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State Historical Society



Temple Stockholders Elect Directorate

Last Tuesday night occurred the first annual election of the Lincoln Labor Temple Building Association, held at 127 North Twelfth street. During the two hours the polls were opened the room looked like a political caucus, and there was a lot of figuring done to produce results that would commend themselves to the stockholders at large.

The articles of incorporation provide that six directors at large shall be elected in addition to the one director selected by each union owning 100 shares of stock. As yet only union men are stockholders, so only union men were considered as candidates. The utmost care was exercised to see that two or three of the smaller unions should be represented, regardless of the fact that their unions as unions did not hold stock. The Bookbinders, for instance, with only seven members, are financially unable to own enough stock to entitle the local to a director, but the unions that do hold sufficient stock split their votes so as to elect a bookbinder on the board. This was also true in the case of the pressmen and the cigarmakers, all three of these unions having shown splendid interest in the project. Sooner or later all of them will be stockholders.

The election was carried on with the utmost good feeling, and all present showed the liveliest interest. Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209 sent a committee to cast the vote of the Auxiliary, and the presence of the women was appreciated. The following directors at large were elected:

- Fred Ress, Bookbinders.
- T. W. Evans, Cigarmakers.
- A. V. White, Plumbers.
- Alex Weckesser, Pressmen.
- W. L. Mayer, Electrical Workers.
- W. M. Maupin, Typographical.
- The Bartenders, Electrical Workers, Printers, Painters, Leatherworkers, Carpenters and Barbers' unions each own 100 or more shares of stock and are therefore entitled to one director each. These directors are as follows:
- S. L. Chapin, Barbers.
- G. A. Walker, Bartenders.
- O. M. Rudy, Electrical Workers.
- J. W. Dickson, Carpenters.
- T. C. Kelsey, Leatherworkers.
- Fred Irlinger, Typographical.
- Geo. De Lacey, Painters.

These thirteen men will constitute the board of directors for the next two years, subject to the addition of directors selected by unions taking the required amount of stock. The board will meet next Monday night at 127 North Twelfth street to elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, and to designate an executive committee of seven, of which the officers named shall constitute a majority.

With a permanent organization thus effected the association will be prepared to begin the work in earnest. All that has been done heretofore has been preliminary to the real work, and from now on the matter will be pushed with vigor. The association is in fine shape. Union men are taking a more active interest, and the pessimistic among them are rapidly becoming optimists. Men who a few months ago declared that "it's no use trying to build a Labor Temple," are now convinced that it can be done and that it will be done. There are more boosters and fewer knockers now, and the outlook is as bright as it could well be without settling something afire.

The committee met Monday evening and received a nice bunch of money from the sale of stock. In fact, not one meeting has been held at which stock was not sold and paid for. Some discussion arose over the legal construction of some of the sections of the articles of incorporation, so a committee was appointed to seek legal advice. This was done, and the election Tuesday was pulled off in a strictly legal manner.

Just as soon as possible the new board of directors will secure plans for a building so that investors may know just what they are going into, and when this is done the campaign for placing the stock will be commenced. The board wants it distinctly understood that it will not ask for a dollar of donations. The association has a safe and paying investment proposition, and it will be presented

to the people of Lincoln purely upon its merits. Facts and figures will be submitted to demonstrate the soundness of the proposition.

THE PLUMBERS.

How They Took Hold of the Labor Temple Proposition.

In point of numbers the Plumbers' Union of Lincoln is a "littler one" as compared with the Carpenters, the Printers or the Barbers. But what they lack in numbers they make up in enthusiasm in union works. Not having an overflowing treasury the Plumbers decided that their local could not at this time take a hundred shares in the Labor Temple. But they took shares as individuals. By unanimous vote they assessed themselves 50 cents a week for ten weeks—\$5 each—and took eighty shares, each member giving his share to the local. In the spring they will do it all over again, and then ask some of the "big" unions to match it.

If every union man in Lincoln would meet the game of the plumbers it would mean just about \$15,000 in the next two months—and that would insure the laying of the cornerstone of a Labor Temple next Labor Day. The "big" unions will have to wake up and go some if they equal the gait set by the Plumbers' Union—and that's no jolly.

A. V. White, after due consideration, decided that there was no better place than Lincoln, so he has decided to remain.

The old joke about frozen pipes and plumbers' bills has not been overworked so far this season. As a matter of fact the mild winter has made work in the plumbing line just a trifle slow. But for all that the men manage to get in pretty good time, and when not at work they take heart over the outlook for an unusually good summer season.

Ed. English says he would like to have the job fixing the pipes of some of the political dreamers of this town. Frank Best opines that prohibition would make business better for the plumbers. It would provide a lot of "joints" that would have to be "wiped"—out.

Bert Chipman claims—and with good reason—to be a first class plumber, but he is forced to admit that he has a few rheumatic joints that he has not yet been able to fix properly.

THE BARBERS.

Making Great Preparation for Their "Smoker" Next Week.

The Barbers' Union is making great preparation for its "smoker" and "boosterfest" next Wednesday night, and there is no longer any doubt that it will be one of those fine occasions you often read about in story books. The "boss barbers" will be entertained in royal style, and the non-union barbers will be invited and given the best there is in the larder. The union men want to get acquainted with their non-union brethren for the purpose of being able to show them the many advantages of unionism. The evening will be spent in a social way, with plenty of union-made cigars to smoke, and plenty of oysters to lanch that "gone feeling" in the pit of the stomach.

The fact that several members of the local have joined the Musicians' Union brought out the other fact that there was a lot of musical talent among the barbers. The result is the organization of a "Union Barbers' Glee Club" that is said to be a wonder. It will make its debut next Wednesday night. All visitors will be searched at the door for possible missiles.

N. A. Otis, who carries a Musician's card in addition to his Barber's card, denies that he makes his music by wrapping a piece of tissue paper his comb and then blowing through it.

President McBride repudiates the report that barbers are too prone to conversation while at work. He says they talk so much at the union meetings that they are worn out for the next two weeks.

Secretary Swinker, who has a great head for "figgers," reports that the Lincoln ball team has won the 1908

pennant in sixteen different barber shops since January 1.

At the meeting of the local union on January 1, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, God in His Wisdom has seen fit to remove from our midst our beloved brother, Morris Moore, and

"Whereas, We, his brothers and fellow workmen, will miss him in our daily work and friendly meetings, and

"Whereas, His smiles, his words of cheer, and his always cheerful disposition will ever be remembered by us, be it

"Resolved, That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his widow and family, and send her a copy of these resolutions, also causing a copy to be spread upon our minutes and the same published in The Wageworker.

JOHN C. KIRKMAN,
JOE M. LONG, Committee.

THE MUSICIANS.

Unable to Find a Limit at Which to Stop Growing.

Last week The Wageworker reported that the Musicians' Union had a membership of 116, and that looked like the limit. But it seems that the Musicians have decided to "remove the limit," for at the meeting last Sunday the membership reached the 130 mark, with more applications in sight. This rather breaks the record in all similar lines in this town.

Will Norton and N. A. Otis have switched jobs. Norton was elected financial secretary and Otis was elected recording and corresponding secretary. This wasn't exactly the way the union framed it up, so Norton and Otis got together and traded with the consent of the membership.

The Musicians' Union is less than four months old, counting from the time the work of organization began. It started out with twenty-four charter members, and that was thought to be about all. But they just kept coming until there are now 130 members. The union will meet at Bruce's hall at 11 a. m. one week from next Sunday. A lot of important business is to be transacted, and every member is requested to be present when President Pinney lets the gavel fall.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

Holds First Session of the Year and Grinds Out a Grist.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 met at Fraternity hall last Sunday afternoon, it being the first meeting of the new year. The principal business consisted of reading the announcements of the various candidates for international office and in considering the local situation.

Strange to say, there were no applications for membership and no initiations. A collection of several dollars was taken up for the relief of a badly crippled union man in Texas who is making an appeal to his brother unionists for help. He is utterly helpless.

President Kelsey of the Central Labor Union visited the local and made a brief address which was listened to with interest and greeted with hearty applause. Fred Irlinger was re-elected as representative of the union on the Labor Temple directorate. A new committee with Fred Mickel as chairman was appointed to arrange for the erection of a suitable monument on the union's burial lot in Wyuka. The anniversary committee asked and was granted further time in which to submit a report. A full report will be made at the February meeting.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

Interested in Big Change in Local Ownership Recently.

Local cigarmakers are much interested in a recent change in the local cigar manufacturing business. The first of the year N. H. Clnberg bought out Wm. Seelingfreund's factory, together with all the famous Seelingfreund brands. Mr. Clnberg has added his purchase to the plant he has so long operated, and the result is he has one of the largest cigar factories in the west. Wm. Seelingfreund retires from the business after long years of success, feeling that he is entitled to a little rest. His "Burlington Route" and "Senator Burkett" cigars have achieved an almost national reputation, and Mr. Clnberg says it will be his especial business to keep them right up to the high standard. The Clnberg factory is now employing six-

teen men, and expects to add to the force right along.

Wm. Pepperburg, who is about to remove his factory from Plattsmouth to Lincoln, will probably rent the Seelingfreund building on S street and occupy it until his building on West O street is ready for occupancy, which will be about May 1. Local cigarmakers are patiently waiting to see what developments there may be in the Pepperburg matter.

S. B. Kenin, who officiated as foreman for Mr. Seelingfreund, will serve in the same capacity for Mr. Clnberg. Mrs. T. W. Evans has been seriously ill for some time.

While the demand for cigarmakers is not at all pressing, there are no idle men in Lincoln at the present time. The demand for men, however, would be much greater if every union man would demand labeled cigars. It would be wonderfully increased if a lot of men who are always boasting for "home industry" would do more of it with their money and less with their vocal organs.

THE MACHINISTS.

Preparing to Enjoy Their Annual Ball On January 21.

The local branch of the International Association of Machinists is making great preparations for the annual ball of the local, which will be held at Fraternity hall on January 21. Governor and Mrs. Sheldon and Mayor and Mrs. Brown have accepted invitations to be present. The committee in charge of the annual function is working hard to make it the best in the local's history, and the indications are that they will succeed.

The reception committee at the ball will consist of R. H. Moore, A. A. Hyers, John Malsted, Leo Gleason and F. J. Schemebel. A cordial invitation is extended to all union men and women to participate in the pleasures of the evening.

MAKE NO WAGE DEMANDS.

Conductors and Trainmen Finish Their Session in This City.

The general committee of the Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen of the Burlington system concluded their three days' sessions late last Saturday night. During the evening the conductors elected the following officers: Chairman, J. B. Tanney, of Lincoln Neb.; vice chairman, G. F. Murphy, of Beardstown, Ill.; secretary and treasurer, R. F. Ledford, of Hannibal, Mo.

The next meeting of the conductors' general committee will be held at Kansas City two years from now.

The conductors decided that the salary of the chairman shall be \$2,500 a year for the two years of the term. That of the chairman of the trainmen is the same. Chairman Tanney, of the conductors, and Chairman Barnes of the trainmen, went to Chicago Monday to confer with General Manager Ward, of the Burlington lines east of the Missouri river, regarding grievances that have been considered at this meeting.

The trainmen held a meeting Saturday night at which it was understood matters relating to the adjustment of present schedules were considered. The conductors also were in session, at which similar subjects were discussed. No formal announcement of the proceedings of the night's sessions was made further than they related largely to matters of schedules and organization. It was denied that a demand for increased wages will be made at this time.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Meets Next Tuesday Night and Election Will Be Held.

The Central Labor Union will meet at Bruce's hall next Tuesday evening. The chief business will be the election of officers for the ensuing term, and for this reason it is desired that every accredited delegate be present.

It is up to the delegates to "chirk up" and make the central body of some real service to the organizations in the city. Of late months the body has not been very active, owing largely to the lack of interest on the part of delegates. This should be remedied, and must be if the body is to be made of service.

Let every delegate be present at the meeting next Tuesday night.

The St. Joseph Lead company and the Doe Run Lead company, of Bonnetterre, Mo., have resumed operations, and 10,000 men are employed.

Employer's Liability Law Unconstitutional

Last Tuesday the supreme court of the United States, through Justice White, handed down an opinion as to the constitutionality of the employers' liability law, enacted at the request of President Roosevelt by the last congress. By a vote of five to four the law was held to be "repugnant to the constitution."

Justice Harlan, who is pretty nearly always right on the questions of interest to the common people—although he missed it in the Moyer habeas corpus case—dissented from the majority opinion and held that the law was constitutional. It is held that the law is not in accordance with the constitution of the United States because it "goes beyond the bounds permitted in the regulation of interstate commerce."

Following are the principal points from Justice White's opinion:

"The act then being addressed to all common carriers engaged in interstate commerce, and imposing a liability upon them in favor of any of their employes may be engaged at the time of the injury, or necessity includes subjects wholly outside of the power of congress to regulate commerce. Without stopping to consider the numerous instances where, although a common carrier is engaged in interstate commerce such carrier may in the nature of things transact business not interstate commerce, although such local business may indirectly be related to interstate commerce, a few illustrations showing the operation of the statute as to matters wholly independent of interstate commerce will serve to make clear the extent of the power exerted by the statute.

"Take a railroad engaged in interstate commerce, having a purely local branch operated wholly within a state. Take again the same road having shops for repairs and it may be for construction work as well as a large accounting and clerical force and having, it may be, storage elevators and warehouses not to suggest besides, the possibility of its being engaged in other independent enterprises. Take a telegraph company engaged in the transmission of interstate and local messages. Take an express company engaged in local as well as interstate business. Take a trolley line moving wholly within a state as to a large part of its business and as to the remainder crossing the state line.

"As the act thus includes many subjects, wholly beyond the federal power to regulate, it results that the act is repugnant to the constitution and cannot be enforced unless there be merit in the propositions advanced to show that the statute may be saved.

"So far as the face of the statute is concerned, the argument is this, that because the statute says carriers engaged in commerce between the state, etc., therefore the act should be interpreted as being exclusively applicable to the interstate commerce business and none other of such carriers and that the words 'any employe,' as found in the statute should be held to mean any employe when such employe is engaged only in interstate commerce. But this would require us to write into the statute words of limitation and restriction not now in it. But if we could bring ourselves to modify the statute by writing in the words suggested, the result would be to restrict the operation of the act as to the District of Columbia and territories.

"Of course, if it can be lawfully done, our duty is to construct the statute so as to render it constitutional. But this does not imply, if the text of an act is unambiguous that it may be re-written to accomplish that purpose. Equally clear is it, generally speaking, that where a state contains provisions which are constitutional and others which are not, effect may be given to the legal provisions by separating them from the illegal. But this applies only to a case where the provisions are inseparable and not dependent one upon the other and does not support the contention that that which is indivisible may be divided. Moreover, the rule that a case where the legal provisions may be severed from those which are illegal, in order to save them, applies to where it is plain that congress would have enacted legislation with the unconstitutional provisions eliminated. All

these principles are so clearly settled as to not be open to controversy. It remains only to consider the contention which we have previously quoted, that the statute is constitutional although it embraces subjects not within the power of congress to regulate, because one who engages in interstate commerce thereby admits all his business concerns to the regulating power of congress. To state the proposition is to refute it. It assumes that because one engages in interstate commerce he thereby endows congress with power not delegated to it by the constitution, in other words, with the right to legislate concerning matters of purely state concern. It is apparent that if the contention were well founded, it would extend the power of congress to every conceivable subject, however inherently local, and would obliterate all the limitations of power imposed by the constitution and would destroy the authority of the states as to all conceivable matters which from the beginning have been and must continue to be under their control, so long as the constitution endures.

"Concluding as we do, the statute, whilst it embraces subjects within the authority of congress to regulate commerce, also includes subjects not within its constitutional power, and that the two are so intermingled, in the state that they are incapable of separation, we are of the opinion that the courts below rightly held the statute as to be repugnant to the constitution and non-enforceable and the judgments below, are therefore affirmed."

Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, who has taken much interest in the litigation growing out of the employers' liability act, which was declared to be unconstitutional, has introduced a bill which is intended to remedy the defects in the present law.

The bill is so drawn as to make it applicable only to corporations engaged in such commerce as congress has the undoubted right to control and to employes of such corporations engaged exclusively in interstate commerce.

The existing law is so broad as to cover all transportation between states, but Mr. Knox's bill so modifies it as to limit its operations to common carriers which are operated by steam or similar motive power.

UNION ELECTRIC CAB.

Union Men Should Call For It When Needing a Ride.

L. A. Dickson, a member of Local No. 205, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is engineering the electric cab which is so often seen pursuing its noiseless way about the streets of Lincoln. In "sassiness" parlance it is known as an "electric brougham," but we'll call it a cab for the sake of convenience.

Mr. Dickson wants the patronage of union men, and he deserves it. He will answer all calls, day or night, and the caller can ride in a handsomely equipped electric cab just as cheaply as he can in one of the old kind. His night stand is at the Lindell hotel. His phones are Auto 4531 and Bell A427. He will give party calls especial attention. The Wageworker recommends this good union brother to the unionists of the city. See his business card elsewhere in this paper.

UNION OFFICIALS QUIT.

On January 8 the last Union Labor party city official in San Francisco stepped down and out, and the city is now in the hands of "business men." Organized labor controlled the city for three years, and to the everlasting disgrace of unionism is presented the spectacle of graft to the limit. It will take organized labor years to live down the injury done to it by the weak men who were made the tools of designing grafters and political corruptionists.

MANY OUT OF WORK.

Retrenchment is the excuse given by the Illinois Central for letting out more than 3,000 employes. Most of these are paid at the New Orleans terminal, and the result is a heavy depression in the Crescent City.