leaders should be so short sighted as to counsel a strike for such a reason.

A strike based upon such grounds should have no support whatever amongst the people and it is not entitled to the support of public opinion or the help of other unions.

No strike has been successful when not backed by public opinion and in the vast majority of cases in order to receive the benefit of public approval strikes must be based upon some sound reason. It is just such fools as the one referred to that brings the whole labor movement into disrepute. It is the causeless, senseless walkout which arouses public condemnation and results and always will result in a losing strike.

Leaders organizing, counseling, or even countenancing such stupid proceedings on the part of these men ought to be ousted from their positions. They do more to damage their cause they claim to advance than any other person. If the labor unions expect to accomplish anything for their own good they cannot get very far if they countenance such a proceeding as we have instanced.

There will be nothing much to the fight of these 250 men and if finally they get any sense into their heads they will make short work of the and deposit them from their positions.

HOW IT WORKS.

Perhaps President Higgins of Pressmen Can Explain This.

When the Chambers printing house agreed with Typographical Union No. 2 for the eight-hour day and the union shop the "Kid" decided to put the whole plant on the eight-hour basis. Since then, however, the I. P. P. and A. U. having entered into an agreement with U. T. A. for a nine-hour day until 1909, and the local pressmen having recently signed a similar agreement with the Philadelphia Typographers, the pressroom of that concern returned to the nine-hour day this week.—Eastern Laborer.

LET JUDGES MAKE LAWS.

United States court judges are at sixes and sevens. Judge Speer, of Georgia, decided the employers' liability law constitutional, while Judges Evans, of Kentucky, and McCall, of Tennessee, declare the law to be invalid. So it will probably go up and then there's no telling what will happen. What's the good of legislatures and congress, anyhow? Why not have the courts make the laws? The lawyers know pretty nearly everything worth knowing.—Lancaster (Pa.) Labor Leader.

Plumbers Boost Big on Labor Temple Project

There are not very many union plumbers in Lincoln, but they make a game bunch. This week a lot more of them got into the Labor Temple game. Here are their names: Ed. English, 1933 U. W. Waack, 429 So. Eleventh. J. B. Estes, 1344 J. A. V. White, 1737 N. J. K. Wilson, 2230 Sheldon. G. C. Warner, 134 So. Twelfth. N. K. Howard, 1202 M. Chas. Burns, 846 No. Twenty-six. Bert Chipman no sooner took a withdrawal card to become a "boss" plumber than he took down with the inflammatory rheumatism and went off watch. He has just returned from a two weeks' sojourn at Sycamore Springs and feels a lot better, although he finds it a little difficult to get up after sitting down a while.

Although new members are taken in at every meeting the list remains about the same, members getting clearance cards and going to other towns where the wage scale is better. The local now has 24 active members. The unfair bosses must be taking notice. One of them tried to get an advertisement in The Wageworker last week. The negotiations which have been going on for the past few days between the striking plumbers and their former employes in Hamilton, Ont., have resulted in a settlement of the differences existing between them, and the men will return to work within the next two or three days.

GOOD WORK REPORTED.

Missouri Joint Legislative Board Secures Pleasing Results.

The Wageworker acknowledges the receipt of the printed report of the joint Labor Legislative Board of Missouri, the sender being its old friend Charles Fear. It deals with the measures affecting the working people in general and organized labor in particular which were considered by the forty-fourth general assembly of the Missouri legislature, together with a record of the members of the house and senate on labor measures presented by and at the request of organized labor.

In addition to the good work of securing some new laws the committee succeeded in preventing the enactment of several laws inimical to the interests of organized labor. Among them was a bill permitting the employment of railroad police; a poll tax law and a bill repealing the barber's examination law. It succeeded in getting a law wiping out the so-called "barber colleges," one making recovery of damages up to \$10,000 for contributory negligence, one compelling the shutting up and sealing of abandoned galleries in mines, and several others of prime importance to labor. The joint legislative board performed splendid service, and the cost was insignificant in comparison with the results achieved.

BREWERY WORKERS EXPELLED

Refused to Abide by Decision of Minneapolis Convention.

Washington, June 1—In the absence of President Gompers, Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor today made public Mr. Gompers' announcement of the revocation of the charter of the International Union of Brewery Workmen, because of its refusal to accept the terms prescribed by the federation.

The action will affect all the brewery workmen's unions throughout the country, comprising a membership of about 40,000. Asked for a statement concerning the effect of the action of the federation, Mr. Morrison said:

"The decision rendered by President Gompers is authorized by the executive council. It not only severs the connection of the International Union of United Brewery Workmen with the American Federation of Labor, but under the constitution of the American Federation of Labor, it will prevent the 400 or more local unions of the brewery workers in the various parts of the country from being represented by delegates in the 600 city central bodies and the thirty-six state branches affiliated with the American Federation of Labor or from receiving the support or recognition in any way of the members of the 118 Inter-

national unions holding charters from the federation."

Reviews Federation's Action.

Mr. Gompers' decision was announced in a letter to Messrs. Adam Huener, Louis Kemper and Joseph Proebstle, secretaries of the Brewery Workers' Union, whose office is in Cincinnati. In the letter he reviewed the action of the federation at Minneapolis in November, 1906, when the workers were notified that unless a settlement should be reached engineers, firemen and teamsters must withdraw from the Brewery Workers' Union and no others be accepted.

The fact that this admonition was not acted upon is then set forth, as is the resolution of the executive committee in Washington last March. In the resolution of the council the terms of the Minneapolis convention were reiterated and the brewery workers were notified that "their failure to comply has by their own action worked the revocation of their charter."

"The letter continued: "On May 1 neither yourself nor the executive board of your organization informed the president of the American Federation of Labor as to the adherence of your organization to the decision of the Minneapolis convention. In lieu thereof you sent me a telegram stating that the members of the organization were then taking a referendum vote thereon. Up to this time your organization has not informed the American Federation of Labor as to its adherence to that decision."

Union votes its Refusal.

"Under date of May 28 you advise me that by the referendum vote of the membership of your organization the conclusion was reached to refuse to abide by the decision of the Minneapolis convention of the American Federation of Labor, the highest court in the labor movement of your country."

"Now, therefore, I, in accordance with the decision and instruction of the Minneapolis convention of the American Federation of Labor, the executive council directs me to say that the charter held by the International Union of United Brewery Workmen is and stands revoked on this date, and you will, therefore, return said charter to this office upon receipt of this communication—your organization being thereby disassociated from the American trade union movement, the American Federation of Labor."

It is the general opinion that the workmen will contest the order, and a long fight for reinstatement is anticipated. The brewery men have about \$400,000 in their treasury.

NO STUDENTS THERE.

Spokane Waiters Draw Wages That "Listen Good."

The second highest scale paid to waiters in the United States is now being paid by the leading cafes and dining rooms of Spokane. Some time ago the waiters drew up their new scale and submitted it to the proprietors, with the understanding that they were to demand the wages on June 15. Several of the employers took the matter up at once and began paying the scale without waiting for the time to arrive which had been set by the waiters. The scale follows: Ten-hour men, \$15 a week with 50 cents an hour for overtime; six-hour men, \$9.50 a week, with 30 cents an hour for overtime; twelve-hour men, \$17.50 per week. Work after theaters, 75 cents for two hours. For fairs and carnivals, \$21 a week straight overtime. These wages include board.

MRS MAHON ILL.

Mrs. Mahon, wife of the president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees, has been very ill at St. Mary's hospital, Detroit. Hopes are entertained of her ultimate recovery, however.

The first four months of this year sixty-seven stonecutters died in good standing and received \$6,700 by return mail to pay their death benefits. Ten passed away out of benefit. This is the largest number of stonecutters that ever died in that space of time in the entire history of the General Union.—Stonecutters' Journal.