

THE WAGEWORKER



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NO. 3

Central Labor Union Getting Very Busy

The Central Labor Union met last Tuesday night, and while the attendance was, as usual, discouragingly small, a lot of very important business was transacted. The Bartenders and the Cigarmakers were represented by full delegations, and the Typographical Union was not represented at all. Other unions represented had one or two delegates present, but a number were conspicuous by their absence.

One of the most important matters yet brought before the Central Labor Union of Lincoln came in the shape of a letter from the secretary of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, and was to the effect that the Boot and Shoe Workers have put out a picture show, together with a lecture on the union label movement, which is being given in different cities throughout the country.

The pictures show labor conditions in various branches of industry, and also show the labels of the different crafts. An interesting and instructive lecture is delivered while the pictures are being shown. These entertainments are offered to the public free of any charge whatever, the Boot and Shoe Workers furnishing the entertainment features and the local unions furnishing the hall and the necessary advertising. Lincoln was asked to get into immediate communication with the secretary if a date was wanted, and Secretary Kates was instructed to immediately notify the Boot and Shoe Workers that Lincoln did want the entertainment—and as soon as possible.

A committee composed of Weckesser, Kates and Maupin was appointed to secure information concerning hall, advertising, etc. It was decided to ask each affiliated union for ten cents per capita to defray the expenses of the entertainment. If there is a surplus it will either be prorated back to the unions or used in the furtherance of the label campaign in Lincoln.

The matter of proper observance of "Labor Sunday" was brought up and it was unanimously agreed to duly observe the day—Sunday, May 3. A committee consisting of Kelsey, Kates and Woelhoff was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. Some one of the ministers of Lincoln will be invited to deliver the annual sermon, and the services will be held in the church presided over by the minister selected. The committee will make a full report at the next meeting, but it is hoped to have every arrangement made in time to announce the complete program in next week's *Wageworker*.

A report of the label conference recently held in Washington was read, coming from President Gompers. It was referred to President Rudy with instructions to act thereon.

Another communication was read warning building tradesmen to stay away from the state of Minnesota, owing to strikes and lock-outs in all of the larger cities.

Some very interesting information was given concerning the Regent shoe factory in this city. This was a union factory while it was in Omaha, but when it was removed to Lincoln the manager selected by the local stockholders elected to make it a non-union concern. The manager is bitterly opposed to trades unionism, and has so stated on several occasions, two or three within the hearing of the editor of *The Wageworker*. An effort was made by Collins Lovely, of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union to "square" the factory, but it was a decided failure. The attitude of the manager towards union labor may have had some bearing on the fact that the factory is not now employing any shoe workers—either union or non-union, and is offering what stock it has on hand at wholesale and retail in order to get rid of it.

A communication was read from the Model Shirt Co., of Indianapolis, Ind., and discussed at length. This company makes labeled shirts and is anxious to secure an agent in Lincoln. It was reported that a local clothing firm would soon have in a full line of Model shirts and the announcement was greeted with applause.

With the exception of the building trades work was reported good in all lines, and the building trades delegates took an optimistic view of the future. Work in the building lines is a little slow in opening up, but is getting better every day.

A communication from the Tip Printers was read, and the result was amusing. The tip printers print the

sweatbands and dealer's labels in hats, and they asked that their label be called for. This led to a search for the label with the astonishing result that several non-union hats showed up in the possession of delegates. One delegate stated after the meeting that at the next meeting he would offer an amendment to the by-laws requiring every delegate to show labels on hat, clothing, shirts, and shoes before being allowed a seat in the body. This rule is in force in a majority of central labor unions, and its enforcement in Lincoln might boost the label movement a little bit.

T. C. Kelsey and W. M. Maupin were re-elected fraternal delegates to the Ministerial Union, and they will endeavor to attend more regularly in the future than in the past. They will also cordially invite the Ministerial Union to send fraternal delegates regularly.

LABOR TEMPLE BENEFIT. Auditorium, April 23, 24, 25. "In the Land of Gold." James Fulton and His Merry Company. Tickets, 50 cents.

WITH THE BARBERS.

Shops Change Locations and a New One Will Open Up.

There was a decided movement in barber shop circles last week. The Knight & Velour shop moved from 118 South Twelfth to O street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth, and the room vacated by them was immediately occupied by the Barthelman shop, which moved from a similar location on South Eleventh street. The change was speedily effected and both shops are now running as if nothing had happened.

Jack Scott is about to engage in business for himself again. He will open a shop on N street just east of Tenth, in the rear of Beilfeldt's saloon. Jack is an old-timer who has many friends in Lincoln, and he will start off with a goodly bunch of patrons.

IT ALL DEPENDS.

Grand Chief Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers also comes out with a declaration that the railroaders "will not stand for a wage reduction." With equal propriety he

might declare that hereafter they will not stand for the law of gravitation. Apparently Grand Chief Stone believes that wages are governed by favor or by the ability to pay or by the choice of labor instead of the immutable natural law of supply and demand. The railroaders may think they "will not stand for a reduction, but they will just the same if economic conditions do not improve. The attitude of the railway managers themselves will have little to do with the matter. The natural law is stronger even than aggregated monopoly.—Johnstown Democrat.

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ONE EDITOR'S OPINION.

LABOR PAPER SAYS BRYAN IS THE MAN FOR WAGE EARNERS.

Bryan is the ideal man for the trades unionist to support. He favors unionism at all times, and was the first man who dared to stand for anti-injunction by legislation and with that grand old man from Illinois, Altgelt, went down to defeat on a strong anti-injunction plank in his 1896 and 1900 platform. Let organized labor leaders ponder over these facts and Bryan's clean labor record during the past years, not in a manly-panny way, but open and above board, not crying "open shop" in one breath and "closed shop" with the other. Come out of the woods Messrs. Leaders and support the man who is ready to help fight your battles at all times.—Sioux City Union Advocate.

SPARE OUR BLUSHES.

Lincoln has the very best labor paper that we know of—called the *Wageworker*. It is edited by Will M. Maupin, is reasonable in its demands, broad in its teachings and aggressive in its cause. The paper should have a large circulation among all classes of people. Under the leadership of this paper it is proposed to build a Labor Temple in Lincoln. This enterprise deserves the enthusiastic support of capital city people.—Hastings, (Neb.) Democrat.

LABOR CONTRACTOR SENTENCED.

Michael Tsokas, a laborer contractor of New York, was sentenced last Tuesday to serve eight months in Sing Sing prison for importing contract laborers

from Macedonia and Bulgaria. This is the first sentence in New York under the conspiracy clause of the immigration law.

LANDIS FINES A MAN 1 CENT.

Judge Who Made It \$25,000,000 For Oil Trust Easy on Laborer.

United States Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who startled the financial world by imposing a fine of \$25,000,000 upon the Standard Oil company for rebating, went to the other extreme last Saturday by fining an offender one cent.

The culprit was George S. Miller, a working man, who had tried in vain to collect a debt of \$2 from Dr. D. S. Wilkins, Chicago. Finally Miller wrote the doctor a dun on a postal card and was not choice in the words he used. Wilkins had him arrested, but the doctor himself had an unpleasant quarter of an hour before Judge Landis.

"The maximum penalty in this case," said Judge Landis, "is five years' imprisonment." Then as Miller trembled, the judge added, "but I will fine you one cent and you need not pay the costs."

Miller paid the fine and walked out of court.

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LABEL BOOSTER HERE.

Stearns of the Garment Workers Does Some Missionary Work.

S. J. Stearns, label booster for the United Garment Workers of America, was in Lincoln last Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and put in good time boosting the label movement. He was a caller at *The Wageworker* office and discovered the editor visiting friends and relatives out of the city. Mr. Stearns while in Lincoln made arrangements to make it easier to get union made shirts and collars, and also boosters for union made clothing.

Stearns is kept out on the road by his union, and his duty is to arouse a greater interest in the label. Doesn't it seem funny that it is through necessary to be continually reminding union men that they ought to demand the label?

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Figuring Now on Site For the Big Temple

The board of directors of the Labor Temple Building Association met in regular session last Monday night. Present—Dickson, Ibringer, Weckesser, Chaplin, Ress, Pickard, Kelsey, Maupin, Rudy.

The directors have come to the conclusion that it will be necessary to immediately make a choice of site and buy it. Contributions are lagging, and the chief excuse is that "we don't want to subscribe until we know where it is going to be located." The association now has \$3,000 in cash and pledges on hand, and in the next two or three weeks the subscribers will be asked to select the site. Immediately thereafter the money on hand will be paid down, and it will then be up to the union men of the community to get busy or lose what has already been paid in. The directors have been faithful in their duties, but there is a discouraging lack of enthusiasm on the part of men who ought to be deeply interested in the movement. Every week for eight months the directors have met and planned and schemed to forward the work. And for eight long months the majority of union men in the city have done little or nothing as individuals, and a majority of the labor organizations have done nothing as organizations.

The tickets for the Temple benefit at the Auditorium on April 23, 24, and 25 were given out by S. L. Chaplin, who will have them in charge. This benefit will be given at the Auditorium on the dates named, by James Fulton and His Merry Company, the play being "In the Land of Gold." One hundred people will appear in the cast, and a splendid entertainment is guaranteed. Every union man in the city ought to get busy and buy a couple of tickets for himself and sell a dozen or more to his friends. The show will be worth the price of admission—and more—and the Temple fund will profit handsomely if every man does his duty.

Arrangements are being made for several "soda fountain" benefits during the coming summer, and these will give a handsome boost to the fund. It was decided to lay the plans of the association before the Civic League, and offer the Labor Temple project as something right in line with the policies so warmly advocated by that organization. If the Civic League can find a better counter attraction for the saloon than a commodious and well appointed Labor Temple it will be requested to do so, and given every opportunity to "make good."

LABOR TEMPLE BENEFIT.

"In the Land of Gold" at the Auditorium Next Week.

Next Thursday, Friday and Saturday James Fulton and His Merry Company will present the clever comedy-drama, "In the Land of Gold," at the Auditorium, the three performances being for the benefit of the Labor Temple Building fund. Mr. Fulton, the manager of the company is too well and favorably known to need any introduction to Lincoln people. He has recruited a strong and well-balanced company, and will tour the country during the summer after playing in Lincoln. "In the Land of Gold" is full of clever situations, thrilling incidents and witty dialogue, and will be sure to please all who attend. One hundred people will appear in the cast.

The price of admission is fifty cents, and purchasers of tickets from representatives of the Labor Temple may have their choice of nights. The tickets must be exchanged at the Auditorium box office for reserved seat tickets.

The auditorium should be crowded at all three of these performances, for the object is a worthy one and the attraction offered well worth the small price charged. Every ticket purchased means a few more bricks in the walls of the Labor Temple, and certainly every friend of organized labor in this vicinity ought to be willing to buy a few bricks in by so doing, he can get a first-class show thrown in. Tickets may be had of Samuel Chaplin for distribution and sale. The tickets are on sale in a score of places. Now let every good unionist boost—and boost hard.

PRESSMEN ON STRIKE.

Big Force Out for Eight-Hour Day in Louisville, Ky.

Union pressmen in Louisville, Ky., have been on strike now about three weeks. The old contracts with the union had expired and the men now want the eight-hour day, which several of the shops have refused, and as a consequence about 110 men and helpers are out. Several of the offices are entirely crippled and their machines are idle, and if it were a busy season in printing the enforced shut-down would be felt more than ever by the big "rat" offices. There seems to be good chances of winning the eight-hour day, as the printers are out on strike in these same offices, which seemingly have about reached the end of their resources.

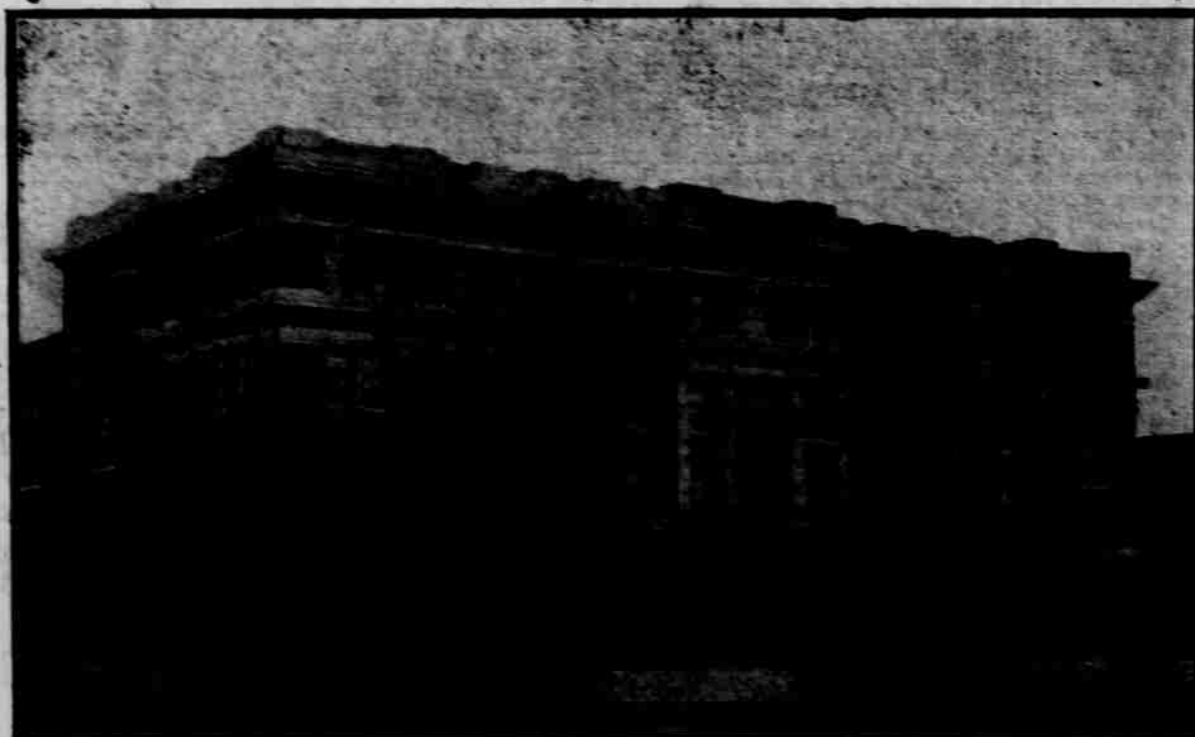
THE STEREOTYPERS.

Little Notes of the Boys Who Wield the Matrix Brushes.

A. E. Small, for many years foreman of the stereotyping department at the North printer, is now located in Seattle. His family is still in Lincoln but expect to join him in a few weeks. Mr. Small has purchased a little farm near Seattle, and while he works in the city the family will enjoy rural life. He has a host of friends in Lincoln who will "pull" for his success in his new home.

Ned Dougherty is holding down the North job at the present writing.

LABOR TEMPLE FUND BENEFIT



Auditorium, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 23 - 25.

On the above dates benefit performances will be given for the Labor Temple Building Fund by **James Fulton and His Merry Company** A new company of players, under competent management. One hundred people in the cast. Special scenery and costumes. Presenting the comedy drama

"THE LAND OF GOLD"

LABOR TEMPLE "BOOSTERS" will sell tickets exchangeable for reserved seat tickets at the Auditorium box office. Proceeds after expenses are paid will be donated to the building fund of the Labor Temple Association. Buy tickets for yourself and sell some to your friends.

Admission 50 and 25 cents. Your Choice of Performances.