

State Historical Society

THE WAGEWORKER



VOL. 4

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 12, 1907

NO. 14

Among the Live Union Workers of Lincoln

President J. H. Brooks of Lincoln Pressmen and Assistants' Union No. 106, who represented his local at the international convention in New York recently, submits the following interesting report of the convention through the columns of The Wage-worker:

"The nineteenth annual convention of the Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, held at Brighton Beach, N. Y., June 22-25, was the largest and best in the history of the organization. The supply men and the entertainment committee left nothing undone that would make the week an enjoyable one for all the delegates and their wives and friends. The 'clam bake' given by the supply men of New York City was enjoyed by nearly six hundred delegates and visitors, and was a day that will never be forgotten by those who had the pleasure of being there. The entertainment committee pulled off various other stunts during the remainder of the week.

"James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical Union, Robert Glockling, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, John F. Frel, president of the Electrotypers and Stereotypers, and other international officials extended fraternal greetings from their organizations to the assembled pressmen and assistants, and wished them God speed in their work.

"A majority of the delegates seemed to think that the organization was in need of a 'housecleaning' and as a result the administrative officials were entirely changed. In the mix-up the western men got the best of it. The following officers were elected:

"President, George S. Berry, San Francisco.

"First Vice President, William Murphy, Butte.

"Second Vice President, John G. Warrington, St. Louis.

"Third Vice President, Peter J. Breen, New York.

"Secretary-Treasurer, Patrick McMullen, Cincinnati.

President Berry is a model young man and a unionist through and through. For several years he has been organizer for the Pacific coast, and through his never-tiring efforts he has won the eight-hour day and closed shop for the pressmen of the entire coast country. It is hoped that through his diplomacy and knowledge of the 'game,' and his experience in the labor movement, that he can safely lead us through the battles of the coming years.

"The other members of the board of directors are of the same calibre as President Berry. The agreement between the United Typothete was discussed from every standpoint by the convention for nearly three days, and was finally ratified by the convention with the following conditions attached:

"Whereas, our board of directors has renewed the agreement with the United Typothete of America, now therefore be it

"Resolved, That said agreement is hereby ratified and approved, provided the 'open shop' clause is stricken out and an amendment is inserted providing for nine hour pay for eight hours' work. And be it further

"Resolved, That in the event the U. T. of A. rejects these amendments our board of directors is instructed to submit the question of the immediate inauguration of the eight hour day to the referendum, and said referendum to be taken thirty days after such rejection."

"There has been some misunderstanding throughout the country as to what the pressmen had done with the agreement. I believe that those who read the above will agree that we are not contract breakers, but admit that we are only trying to get what we think is right. There seems to be a more brotherly feeling between the different branches of the printing crafts than has existed before. They are all beginning to think that we should get closer together and work hand in hand in matters in which we are all alike interested. I believe that the men we have elected will do all in their power to bring about such a condition.

"The convention, as you will note, has taken the power out of the hands

of a few men and lodged it with the rank and file, and gives every man a chance to vote on questions that are important to him. This is a condition that should prevail in all organized crafts.

"A few minor changes were made in the laws during the convention. The 1908 convention will be held in Mobile, Alabama."

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Installs New Officers and Meets With National Organizer Brady.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 met in regular session last Sunday, and after opening under the rules the following elected officers were installed to serve during the ensuing term:

J. R. Bain, president.

H. C. Peat, vice-president.

H. W. Bingaman, recording secretary.

F. H. Hebbard, financial secretary.

J. M. Leaden, S. H. Webster, C. E. Barngrover, executive committee.

J. G. Sayer, sergeant-at-arms.

General Organizer Brady of Indianapolis was present, having come to Lincoln in response to a request for the presence of an international officer to assist the local in picking up some loose ends. Mr. Brady addressed the union briefly, and during the next two or three days met with the executive committee. He returned Kansas City Tuesday night, but will return to Lincoln the first of the week to remain until matters are satisfactorily adjusted.

Fred Ihringer was elected to represent the printers on the advisory board of the Labor Temple.

Sam Hoon, ex-president of the Lincoln union, but now a resident of Colorado Springs, was present and expressed his joy at being permitted to meet and greet old friends once more.

Three new members were obligated.

The printers have decided to lease headquarters in Carpenters' hall, and Secretary Hebbard may be found there at the usual hours of his regular day for receiving dues.

"Doc" Righter went to Wilber Tuesday to make some repairs on the "Merg" in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hoon and daughters, Helen and Dorothy, spent several days this week with friends in Lincoln. They will return to their home in Colorado Springs after a brief visit with relatives in northeast Nebraska.

Mrs. Will M. Maupin and children went to Central City last Monday to visit with Mrs. Maupin's sister, Mrs. Rod C. Smith.

R. R. Allen came up from Table Rock to attend the meeting last Sunday and become a full-fledged union printer. He went back home Monday morning, the proud possessor of a card.

A lot of printing without the label is being sent back to those who issued it, and the "little sticker" is in evidence on every piece. The label campaign is bringing results.

Mr. Rogers has been taken to the hospital pending a decision upon his application for admittance to the Home. He will be sent to his folks in Kansas City for a visit soon in any event.

A half-dozen members have signified their intention of attending the Hot Springs convention and taking in everything on the way.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Turner are "clamming" along the rivers of Iowa and having the time of their lives.

JUDGE COSGRAVE.

Police Judge Asks to Be Promoted to County Judgeship.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the announcement of the candidacy of Judge P. James Cosgrave for the republican nomination to the office of county judge. Judge Cosgrave has served almost three terms as police judge, and has made a splendid record in that office. He is well qualified for the office of county judge and has earned the promotion.

Judge Cosgrave is opposed to the idea of "Bar nominations" and frankly states his position on that point when asked. He believes that the matter should be left wholly to the primaries, and is willing to rest his case with the people.

Third Annual Benefit Lincoln Central Labor Union

Oliver Theatre Monday, July 22

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

"LYNNWOOD"

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

THE HOME LIBRARY.

The controversy between the I. T. U. executive council and B. Frank Swigart, of St. Louis, which has been the subject of much comment, will probably come up for discussion at the Hot Springs convention, and we hope an understanding will be reached in a manner satisfactory to all. The library is at the Home, thanks to Swigart, and favorable mention to Kreiter and "If any man attempts to remove that library from the Home shoot him on the spot."—Easton Journal.

Metal polishers employed at the Reylers Lock company, Indiana, refused to accept a 20 to 40 per cent reduction, and the proprietors have, of course, declared in favor of the "open" shop.

EVERYWHERE BUT LINCOLN.

During the last five months there have been 1,392 new members initiated in Division 85, of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees at Pittsburg and it now has the third largest membership in the United States. The division has not yet been able to make a closed agreement with the Pittsburg Street Railways company, but it has been so successful in organizing the men employed on these lines that practically everyone is now a member of the union.

Sheet metal workers, the poorest paid trade in the building line, are on strike for an increase in wages in Cincinnati. Thirty of the independent employers have signed up.

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.

Central Union Boosts Some Big Things Along

The Central Labor Union got away with a goodly lot of business at the meeting Tuesday night, and managed to do it in a reasonable length of time.

The special committee having in charge the theatrical benefit made report and the tickets for the benefit at the Oliver, given by the Fulton Stock company and Manager Zehring, were distributed. The benefit will be given on Monday evening, July 22, and the play will be "Lynnwood," a pretty southern drama that will please everybody. The benefit committee has another one in view, but just at present the plan is not in shape to be made public. It contemplates a Labor Day engagement that will provide a lot of pleasure to the toilers and at the same time bring in a goodly sum to be used in the furtherance of unionism.

Secretary Bush admitted that he had not been able to see and notify many unions of the necessity of selecting representatives on the Labor Temple advisory committee, but said he would get to it right away. The following representatives were reported:

J. W. Dickson, Carpenters.

Fred Ihringer, Printers.

T. W. Evans, Cigarmakers.

Guy Warner, Plumbers.

The matter of starting something for Labor Day was taken up, and the central body decided to invite all unions to select members of a general committee, and suggested that the ones selected meet with the Central Labor Union on Tuesday evening, July 23, and get the thing started off right.

The indications are that there will be no bands in the parade this year, provided, of course, there is a parade. Last year the Central Labor Union went on record as opposed to marching behind non-union bands in future, and this seems to be the general sentiment of the unionists of the city. The fact that a large percent of the members of Lincoln bands are union craftsmen does not, in the estimation of the rank and file, excuse them from organizing as musicians.

The attendance Tuesday night was a little larger than usual, but it lacked a lot of being what it should be. The Barbers have not been represented for some time. The Lathers, Plasterers, Hodcarriers and Building Laborers and several other organizations have not been represented at all. The Teamsters' Union seems to have gone by the board altogether. The Theatrical Stage Employees have not yet received their charter, but when they do they will send delegates without fail. The Railway Carmen presumably have not been invited to send delegates. They should by all means be represented.

The trades represented at the meeting made cheerful reports of the trade situation. Everybody seems to be at work. The matter of securing more accurate information concerning the organizations of the city was brought up, and it was generally agreed that the records of the central body should be amplified, made accurate and brought to date and kept there. The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

ISN'T THIS AWFUL!

Horrible State of Affairs Pointed Out By the Journal.

Last night at midnight a young man and a young woman standing on the north side of the street between Ninth and Tenth streets, embraced each other fondly under the bright glare of an electric light. The couple then separated, the young woman going upstairs into a block and the man east on P street and no policeman was in sight to disturb the pair.—Lincoln Journal, Wednesday, July 10.

Isn't that a horrible state of affairs? What is our truculent police force doing that such a horrible thing could happen right in the heart of the city, and no arrests and executions follow? The idea of the peace and quiet of our beautiful city being thus rudely shattered by a young man kissing his sweetheart goodnight, and no just punishment for the awful crime being administered, is repugnant to the law-abiding citizens of Lincoln. What right has a young man to kiss his sweetheart goodnight, anyhow. Es-

pecially under the glare of an arc light?

The Journal deserves the thanks of all law-abiding people for its laudable efforts to break up this illegal practice of sweethearts kissing one, another goodnight. And if the police do not act on the hint given them we purpose bringing the matter to the attention of the excise board.

ST. LOUIS LABOR TEMPLE.

Old Town on the River Gets Doss of the Building Fever.

The following from the St. Louis Daily Times of July 8 indicates that the building fever is becoming epidemic among the trades unionists:

"Nearly 200 delegates, representing unions affiliated with the Building Trades Council and Central Trades and Labor Union attended the 'Labor Temple' convention in Waltham Hall Sunday and the proposition of the trades unionists of the city to build a home for organized labor was given added impetus as a result of the meeting.

"For more than two hours the delegates discussed the report of the organization committee, which provided for the levying of a 5 cents a month per capita tax until the amount paid in equaled the cost of one share of stock for each member at \$5 per share.

"During the course of the debate on the committee's report, speeches were made by Owen Miller, David Kreyling, John Spangler, J. B. Conroy, Eugene Sarber, Joseph Sullivan, T. F. Galoskowsky, J. G. Schwartz and others.

"Many points were brought out during the course of the debate which showed that the delegates were inclined to be very cautious in undertaking this project, which it is expected will involve the expenditure of \$250,000.

"Strong terms were used by several of the speakers in denouncing the condition of the halls in which most of the unions now hold their meetings and the determination to get away from the 'bar-room meeting place' was clearly the keynote of the meeting.

"It was finally decided to enlarge the organization committee by adding five delegates, thus making it a committee of fifteen.

Another convention is to be held Sunday, August 4, to which the committee of fifteen has been instructed to report a definite plan of procedure covering the amount of the tax, method of collection, etc.

"Owen Miller presided over the meeting and John Spangler acted as secretary."

THE BENEFIT PERFORMANCE.

Committee Now Hustling Sale of Tickets for Big Event.

"The Belle of Richmond" will be the offering of the Fulton Stock company at the Oliver for the first half of next week, and this pretty drama will be given a production worthy of the company and the house. The company is making extra efforts to make the annual benefit performance for the Central Labor Union a great success. This benefit will be given on Monday evening, July 22, and the offering will be "Lynnwood," a pretty southern drama full of interest, and abounding in sentiment and comedy.

Delegates from the central body are now engaged in selling the tickets for this performance. Those who have not yet secured tickets may do so by calling on T. W. Evans at Wohlenberg's cigar store.

Every unionist interested in providing the central body with funds for organization work should make an effort to sell tickets for the benefit performance. Tickets sold by unionists may be exchanged at the box office for reserved seats on and after the Thursday prior to the benefit.

The only difference between a strikebreaker and a union man who buys non-union goods is, the strikebreaker has the courage to stand out before the gaze of the public, while the buyer of non-union goods does it in a sneaking way.—Trade Union Advocate, Trenton, N. J.