

State Historical Society

# THE WAGGEWORKER



VOL. 4

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 5, 1907

NO. 13

## Among the Live Union Workers of Lincoln

The Central Labor Union will meet next Tuesday evening, and it will have a raft of important business to handle. First and foremost, of course, will be the matter of continuing to push the Labor Temple project. The matter of the theatrical benefits will come up for definite action. And then the matter of giving the initial impetus to the proper observation of Labor Day will demand attention.

It is not a bit too early to begin arranging for Labor Day. It is always necessary, it seems, to put in a lot of time getting ready to do something definite, and it takes time to get the various locals to send in their delegates to participate in the arranging of the program. There are a score of reasons why Labor Day this year should eclipse all former efforts. There is some opposition to a parade this year, and the opponents are prepared to advance sound arguments to support their contentions. One argument is that the musicians have failed to organize, thus making it impossible to secure the services of a union band, and a lot of union men are in favor of standing pat on the resolution adopted by the central body last year not to parade again behind non-union music. Those who favor a parade, however, will be on hand with their arguments, and here's hoping that the matter will be settled amicably.

The Labor Temple project has been the subject of a lot of talk since the recent open meeting. Men who are not engaged in any craft has signified a willingness to get in on the game. Walton G. Roberts, the undertaker, stopped the editor of The Wageworker on the street the other day long enough to say:

"It's a mighty good thing and I want to give it a little push towards success. I'll go you \$25 on it as a starter, and if necessary will do a little better than that."

A. H. Armstrong, the clothier, said: "Of course I must be counted in on the scheme, but to what extent depends altogether on the way the union men themselves take hold of it. 'God helps those who help themselves.' Show us what you can do, and we'll do what we can to help you. But it's your first move."

The Wageworker knows where \$300 is coming from when the need arrives. It will not come from union men, either, but from men who are neither craftsmen nor employers of labor.

The various unions are requested to select their member of the building committee and to report the name of the man selected to George H. Bush, secretary of the Central Labor Union. This is an important matter, and the success of the movement depends upon the men thus selected.

Every delegate to the Central Labor Union owes it to himself and to his union to be on hand when President Kelsey's gavel falls next Tuesday evening at 8:30 o'clock.

### BORAH INDICTED.

How many of our readers know that Senator Borah, leading counsel in the Haywood prosecution, is now under federal indictment for stealing government timber land? Well, he is, and it may be possible that before the trial is over with, Orchard will confess that it was he and not Borah who did the stealing.—Colorado Springs Labor News.

### NEW LABOR COMMISSIONER.

J. J. Rider, an Omaha Politician, Lands the Coveted Job.

J. J. Rider, an Omaha politician and ex-newspaper man, was appointed deputy labor commissioner last Monday by Governor Sheldon. Rider was backed by the Douglas county republicans; his chief qualification being that he is an astute politician.

Rider is not a craftsman, is not a union man, and knows nothing about the labor question as it concerns the great mass of workmen in this state. He is employed in the office of

the clerk of Douglas county, and was formerly a reporter on the Omaha Bee. Back east somewhere he got into politics a little bit and was elected to the legislature a couple of times. He was candidate for the republican legislative nomination in Douglas county last fall, but failed to arrive. The deputy labor commissionership seems to have been given him as a "consolation prize."

Governor Sheldon has appointed Joseph W. Johnson deputy food and dairy commissioner. Mr. Johnson is fully as well qualified for this job as Rider is for the other.

### THE ANNUAL BENEFIT.

Fulton Stock Company Again Favors the Central Labor Union.

The Fulton Stock Company, under the management of Jess B. Fulton, and Manager Zehring of the Oliver have again tendered company and house to the Central Labor Union for another benefit. The date selected by the management and the Central Labor Union committee is Monday evening, July 17, and the attraction will be the beautiful drama, "The Belle of Richmond." There will be no increase in the prices of admission, the prices remaining 25, 15 and 10 cents. Box seats will be sold at 50 cents each.

The tickets will be distributed to the delegates at the meeting next Tuesday evening, and will be sold to friends and supporters of the union movement. These tickets must be exchanged at the box office at the theatre for reserved seat tickets.

Beginning Monday, July 10, the Fulton Stock Company will offer for the entire week the beautiful military drama, "Cumberland, '61." This will be staged in the best possible style, and the full strength of the company will be used. The offering is one of the very best in the company's repertoire.

Everybody get busy now and boost the benefit!

### THE CARPENTERS

First Meeting of the Quarter Marked by Satisfactory Attendance.

The Carpenters had a rousing meeting Tuesday night, the beginning of the third quarter. The hall was crowded and business was dispatched with a rush. Three new members were taken in, with three or four more on the waiting list. The following officers were installed for the ensuing term:

Ross Shepherd, president.  
Oscar Stowell, vice president.  
A. R. Gibson, financial secretary.  
J. A. Chambers, recording secretary.  
Ed Bly, business agent.  
George Quick, delegate C. L. U.  
A. R. Kent, trustee.

W. A. Gray, who resides at University Place, was struck by a Traction company car last Monday afternoon and seriously injured. He is resting comfortably at his home.

H. E. Atterbury is located at Fairmont, instead of at Fairbury, as reported in The Wageworker last week.

### THE CIGARMAKERS.

The Cigarmakers met Tuesday evening and elected the following officers for the ensuing term:

T. W. Evans, president.  
John Steiner, financial secretary.  
Jed Kohoup, treasurer.  
J. Herminghaus, recording secretary.

T. W. Evans was selected as the union's representative on the Labor Temple committee. Messrs. Evans, Roas and McMann were elected delegates to the C. L. U. Business is reported good.

### SARCASTIC.

Frank Kennedy Turns Delegate McCulloch's Language Back Upon Him.

Butte Typographical union has filed exhaustive charges against the executive council of the I. T. U., charging it with serious offenses, both of omission and commission.

"It is useless to try to overtake these men in their folly. Day by day they bring forth new accusations, week by week they put out new charges. You are attacked one day, and I am attacked another, and some one else on the third day, and no effort is ever made to prove the charges made. These men do not want to

## Third Annual Benefit Lincoln Central Labor Union

### Oliver Theatre Monday, July 17

Through the courtesy of Mr. Jess Fulton and his company, and Manager Zehring of the Oliver, the Lincoln Central Labor Union offers its Third Annual Benefit at the Oliver Theatre on the above date. On that occasion the Fulton Stock Company will present the beautiful southern drama

## "The Belle of Richmond"

Coupons exchangeable at the box office for reserved seat tickets are now on sale by delegates to the central body. No advance in prices—25, 15, and 10 cents. Box seats 50 cents. The public is cordially invited to help us make this benefit a success. The proceeds are for the furtherance of the work of the Central Labor Union.

prove them, they do not care to prove them. They are as careless of the truth as they are of the characters of themselves or others. Buzzards and scavengers, they are a disgrace to their calling and a menace to the peace of all."—Western Laborer.

### STRIKE A THUMBOLDT.

Non-Union Men Quit to Enforce Demand for Better Wage Scale.

Humboldt, July 2.—Humboldt is experiencing some of the woes of a manufacturing city, as this morning eighteen employes of the brick company went on a strike subsequent to the refusal of the management to increase their pay, and the plant is now shut down pending a settlement or a filling of the vacant positions. The workmen affected are employed in the pit and

the house, and pursuant to their request their wage was recently placed at five cents per thousand instead of at the day rate, which they have received heretofore. The kilns are not all completed and the management has been unable to keep the plant running on full time owing to inability to burn the brick, and the men became dissatisfied on account of having to lay off so often. Yesterday they asked the manager, O. L. Bantz, for an increase to eight cents per thousand, but this was denied by the latter, whose action was upheld by the directors, and as a result eighteen of the men quit this morning. The strike is not attended by any demonstration, and it is hoped an amicable adjustment may be reached and the establishment kept running profitably as it has proven a good thing for the city.

## NOTICE TO LOCAL UNIONS

At the mass meeting at Central Labor Union hall last Tuesday night to consider the Labor Temple proposition, it was decided to ask all trades and labor unions to select one member each to act upon an advisory committee. This committee will consider ways and means, and report back to their locals for rejection or approval. Local unions are urged to select the best possible material for this committee, and to do so at once, without waiting for formal notice from the secretary of the mass meeting, and to notify George Bush when selection is made. As soon as a majority of the unions have reported, the committee will be called together.

Every union in the county, regardless of affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, is urged to select a member of the committee, and to do so at once. Speedy action means quicker results.

## First Walking Delegate In American History

In the year 1774 the first union was organized in America, says Charles H. Sanford, of North Bend, Ore., in the last issue of The Carpenter. At that time a fellow by the name of Sam Adams, discontented with the state of affairs, made up his mind to get the boys together and organize. No doubt he was called an agitator by the boss and blacklisted. Nevertheless, he got the boys to back him up. A committee was appointed consisting of Sam Adams, Jack Adams, John Fay, Pat Henry and George Washington, to draw up a set of resolutions setting forth their grievances, which they did, and the following resolution was adopted (see declaration of independence:)

"Resolved, That we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That when any form of government becomes destructive of their ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. \* \* \* and when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a desire to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."

The boss, whose name was John Bull, got rip roaring mad and said he would be ding busted before he would give them what they asked for, and said he would fire the whole bunch if they didn't behave, but these union men were pretty stiff necked themselves and said they would go him a whirl if they lost their jobs by it. One fellow got considerable applause by shouting, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

About one-third of the members were opposed to calling a strike, but the motion carried, and George Washington was unanimously elected "business agent." No doubt you have heard something of what happened. How they gained their point, and not only gained their point, but kicked the boss off the job and took charge themselves and ran it on the co-operative plan. They had considerable trouble before the won; the boss ran in a lot of strike breakers, and there were quite a lot of non-union men and "scabs" around them, and some joined them just to keep the boss posted on what they were going to do, but they made short work of these fellows when they found them out. Sometime after they got this settled, they had trouble among themselves, because some of the union men wanted to work non-union men, but Abe Lincoln, who was then president of the union, said "No." Then the fellows who wanted to use the non-union men said they would draw out of the union and get a charter, and organize a union of their own. But Abe was a pretty sensible old duck and said: "We must preserve the integrity of the union" and he went after the blacksliders, thrashed them into line again, made them discharge their non-union men and took the non-union men into the union.

Probably there are not very many people who have heard of this before, as it happened in an out-of-the-way sort of a place, but I will give my word of honor that it did happen just as I told it, and if those fellows did it, and it was considered all right, I don't see why other fellows, who are the same kind of fellows, have not the right to do the same. The very foundation of these United States was laid on the organizing of a few men who went on strike to better their conditions. Yet, hoarse on the Fourth of July sounding the praises of George Washington and his co-patriots, stren-

uously oppose any attempt the men of today may make in organizing to protect their interests and better their condition. I feel safe in saying had these men who now oppose organized labor been in existence in the year 1774 they would have opposed George Washington and his co-patriots, and would have been what they are today—non-union men and scabs—possibly spies. They can not bring forth a logical argument in support of the stand they take if they believe in and support the action taken by George Washington and the others, and if they do not believe in and support the action taken they should be driven from the country as traitors to this government. The sole and only feeling that prompts them to oppose organized labor is selfishness—pure, unadulterated hog bristle selfishness. The laboring man and woman produce all the wealth of the country, directly or indirectly, and receive a very small portion in return for so doing and those who work little or not at all, and who receive the larger portion begrudge them the little they do get, and continually and systematically fight any attempt they may make to get a little more of what is justly due them.

In this little town, at the present time, the men are asking for one hour less on the workday—one hour more in which to train their children in the way they should go, so they may become good and able citizens, so they will be able to act justly and honorably when the government of this country may be put in their hands; one hour more in which to read, that they may be the better prepared to live this life and the life to come, and I understand the one man who is most opposed to it has said he would see their tongue hanging out and black for want of food before he would grant it. Methinks I can see him standing on a platform on the Fourth of July, eulogizing and praising the acts of George Washington.

### A BIG PRIZE.

And Some Wageworker Reader Ought to Win It.

The American Humane Educational society, through its president, George T. Angell, 19 Milk Street, Boston, Mass., makes the following announcement: "Our American Humane Education society desires to secure the best story that can be written to make the rich and poor more kind to each other and so harmonize the disputes between capital and labor—a story which will be read with interest by both rich and poor, and for this purpose I offer, in behalf of our American Humane Education society, a prize of one thousand dollars for the best. To receive the prize the story must be declared by critics carefully selected by us to be worth a thousand dollars. Each competition must be typewritten on stitched sheets, signed with a fictitious name and accompanied by a sealed letter giving the actual name and postoffice address of the writer, which will not be opened until the decision has been made. All stories must be received at the offices of our American Humane Education society, 19 Milk Street, Boston, on or before January 1, 1908, and on each of the envelopes must appear the prize offer which must be kept entirely separate." There are many readers of The Wageworker who are capable of carrying off this prize, did they but set their minds to the task of preparing a story on this subject.

### LAUNRY WORKERS RESUME.

The Laundry Workers' strike in San Francisco is happily terminated and the members of that organization returned to work last Monday. The agreement reached with the employers, and which was approved by the union, provides a graduated scale and concedes the eight-hour day on the installment plan.

### LOTS OF THEM.

A great many people squeal like a stuck hog against working with a scab; and yet some of these men load up with scab goods on the way home, and never even ask for a clerk's union card when making the purchases.—Evansville Advocate.