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Temple Fund Gets Another Big Boost

The board of directors of the Lincoln Labor Temple Building association met Monday evening at the usual place. In many respects it was the best meeting that has yet been held and it gave the promoters new zeal.

Just after Chairman Dickson had called the meeting to order and Secretary Thringer had read the minutes, Delegate Walker arose and announced that the Bartenders' Union had decided to buy another block of stock. He stepped forward with a check for \$225, and the directors cheered lustily. The local Bartenders' Union now owns and has paid for 335 shares of stock, and individual bartenders own about 100 shares in addition thereto. This gives the Bartenders the lead formerly held by the Electrical Workers' Union.

The total subscriptions for the evening amounted to an even \$500. When the first report was added up it was found that \$490 had been reported.

"We ought to make that an even \$500," said Chairman Dickson. "There are just ten of us present, and that only means a dollar each."

No sooner had he spoken than Secretary Thringer was forced to dodge the silver dollars thrown at him. It took less than thirty seconds to raise the remaining ten dollars and make the evening's receipts the even \$500.

The canvassers reported great encouragement in their work among the business and professional men. The distribution of the prospectus has aroused great interest in the project, and those approached for subscriptions to the capital stock have shown this interest by the questions asked. Also, they have shown a desire to push the good work along, and from now on the work will be much easier. The directors will continue the work of canvassing, but as an experiment it was decided to put a solicitor in the field for a week or two. The results will be measured and if satisfactory will be continued.

Just now the chief sticking point is the matter of a site. While there is no particular location favored, nearly everyone approached wants to know where the temple is to be located. That, of course, cannot be decided until there is money enough on hand to pay for the lot. It is hoped to have this in a very short time, and then the subscribers will be asked to make the selection.

A defect in the articles of incorporation was pointed out, in that they failed to show the business of the company. An amendment will be framed and filed with the secretary of state at the earliest possible moment curing the defect.

Many may think that the plan is developing too slowly to be encouraging. This is a mistake. The facts are that the Lincoln scheme is in better shape today than any other temple scheme in any other city at the same stage of the game. The local directors have progressed surely if slowly. They have cut the garment according to the cloth. As a result it is fully equipped with books, records, etc., does not owe a penny, and has \$2,000 on the good side of the ledger. All this, too, without any flourish of trumpets and without any systematic effort to raise funds. The money has come from men who are convinced that the project is a good one and are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel and help move it along.

Several unions that have not yet allied themselves with the movement are showing signs of waking up, and are asking what they must do to get in on the ground floor.

Two or three benefit attractions are in sight, and these promise to give substantial boosts to the movement. None of them, however, is in shape to be made public at this time.

The board will continue to meet every Monday evening at 8 o'clock at 127 North Twelfth street, and any union not already in line that may want full and definite information is cordially invited to send representatives to the meeting. They will be given every information.

A LINCOLN WOMAN.

Under the head of "One Woman's Power," the Toledo, Ohio, Unionist has this to say of Miss Laura Gregg,

who is well and favorably known in Lincoln and Nebraska:

"Miss Laura Gregg, who has been invited to address the Central Labor Union at its next meeting, swung the recent miners' convention to the cause of women's suffrage. President Mitchell introduced the resolution, after Miss Gregg had told how Pete Henratty of the miners aided the cause in Oklahoma. One thousand delegates voted unanimously for Mitchell's motion."

THE MUSICIANS.

Laying Plans to Organize a School of Instruction.

The Musicians' Union is going into the business of making proficient musicians, and will lay a definite plan of action. A majority of the members are not professional musicians, their music being only incidental to their livelihood. These feel the need of instruction, and to that end the union will organize a school of instruction, employ a competent teacher and proceed to give the non-professionals the best possible instruction. This is a splendid plan, and the musicians are enterprising enough and earnest enough to make it a success. This will result in better bands and orchestras in Lincoln, and make possible the organization of a "Music 1 Union Band" that will make Lincoln famous during the coming campaign, when thousands of political visitors will journey to Lincoln.

The trouble at the Elite was thoroughly explained at the meeting last Sunday. The union musicians at that amusement resort were discharged, because they objected to working with a non-unionist. The secretary was instructed to notify every union in the city of the facts in the case. The management of this resort is also interested in similar resorts in other cities, and the locals in those cities will also be given the facts. Other facts will be presented to different authorities. Of course it would be illegal to boycott the Elite, and no law-abiding unionist would be guilty of infraction of the law. But the fact remains that union money should be spent with friends of organized labor.

Several matters of importance to the members were thoroughly discussed at the meeting, but no official action was taken. It was deemed sufficient that the facts be plainly stated and investigated.

President Pinney appointed a committee to prepare a plan of procedure in the matter of the school of instruction.

THE TRAINMEN DANCE.

Brotherhood's Annual Ball Thoroughly Enjoyed by Large Crowd.

The annual ball of Capital Lodge No. 170, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, held at Fraternity hall last Monday evening, was thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd present. The hall was tastefully decorated with the red, white and green signal flags used in the train service, and the programs were ornamented with scenes typical of the work of the members of the brotherhood. Quick's orchestra furnished the music, and the merry dancers enjoyed themselves until long after the "Owl cars" went into service.

A tasty and ample luncheon was served, consisting of sandwiches, pickles, coffee, ice cream and cake, and the supper tables were handsomely decorated with cut flowers. The service was beyond criticism.

The grand march was led by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Andrews and was participated in by 102 couples. It was a jolly march and wound up in a perfect gale of laughter. One or two of the men found "nails in the running boards" and went down, owing to the speed of the gait set by the master of ceremonies. It was just 9:10 when the first strains of the grand march announced the formal opening of the ball.

The following committees had charge of the event, and to them is due great credit for the success of the entertainment:

Arrangements—W. H. Hall, D. F. Bogan, T. F. Lang, W. A. Bryant,

J. A. Andrews, A. Vesley, D. J. Cooper, Floor Committee—Ed. Pierce, W. A. Bryant, D. J. Cooper, C. A. Thompson, J. H. Brooks, W. F. Houser. Reception—Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Houser, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hazelbaker, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Lang.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Will Meet Next Tuesday Evening and Transact Important Business.

The Central Labor Union will meet at Bruce's hall Tuesday evening. Secretary Kates has prepared a roster of every union and brotherhood in the city, and from now on every union will be notified of the absence of its delegates. Those that have no delegates will be reached through their headquarters and the American Federation of Labor.

President Rudy has been rounding up his committees and insisting that they come to every meeting prepared to report something done that is worth while.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

An Item or Two About the Men Who Roll the Clean Smokes.

There ought to be twice as many union cigarmakers in Lincoln as there are. There would be twice as many if all union men would do their duty by the union cigarmakers, and if all "home patronage" shouters would spend their money as "square" as they do their superheated atmosphere. If two-thirds of the cigars smoked daily in Lincoln were made in Lincoln, there would be a hundred cigarmakers making wages in Lincoln instead of about twenty-five.

After April 1, 1908, the manufacture of cigars in the Michigan penitentiary located at Marquette, will be abolished. A five-year contract for convict labor to be used in the manufacture of cigars expired on the first day of January and the board of control have decided not to renew it but will allow the firm four months' grace.

Go into any drug store in Lincoln and note how carefully the Lincoln-made cigars are kept out of sight. If you insist on a Lincoln-made cigar the druggist will dig up a box, but you'll have to insist. Why? Because the sweat shop and tenement house cigars, and the cigars rolled by underpaid boys and girls in the tobacco trust's shops, offer a wider margin of profit. "Tell with the workingman who wants decent wages and fair working conditions."

The saloons of Lincoln handle more union-made cigars than all other cigar dealers combined. Closing the saloons will throw two-thirds of Lincoln's cigarmakers out of employment.

THE CARPENTERS.

Some Interesting Facts About One of the Big Unions.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America was founded in the convention at Chicago August 12, 1881. At first it had only twelve local unions and 2,042 members. Now, it has grown to number 703 local unions in 1,275 cities, and has over 161,200 taxpaying members. It is organized to protect the carpenters' trade from the evils of low prices and botch work; its aim is to encourage a higher standard of skill and better wages; to re-establish an apprentice system, and to aid and assist the members by mutual protection and benevolent means. It pays a wife funeral benefit of from \$25 to \$50; member's funeral benefit, \$100 to \$200, and disability benefit, \$100 to \$400. In these general benefits, \$316,849.85 has been expended the past two years, and \$1,132,371.76 since 1884, while \$1,683,000 was spent in that period for sick benefits by the local unions, and \$486,150.47 donated locally for general office for strike purposes. This is over three and one-half millions of dollars expended for benevolent and charity purposes. Such an organization is worth the attention of every carpenter. The Brotherhood is also a protective society. It has raised the wages annually in the pockets of the carpenters in those cities. It reduced the hours to eight a day in 430 cities, and nine hours a day in 791 cities, not to speak of many cities which have established the eight and nine-hour system on Saturdays. By this means 30,000 more men have gained employment. This is the re-

sult of thorough organization. And yet very few strikes have occurred, and very little money has been spent on strikes by the society.

Lincoln local No. 1055 is preparing for something out of the ordinary in the way of a social entertainment. The committee in charge is hustling at a lively rate, and while declining to give full details, promises "big doings" at the social. It will be pulled off early in April.

Arthur Coswill, a contractor and builder of Washington, D. C., who has been affiliated with the Employers' association and conducting the open shop in his works, recently summoned the non-union workmen to his office, paid them off and dismissed them from his service. All union men were hired.

Secretary Chase, whose duty it is to provide speakers for the "educational sessions" is framing up a good one. He has a promise from William J. Bryan that at some time in the near future he will meet with the union and give them a talk on industrial and economic topics. We can see the walls of the hall bulging out on that even- ing by reason of the big attendance.

Work is opening up in good shape. A lot of repair work is under way and several good jobs have been started. The outlook is unusually good.

THE LABOR DIRECTORY.

Wageworker Asks Co-operation of Unions in Keeping it Correct.

This week The Wageworker presents its Labor Directory, as nearly correct as it has been possible to get it. Several unions are not represented because they hold elections this month. When these are held the directory will be extended.

The Wageworker knows there are several women's auxiliaries to various railroad brotherhoods, and would like to include them in the directory. Will the secretaries please forward the names of officers, name of local and number and time and place of meeting. This directory can be made to serve a very useful purpose if the unions will interest themselves in the matter to the extent of keeping it corrected to date. We ask the co-operation of all secretaries in this work.

THE PRESSMEN.

Items of Interest to Men Who Make the Good Impressions.

The officers of the United Typothetae of America will appeal from the decision of Judge Thompson of the United States circuit court at Cincinnati, setting aside the injunction restraining the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' union or its officers from engaging in strikes or boycotts against the Typothetae or its members. It won't be hard to guess what the pressmen will get from the upper court.

The Cleveland Citizen says: "The St. Louis muddle has been cleared up. The international officers restored the charters to the two locals that had been expelled. The employers agreed to abide by the decision of this year's convention on the eight-hour question. Galoskowsky also gave up control of the American Pressman."

Walter Brown has begun the erection of his double house on F street. The old house has been moved by the contractor and the work of excavation is well under way. Most of the material is now on the ground. It will be a union-made house.

THE BRICKLAYERS.

The following amendment in aid of sick and disabled brothers has been adopted by No. 2, Pittsburg, Pa.:

"This union shall, for the benefit of its sick and disabled members, levy an assessment of fifty cents per year on each member, and the amount of such assessment be paid over to the Saturday and Sunday Hospital association. Assessment shall be paid as follows: Twenty-five cents on January card and twenty-five cents on July card."

TO THE SPRINGS.

Dorothy Maupin, the 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Maupin, left Friday afternoon for Sycamore Springs in company with Mrs. F. H. Wilmett and daughter, Esther. Dorothy is suffering from an organic trouble which it is hoped the springs' water will cure.

Supreme Court and The Trades Unions

Five recent decisions of the courts of the United States have caused great excitement and discussion among members of labor unions. They should cause excitement and discussion among business men who prefer peace rather than war, and they are worthy of far more attention than has been given to them by the newspapers.

They are decisions that hark back more than a century, and are seemingly based upon the assumption that laboring men have no rights, industrial or political, that either courts or employers are bound to respect. Such decisions cannot stand. They have been compared—or some of them have been compared—with the Dred-Scott decision, for which Taney and other members of the supreme court have been so much abused.

A fair-minded man who reads the Dred-Scott decision must admit that it was strictly in accordance with law, with morality of which the court had nothing to do. But the recent decisions, striking at the very heart of the labor movement, are decisions that either upset laws of Congress, or without warrant of law abolish rights guaranteed by the constitution or twist a law of congress, enacted to prevent oppression of the people by monopolies, so as to make it apply to labor unions.

There may or may not be significance in the fact that these deadly decisions have been rendered in a period of industrial depression, when almost nine per cent of the union laborers of the country are out of employment on account of conditions that they had no part in bringing about, and when such decisions come with more crushing force than if they had been rendered during a time of industrial activity.

The five decisions have been thus tersely stated by Henry George, Jr., in a series of articles entitled "Five Deadly Blows at Labor: Government By the Courts: "

"First in sequence of effect was the annulment of the employers' liability act, known as the Act of July 11, 1906. The decision was rendered January 6, and only three of the nine justices composing the United States Supreme Court dissented.

"Second, on January 27, the Erdman act, prohibiting employers engaged in interstate commerce from dismissing union men, was declared by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional; six judges affirming, two dissenting, and one, Mr. Justice Moody, not participating.

"Third, February 3, in the Loewe or Danbury hatter case, a unanimous court declared the boycott a conspiracy in restraint of trade, subjecting the boycotters to action for threefold the damages sustained by the boycotted, and also to punishment under the criminal features of the Sherman anti-trust act, the maximum penalty of which is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for one year.

"Fourth in sequence of effect, but earlier than any of the others in date—occurring December 17 last—was an order by Mr. Justice Gould in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, in the Buck's stove case, defining a boycott as a conspiracy and temporarily enjoining President Gompers and many others named and unnamed, from naming the Buck Stove company in print or in any other manner, in connection with a boycott.

"Fifth in this order, but first in date—occurring November 25, 1907—was an injunction issued in the United States Circuit Court for the Northern District of West Virginia by Mr. Justice Dayton, in response to an ex parte statement and petition by the Hitchman Coal and Coke company. The order enjoined John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, and a multitude of other named and unnamed persons from interfering in any manner whatsoever, either by threats, violence, intimidation, persuasion or entreaty, with any person

who has contracted with and is in the actual services of the Hitchman Coal and Coke company."

It is not strange that these decisions have made a tremendous sensation in labor-union circles. It would be strange if they had not. For if they stand as the "supreme law of the

land"—enacted by the courts but not by Congress—the treasuries of labor unions are at all times subject to raids by the predatory interests, and union labor must henceforth wear muzzles and gags.

It is to be noted that while the Supreme Court of the United States declares that a boycott of labor union men against an employer is a crime, it legalizes a boycott of employers against labor union men!

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, deserves great praise for the manly and law-abiding position he has taken in regard to these decisions, especially in the Hatters' case and in the injunction case against himself. He protests against their injustice, as he should protest, but he says labor union men must abide by and accept them until "the supreme law of the land" as made by the federal courts is changed.

The American Federationist for March contains a symposium on the Hatters' case, written by twenty-five men, twenty-three of whom are officers of labor unions, the other two writers being ex-United States Senator Henry W. Blair and Professor John Bascom.

It is worthy of note that not one of the contributions to this symposium is of an "incendiary" character. There are no threats of revolution, no talk of overturning the government, no assertions that "we will do as we damn please," no charges that the federal courts are corrupt. The decisions are treated with all the courtesy they deserve.

These decisions remind us forcibly of Jefferson's declaration that "the federal courts are the sappers and miners of the constitution." They remind us of the wisdom of the constitutional convention in refusing to place in the constitution a provision permitting the supreme court to nullify a law of Congress; and they remind us of the unwisdom of congress in not putting a stop to that business when a law of congress was first nullified by the court.

The most striking thing about the symposium in the American Federationist is the one thing overlooked by all the writers. They discuss means by which labor unions may be rescued from the trap in which the federal courts have placed them—but not one mentions the one thing that the predatory interests and the enemies of labor unions most fear, the initiative and referendum.

Labor union leaders and members propose to combat these adverse decisions in a decent, orderly and law-abiding manner; and it is to their credit that they take that position. They propose to have Congress enact laws for the protection of laboring men.

Congress should do that. But what guaranty is there that after the new legislation has been enacted the federal courts will not set it aside as "un-constitutional?" There is no guaranty, and it is a mere guess what the courts will hold in regard to a particular law. A case might arise in which a president, conscious and convinced of the injustice and wholly strained nature of a decision, might say: "The court has rendered its decision, now let the court enforce its own decision without the aid of the executive."

To use that power would establish a dangerous precedent; and we have had more than enough dangerous precedents set by presidents. In the case of the Taft-Vale decision in England, similar to the Loewe decision in the supreme court, the labor unions went into politics, elected their own members of parliament, and thus had enacted a law overturning the decision.

But in England no court can overturn a law of parliament. There the law of parliament is the supreme law of the land; here the decision of the supreme court is the "supreme law of the land," even though our constitution does not give to any court the power of legislation.

The Star believes that labor unions should "go into politics" for the initiative and referendum, not for offices. The holding of offices will not cut the claws of the predatory interests; but their claws can be cut and their teeth pulled when the people have the initiative and referendum.—San Francisco Star.