

# THE WAGWORKER



VOL. 4

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 26, 1907

NO. 17

## Bartenders Inaugurate Memorial Observance

Lincoln unions seem to have fallen into the habit of setting the pace for sister unions throughout the country. Four years ago Lincoln Typographical Union inaugurated the custom of observing memorial day each year, and now the custom has the sanction of international law and last May scores of local unions observed the day with fitting ceremonies.

Last Sunday the Bartenders' Union of Lincoln observed "Memorial Sunday," and thus inaugurated a custom in their craft which promises to speedily become well nigh universal. It was, so far as known, the first time a Bartenders' Union that ever held memorial exercises over the graves of departed members. The local met at Carpenters' hall at 3 o'clock last Sunday afternoon, nearly 60 per cent of the membership being present. Each member was given a carnation and a mourning badge, and the local marched from the hall to Sixteenth and O streets, where a special car was taken to Wyuka cemetery. The union's banner and an American flag were carried at the head of the procession. At the cemetery gates the procession again formed and proceeded to the grave of a recently deceased member where brief memorial exercises were held and the grave decorated. The members then visited other graves and decorated them, two of the graves being located in the Catholic cemetery. There was no attempt at a formal program. After the decoration services the members returned to the city and disbanded at the hall.

The members have unanimously decided to observe the custom every year, and already a movement is on foot to purchase a burial lot and erect a monument. The following address was delivered at the grave of Fred Karcher, where the ceremonies were held, the speaker being Will M. Maupin, editor of The Wagworker:

"It is meet and proper that we, the surviving comrades of that great army which marches and fights in the cause of unionism, should pause in our campaign now and then, and for one brief hour devote ourselves to tender thoughts of the comrades who have gone before; comrades who marched side by side with us, who divided our misfortunes and doubled their joys by sharing with us. In the almost death grapple for existence which has been thrust upon us by modern industrialism, it is most natural that unless we join hands in mutual helpfulness we should degenerate socially and physically; it is most natural that unless we pause in the struggle now and then and let tender memories and fraternal sentiments stir our hearts we should grow callous and unsympathetic, and in time tear one another's throats over the few bones dropped from the tables of the more fortunate.

"Because such gatherings as these call us back to our better selves, we who fight in the great industrial army have realized their necessity, and so we of the various crafts and occupations are more and more every year laying aside the cares of life long enough to commune for a brief though tender season with the spirits of those who have answered the final summons.

"In an hour like this the tortuous language of the logician, the fine spun theories of the philosophers, and the creeds and dogmas of the theologians, are wasted upon us, and we attune our minds to that language of the infinite which speaks to the hearts and not to the ears of men. In this silent city of the dead, where the green grass waves above the crumbling forms of once valiant soldiers of peace who were our comrades, we need no theologian to tell us that death did not end all for these dear friends.

"When the winds of autumn blow and the chill winds of winter come, we see the once blooming rosebush lose leaf and petal and become the bare brown bush. Its appearance then is not indicative of what it shall be when the spring winds shall blow again, and the sunshine of April and of May shall call back to root and branch and twig the life-giving sap. And can it be that the same kindly hand which fashioned the rosebush and the stalwart man shall deny to the wasted and empty shell of mortality the same glorious resurrection given to the rose? Men in the pride

of their strength and manhood may often entertain doubts of immortality, but the doubts are only momentary. Deep down in every heart is that longing for another life—for another opportunity beyond the grave—for another reunion with the loved ones lost. And can it be that the great power which framed the wonderful mechanism of these mortal bodies overlooked the answer to the longing which every heart has felt?

"I am not of those who look upon death as something to be feared. I have been called upon to pass under the rod of affliction, and while bowed beneath that rod, mourning the temporary separation from loved ones, I have been sustained by the belief that their farewell kiss was only a pleasant good-bye until that glorious morn when hearts knit to hearts on earth should be knit together again on a fairer shore. And believing thus, I am constrained to believe that across the chasm which we call death, the spirit of all my loved ones, all my comrades, who have gone before, are reaching out to me, that they are helping me because the tender memories of their personal associations with me on earth make me better fit for the stern duties of life that confront me. Because of these things I am made stronger by these annual memorial meetings. They awake in our hearts better thoughts, kinder feelings and strengthen the ties of friendship, without which life would not be worth the living.

"The Great Craftsman who walked and taught in Galilee, and in three years laid down a code of ethics which has regenerated the world, told us that "No man liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself." The great truth contained in these words grows more important as the days go by. I am my brother's keeper; you are your brother's keeper. And because we are our brother's keepers we who toll in kindred occupations have banded ourselves together in unions to better guard our weaker brothers. Unionism is the outgrowth of an unselfish, not a selfish, motive. We demand better wages, not that we alone may prosper more, but that those dependent upon us may enjoy life as it should be enjoyed. We demand shorter hours, not because we desire to work less, but because we desire to give our brothers an opportunity to secure some of the good things of life. We organize because life is a battle that cannot be won by individual action. In these unions we learn to know one another as we would never learn if engaged in a selfish struggle for individual existence. Ties of friendship are formed that are only strengthened by the appearance of the death angel. We follow the mortal remains of the dead brother to the cemetery, we hear the clods rattle upon the coffin and listen to the words of the minister as he repeats, "Ashes to ashes and dust to dust," but if we have learned the lessons of unionism well we realize that death has not ended all. We realize that death has only added to the sum of our responsibilities, for into our keeping has been left the sobbing widow and the orphaned children. Into the keeping of our memories is left remembrances of the kindly deeds, the smiling welcomes and the handclaps of the dead brothers who sleep but for a time, only to awaken as the rose awakens at the call of spring. From these meetings we go back to our daily toil, strengthened for the conflict by this brief communion with the spirits of those who fought the fight and who have finished the course.

"There is no death! What seems so is transition: This life of mortal breath is but a suburb of the life elysian, Whose portals we call death." "The blossoms we lay today upon the resting places of our dead comrades will fade away into decay, just as their mortal bodies have faded to dust. But we will remember this brief hour when we scattered the blossoms, and the memory will be an inspiration to us. Ours shall be the blame if we fail to profit by the lessons of fraternity and charity which these dead comrades taught us by precept and example.

"But in this remembering and decorating the graves of our dead comrades, let us not forget the living

comrades. Let us not reserve all our fragrant flowers for the dead, but scatter them into the lives of the living. When we turn away from this beautiful spot where sleep our fallen comrades, let us carry with us a realization of the fact that the flowers we have left here will be of no avail to those they cover unless we carry with us the knowledge that we owe more to those who are still with us. To the brother in sickness or in distress, to the widow and to the orphan, to all the countless afflicted who toll shoulder to shoulder with us, we owe a debt that a lifetime of service can scarce repay. Fraternity is a flower that will not bloom in the narrow confines of one's own life; it must be given the sunshine of comradeship, the soft rains of friendship and the rich soil of mutual love and forbearance.

"This, then, is the lesson for those who still survive. We gather here to pay tribute to the memory of our beloved ones, but more than that—we gather here that we may take on new hope, new faith, new courage, that shall better fit us for the battles of the morrow.

"Sleep on, O, comrades brave and true! Sweet be thy rest until the Master bids thee awake. And may thy spirits hover over us and inspire us to better works that shall result in better things for all those who toil and strive, and in tolling and striving forget not the weak and the oppressed.

"And when the last one of us shall have been laid away in the narrow confines of the tomb, may we all awake to join in that Grandeur Union where all men are brothers, and where toll and heartaches and hunger and oppression shall never more be known."

### LABEL LEAGUE DISBANDS.

Faithful Few Could No Longer Carry the Load of Responsibility.

The Lincoln branch of the Woman's International Union Label League has disbanded. The charter has been returned, and the small balance in the treasury, amounting to about \$10, has been turned over to the Central Labor Union. A few earnest women worked hard to make the Label League a success, but the absence of any industrial organization among the women of the city, together with the indifference and unconcern of many who were vitally interested in making the league a success, worked to make the organization a failure. For a year a faithful half-dozen have met regularly, paid dues and boosted for union-made goods all they knew how, but realizing that they could accomplish nothing worth while unless others were interested, they decided to quit. In disbarring the league thanked the central body for its many courtesies, that organization having paid the League's hall rent from its inception.

The Label League should have had as many members as there are wives and sisters of union men in Lincoln. The women are the spenders of the wages, and this puts them in position to make a good boost for the label. The men should have taken a greater interest, because the League was calculated to help them. But the union men ignored it.

### PRINTERS' PICNIC

Guests of Capital Auxiliary at Antelope Park Tuesday Evening.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 entertained such of the printers as were courteous enough to accept a kindly invitation at Antelope park Tuesday evening. Supper was spread under the trees at 7 o'clock, and the seven or eight printers present had enough of good things and to spare. Barring the presence of the flies the evening was pleasantly spent. The women engaged in a rope jumping contest names of winners being suppressed. The men had a tug-o-war which resulted in a tie. Some "Injun wrestling" afforded amusement for an admiring crowd. The picnic was voted a success.

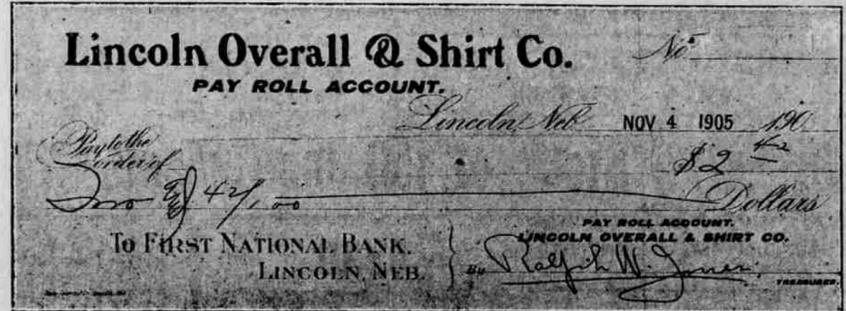
### THE CARPENTERS.

Little Notes of the Craft Picked Up Here and There.

Business Agent Bly of the local union has been laid up for several days, and therefore unable to attend to his duties. At this writing he is reported on the mend.

With other tradesmen engaged in the construction of the Orlo flats a number of carpenters attended the re-

## LEST WE FORGET! LEST WE FORGET!



The above is a fac simile of a check issued by the Lincoln Overall and Shirt Co., to a former employee, the check representing the wage paid for fifty-nine hours' work. This fac simile is again printed because the manager of the company issuing it is manager of the Epworth Assembly, which opens next week.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name, and in Thy name have cast out devils, and in Thy

name done many wonderful works? An then will I profess unto them, I never knew you! depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

"Woe unto you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers, therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Lest we forget! Lest we forget!

## To Work With the Commercial Club

If the Central Labor Union carries out a plan decided on at the meeting Tuesday night, it will have work enough to keep it busy for the next few months, and it will be work that will call for the best talent of the organization.

Some months ago a committee of the Allied Building Trades called on the executive committee of the Commercial club, and the two committees had a long and satisfactory consultation as to conditions in Lincoln. The Allied Building Trades council now asks the Central Labor Union to act through a committee in conjunction with the building trades committee, to call upon the Commercial club and endeavor to arrive at some understanding whereby the trades unionists of the city can work hand in hand with the Commercial club for the upbuilding of Lincoln. The whole trouble so far seems to have been that the unionists and the members of the Commercial club have not sufficiently understood one another. If this is the case the joint committees hope to settle the trouble amicably.

The trade unionists insist that business men who talk about the necessity of "building up Lincoln institutions" ought to be willing to employ Lincoln citizens and taxpayers in preference to the "floaters" who come in, work through a season and then depart for their homes elsewhere to spend the wages earned here. Again, they insist that if they are expected to purchase Lincoln made goods the goods shall be up to specifications made by the purchasers. The business men insist that the carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, painters and others whom they employ shall perform the work according to specifications.

The joint committee is going to meet with the executive committee of the Commercial club as soon as possible, and The Wagworker anticipates good results for all parties concerned. The following gentlemen have been named to represent the central body on the committee, other names to be added as affiliated unions send delegates regularly to the meetings:

Kelsey, Leaden, Evans, Warner, Rudy, Walker, Parmalee, Weckizer.

"It is a mistake for the union men of Lincoln to look upon the members of the Commercial Club as 'enemies,'" said one speaker at the Meeting Tuesday night. "On the contrary, a majority of the members of the club who employ labor are really our friends. The trouble is that we have neglected to show our side of the question. We have failed to demonstrate, as we are

well able to do, that our interests are their interests. We have been looking at a lot of things from different standpoints, and it is up to use to bring the business men around to our viewpoint. A majority of the members of the Commercial Club are not employers of labor. They are lawyers, doctors, dentists and capitalists, and the question of labor does not in any way interest them. The minority members who do employ labor can easily be reached, and we have failed in our duty to ourselves and to our unions if we have neglected to so inform ourselves that we cannot demonstrate by facts beyond dispute that our interests are common interests."

It was hoped that the delegates appointed by various unions to act on the Labor Day committee would appear in sufficient numbers to permit the holding of a meeting Tuesday night. But the hope died. The Central Labor Union does not meet again for three weeks, and that will only be two weeks before Labor Day. In view of this fact the central body has decided to call a mass meeting at the hall, 1034 O street, next Monday night, for the purpose of starting the ball to rolling. Every unionist who is interested in making the Labor Day demonstration a success, in whatever form is decided upon, is cordially invited to be present at the meeting. While called by the Central Labor Union that body will have no official connection with the meeting.

### MORRISON A GRADUATE.

One of Few Leaders Boasting a College Education.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor for the last ten years, is one of the few labor leaders who have had a college education. He was graduated from the law school of Lake Forest University. After his post-graduate course he began the printing trade, and from that time on he was active in the general labor movement. He was chosen to devote his time and ability to the cause of the workingman instead of practicing his profession, which would undoubtedly have brought him greater returns in a financial way.—Ex.

The International Union of Brewery Workers, recently deprived of its charter by the American Federation of Labor, has a membership of 40,000.

## LABOR DAY MASS MEETING

ALL UNION MEN interested in making Labor Day a success, are cordially invited to attend a mass meeting at Central Labor Union hall, 1034 O street, Monday evening, July 29, at 8:30 o'clock. The meeting is called by the Central Labor Union, but that body will have no official connection with the meeting.