

# THE WAGEWORKER



VOL. 4

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FEBRUARY 21, 1908

NO. 47

## A View of Lincoln's 'Big Labor Temple'

A reinforced concrete structure, four stories and basement, with ornamentation plain yet elegant in its appearance—that is the proposed Labor Temple for Lincoln. The perspective view of the proposed building has been completed, and next Monday evening it will be on exhibition at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Labor Temple Building Association at 127 North Twelfth street. All stockholders and others interested are invited to call and see it.

The completion of this perspective view means that the directors are now ready to begin the active campaign. Cuts of the building will be prepared and a prospectus will be printed and distributed throughout the city. Then the committee will get to work canvassing for stock subscriptions. To date nothing in this line has been undertaken because the directors wanted something to show to those whom they approached for subscriptions. No one will be asked to donate a cent. Every dollar subscribed will be represented by a dollar's worth of tangible property, and the subscriber will have a voice in the management of the property.

That the business men of Lincoln are watching this project is evidenced by the fact that members of the board of directors are asked every day what is being done, and are assured that the questioner will subscribe when the matter is under full headway.

Lincoln citizens have been approached scores of times during the last few years and asked to "donate" to this or that public enterprise. They have always been liberal. But in this Labor Temple matter they will not be asked to donate a penny. They will be offered a chance to make an investment that will pay dividends in dollars as well as in moral and physical benefits. It is a business proposition having the added advantages of healthy sentiment and civic improvement.

The directors are desirous of securing enough subscriptions by the first of April to purchase a site. That will be the main thing to accomplish this spring. Several sites have been offered, all of them advantageous, but the selection will be deferred until the money is in hand to pay for the one selected, and then the subscribers will be asked to select the site they want. Every stockholder, no matter how small his holding, will be allowed a voice in every question that arises.

To many it may appear that the matter is dragging along. Such is not the case. The association has a comfortable balance in bank. It does not owe a penny. The board of directors is meeting every week, and at each meeting plans are perfected for the great work in hand. Lincoln is going to have one of the finest Labor Temples in the country, and the corner stone is going to be laid next Labor Day.

Paste that in your union made hat! There is only one thing to prevent the fulfillment of that prediction, and that is the indifference of the men most interested—the union men of Lincoln and vicinity.

Here's a pointer: The Labor Temple at Toronto, Canada, is paying big dividends. The stock today is worth a premium of 60 per cent—and none for sale at even that figure. What has been done in Toronto can be done in Lincoln. Every union man should have from five to fifty shares of stock in the Labor Temple. It will be equal to a savings bank account from the monetary standpoint, but from the union standpoint it will be even better. And if you simply will not boost, for heaven's sake be man enough not to knock!

Now get ready to do your part when the real work of the association begins. If you have not already subscribed, be prepared to do so when the canvasser comes around. Then, after you have subscribed, go after your neighbor and get him to subscribe.

It will take the united effort of ev-

ery genuine unionist in the city to make this project a success.

And in the Lexicon of Labor there is no such word as 'fail.'

### PAINTERS AND DECORATORS.

#### Annual Convention at New Orleans a Success in Every Way.

The twenty-fourth annual convention of the International Association of Master House Painters and Decorators met in New Orleans on February 18. President Stewart N. Hughes of Toronto presided and responded to the address of welcome by the mayor.

The report of Secretary William E. Wall of Somerville, Mass., was most encouraging. The convention was in session four days, and during that time several papers of interesting technical subjects were read and a vast amount of business transacted. The association is in flourishing shape, the membership increasing at a gratifying rate and the finances in a satisfactory condition.

### WOULDN'T THIS JAR YOU?

#### One Secretary Who Refused Information Concerning His Organization.

During the past week a representative of The Wageworker has been visiting among the various unions for the purpose of compiling a Union Directory for this humble little paper. In every instance save one this representative was treated courteously. One secretary, who, by the way, is not working at his trade, absolutely refused to give the representatives

the names of his local's officials, or any other information concerning it.

"I don't give a d—n for The Wageworker, nor for its editor. I won't give you any information. You can't have the names of my local's officers. We don't give a d—n for the Central Labor Union. We withdrew our delegates a long time ago, for the Central Labor Union never did anything for us, and it don't amount to a d—n, anyhow. Unless my local instructs me to give this information you can't get it from me, and that's all there is to it."

And when the representative of The Wageworker reported to the office the editor sat down and cried. It was simply awful. However, the information was found elsewhere, and the local is represented in the directory, just the same.

### THE MUSICIANS' BALL.

#### First Annual Event Was a Credit to This New Organization.

The first annual ball of Lincoln Local No. 463, Musicians' Protective Union, held at Fraternity hall Thursday evening, was a credit to the organization and to the committees having the event in charge. One of the most pleasing features of the occasion was the concert before the opening of the dancing program. The orchestra was made up of twenty-five of the leading musicians of the city, and was directed by Mr. E. Wait. The numbers were a revelation to many people, showing as they did that Lincoln could furnish one of the largest and one of the best orchestras in the west—and all union musicians, too.

The attendance at the ball was even larger than expected, and the crowded condition of the floor testified to the fact that it was high time the

unionists of the city secured a hall large enough for their annual events. Such a hall is contemplated in the proposed Labor Temple building. It will be more than twice as large as any available dancing hall in Lincoln at the present time.

The grand march was called at 9:15 and was participated in by more than 130 couples. There would have been more, but the hall was not large enough. From that time until the "owl/cars" began running the merry-making went on, and everybody present had a splendid time. The first annual ball of the Musicians' Union was an unqualified success, and all because the membership as a whole got behind the committees and helped to push it—which is the only way to make any union festivity a success. Following were the committees in charge of the ball:

General—W. T. Quick, S. Jelinek, N. A. Otis, L. Hagensick, L. E. Was-

son. Reception—Fred Wait, A. J. Bruse, E. T. Phelps, N. A. Otis, Marion Bell, R. E. Newell, M. Thompson, L. V. Chiquet, G. P. Putnam, W. T. Pinney.

Advertising—H. J. Gildersleeve, W. C. Norton, L. V. Chiquet.

Floor Manager—H. J. Gildersleeve. Nothing was left undone that would make the guests welcome and lend to their enjoyment of the occasion. Now, if this "baby union" can set such a mark for its first annual ball, what do you suppose it will do at its annual balls in the future?

At Biddeford, Me., the Pepperell Manufacturing company resumed full time in the local cotton mills.

The Inaugurated Sheet Metal Workers' union in New York City has withdrawn their demands for an increase of wages and signed a yearly agreement at the rate of \$4.50 a day.

## Among the Live Ones in Lincoln

The Central Labor Union will meet at Bruse's hall Tuesday night, and on that occasion the newly elected officers will be installed, and President Rudy will name the committees for the ensuing term. Every accredited delegate ought to be there on time.

President Rudy and Secretary Kates announce that they are going to get after the unions that have not been represented. Appeal will first be made to the local, and if that has no effect the attention of the international and of the American Federation of Labor will be called thereto. Absent delegates will find that their neglect has been reported to their unions, and the fines provided for in the constitution and by-laws will be rigidly enforced.

"The committees I appoint will be expected to do business," said President Rudy the other day. "We have a lot of work ahead of us and it must be done. It is to our interests to do it."

### CIGARMAKERS WILL BUILD.

#### Planning a Home For Members and Will Expend Quarter of Million.

The Cigarmakers' International Union, at its last convention in Philadelphia, voted to erect a home for its indigent and sick members, and the time is now arriving when the committee selected will visit those points that have propositions to make to secure such a huge undertaking.

San Antonio will probably be the city selected, as the proper exertions are made, as the site for the national

home for the widows, orphans and invalid members of the Cigarmakers' Union. The building, when constructed, will cost about \$400,000. A sub-committee of the national executive committee is expected to arrive in San Antonio on a tour of investigation early in March.

For many years a fund for this purpose has been collected, and it was recently augmented by the gift of \$75,000, willed to the union by a friend of the movement.

Owing to the fact that the percentage of deaths from pulmonary diseases is extremely high among the cigarmakers, it was decided to build the home in a warm, dry climate.—Philadelphia Trades Union News.

### UNION BARBER SHOPS.

#### Information as to Where You Can Get Your Work Done Fairly.

Following is a list of the union barber shops of Lincoln, the name and location being given:

- Gus Petro, 1010 O street.
- W. A. Jackson, 1001 O street.
- W. E. Myers, Capital Hotel.
- W. H. Barthelman, 134 South Eleventh.
- C. A. Green, 120 North Eleventh.
- Geo. Shaffer, Lincoln Hotel.
- J. B. Ramer, 1501 O Street.
- E. A. Snyder, 1206 O Street.
- A. L. Stern, 116 South Thirteenth.
- Charles Bowen, 101 South Eleventh.
- A. L. Kemmerer, Lindell Hotel.
- Chapman & Ryan, 127 North Twelfth.
- H. A. Larabee, 922 P Street.
- Knight and Parmenter, 122 South Twelfth.
- H. C. Leopold, Fraternity Building.
- Frank Malone, Havelock.
- E. A. Wood, Havelock.
- C. B. Ellis, Havelock.

Omaha local has raised its dues from seventy-five cents to \$1. This was found necessary in order to pay the sick benefit of \$8 a week. It is reported that eight Omaha barbers are in the emergency hospital suffering from smallpox.

The Barbers Union of Colorado Springs boasts that it has an indoor base ball team that can put it onto any indoor baseball team west of the Mississippi river, with the best not barred.

Sunday closing is winning out all over the country. Allentown, Pa., fines any member \$5 who is caught working on Sunday, and promises to prosecute under the Sunday law.

The Lincoln local has always been loyal to The Wageworker, and at the meeting Wednesday night it "came across" again. The union barbers are a loyal bunch, and The Wageworker is under obligations to them.

### THE CARPENTERS.

#### Making the Best of Conditions While Waiting for the Building Boom.

The Carpenters are not doing much these days except waiting for the spring building season to open up. Only a few inside jobs are under way, and as a result a majority of the members are taking a vacation.

The largest local in the brotherhood is No. 22 of San Francisco. The next largest is No. 122 of Washington, D. C. The Wageworker hopes that some of these days it can truthfully report that No. 1055 of Lincoln is the third largest. What?

### THE PLUMBERS.

The loyal little bunch of unionists who form the Plumbers' local in Lincoln, came through for another year of The Wageworker at the meeting last Monday night. The plumbers have taken the lead in the Labor Temple, too, each member being in to the tune of \$6, with more to come. If every other union would equal that record we'd start to building as soon as frost is out of the ground.

### BOXMAKERS WIN.

The Boxmakers and Sawyers' union of San Francisco have won out in the contest which was precipitated the first of the year by an attempt on the part of their employers to reduce the wages from 10 to 20 per cent. A solid union closely affiliated with the central body made this victory possible.

The American Steel and Wire company at Salem resumed double turn operations.

## HOW TO GET A PARK IN LINCOLN Workingmen Have the Power in Their Own Hands and Should Use It to Their Own Advantage

Three years ago Mayor Brown, by the exercise of shrewd business instinct and a desire to do something that would benefit the city, bought the Sager tract of forty acres just north and west of the Hutton lighting station, paying for it out of surplus funds in the water department. With this as a nucleus of a park system Lincoln took the first step towards rectifying an error of long standing—the failure to provide parks for the city. By popular subscription money was raised to purchase other and smaller tracts. Mr. Bryan gave ten acres to the city. The Perkins estate has given a valuable tract. Today the city owns nearly eighty acres, exclusive of the F street park, which will make a handsome park providing money is provided to improve and maintain it. The park lands extend from J street to Sumner, along the winding Antelope, and it will be possible to make this one of the handsomest parks in the country.

Mayor Brown appointed a park commission of eleven men, all of them business men and busy men. They have given lots of their time to the park matter, serving without pay and going down into their own pockets for many little incidental expenses contingent upon their positions. With practically no funds with which to improve the park, the commissioners have performed wonders. Trees have been set out, trees have been trimmed, shrubs and vines have been planted, walks have been made, rustic bridges and seats have been built, swings have been erected and the boulevard has been vastly improved by setting out 2,000 trees along the sides. A respectable "zoo" has been started, and now contains bears, eagles, coyotes, porcupines, monkeys and squirrels.

But the park commission now finds itself at the end of its string. The levy for park purposes is only \$5,000 a year. This is about one-tenth of what it should be.

THE PARK COMMISSION FINDS ITSELF TODAY WITH LESS THAN \$2,500 WITH WHICH TO CARE FOR AND IMPROVE THE ANTELOPE AND F STREET PARKS DURING THE PRESENT YEAR.

This is less than two cents per capita. Boston spends nearly one dollar per capita on parks. New York even more. Omaha spends a dollar

or more per capita. The money allowed the Lincoln Park Commission yearly will not suffice to maintain the improvements already made, to say nothing of further improvements.

LINCOLN OUGHT TO SPEND \$50,000 on parks during the next two years and the park commission should have not less than \$30,000 at its command this summer. It will be needed for fences, roadways, band stands, trees, shrubs and all the various improvements that make a park attractive.

THERE IS A WAY TO GET THIS MONEY, AND THE MEN WHO WILL PROFIT MOST BY THE EXPENDITURE OF THAT SUM ARE THE WORKINGMEN OF LINCOLN.

The initiative and referendum is in operation in this city, and by means thereof the workingmen can force the submission of a proposition to issue park bonds in the sum of \$30,000. When submitted the workingmen can give it a majority.

There are many reasons why every man who works for wages in Lincoln should take an interest in this matter.

Boast as we will, there is no denying the fact that times are "close," and there is evidence supported by experience that they will not be what we would have them until after the presidential election is over.

THE EXPENDITURE OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ON PARKS THIS SUMMER AND FALL WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS SOLVING THE FOOD PROBLEM FOR A LOT OF LINCOLN WORKINGMEN, FOR THE BULK OF THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT FOR LABOR.

This is a fact that demands the

careful consideration of workingmen.

Again, the workingmen of Lincoln—the men whose toil and sweat have made the city what it is—deserve parks in which they and their families can find rest and recreation, where they can "get next to the soil," and enjoy nature at its best.

The men who have profited most by the toll of the wage earners are able to visit the mountains or go to the seashore during the hot summer months. The workingmen must remain at home, and their wives and children must swelter and suffer.

The workingmen have the remedy for this condition in their own hands. They are in the majority and they can compel the issue of park bonds in sufficient amount to make parks a possibility in this splendid city. The Wageworker suggest that petitions be immediately circulated to the end that the proposition to issue park bonds in the sum of \$30,000 be submitted to the voters of the city this spring. There is going to be a referendum proposition submitted—that of "saloon or no saloon"—and the park fund proposition should be submitted at the same time.

At the meeting of the Central Labor Union next Tuesday night the editor of The Wageworker will present the matter, and will have on hand a supply of blank petitions. The delegates and others will be asked to immediately circulate them for signatures.

This is a matter that concerns every workingman. It concerns his purse, because it means employment for many men. It concerns his family, for

## Twenty-Fifth Annual Ball

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209

FRATERNITY HALL

Wednesday evening, February 26, '08

TICKETS \$1.00

EXTRA LADY 50c

On Monday 2,000 men were re-employed in the Bessemer department of the Cambria Steel company at Johnston, Pa.