

THE WAGGEWORKER



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Plumbing Ordinance Remains Dead Letter

That Lincoln has not suffered an epidemic of typhoid fever is due in large measure to the purity of its water supply. But not even this is going to prevent forever such an epidemic if the plumbing ordinances are allowed to remain as a dead letter upon the books.

About every provision for sanitary and safe plumbing is daily ignored, and men who scarce know the difference between a pipe wrench and a soldering iron are doing plumbing that wouldn't stand inspection a minute if the officials charged with law enforcement done their duty.

Soil pipes of galvanized iron are being put in every day, and the ordinance calls for lead pipe. Soldered joints are as common as old shoes, and "wiped" joints are demanded. This sort of thing can have but one ending in time—an epidemic of disease.

A man with a pipe wrench, a thread cutter and a soldering iron can and does hustle out and get a job of plumbing, regardless of the fact that he has had so little experience that he couldn't stand an examination for the position of plumber's helper.

A city's plumbing and sewerage is as important as its water supply as relates to public health. No man should be allowed to do plumbing unless he passes a rigid examination and is duly licensed.

If the city officials responsible for the present deplorable conditions of affairs do not get busy and correct the evil, the "rollers" ought to be put under them.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Regular Meeting Will Be Held Tuesday Evening Next Week.

The Central Labor Union will meet in regular session at Bruce's hall next Tuesday evening. All delegates should be present, as it is expected that the first move towards preparing for Labor Day will then be made. There is every reason why Labor Day should be observed in record-breaking style in Lincoln this year. With enough union musicians to furnish two or three bands, the parade should be worth while.

Doubtless some of the country's big labor leaders will attend the Denver convention, and an effort should be made to secure the presence of several of them in Lincoln before they return east. Samuel Gompers was in Chicago all week, trying to get some recognition of labor in the platform. He will doubtless go to Denver for the same purpose, and it may be possible to have him stop off in Lincoln on his way back to Washington. The Central body at Tuesday evening's meeting will probably take notice of these facts and act accordingly.

"A Brooklyn man advertised for a man to drive a team of horses, 'little experience required.' He had 700 applicants for the position. Gee, but the dinner is full to overflowing."

This remark was made by a Lincoln man the other day. It should serve to call attention to the fact that working men ought to be getting together in better shape. And the Central Labor Union is the rallying point. See that your delegates represent you.

SETTLED THE TIE.

Typographical Union Held Another Election for President.

Wednesday, from 12 m. to 7 p. m., Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 was in the throes of an election, endeavoring to settle the Ingraham-Ford tie for president. The election was by Australian ballot, and Carpenters' hall was selected as the polling place. The election board that officiated at the regular election officiated Wednesday. The election resulted: Ingraham 49; Ford 23.

Jess Mickel rushed into town Monday, and rushed right out again, headed for Harvard, where his wife and babies live. Jess has but two more years of penal servitude in the City of Mexico, where he is superintendent of a big newspaper publishing plant. When his term is over he will blossom forth into a farmer. "Me for the agricultural life as soon as I'm done down there," says Jess. He was in Lincoln only a couple of hours, but after visiting with the wife and babies for a couple of weeks he will return to Lincoln for three or four days, and then he himself back to the City of Mexico.

The local's memorial services were held at Fraternity hall last Sunday afternoon, the rain preventing a visit to the cemetery. A full account of the services will be found elsewhere in this issue.

What's the matter with a "printers' picnic" some time this summer?

They show up as good things in other towns—why not in Lincoln?

The union printers were the first craftsmen to establish a home for aged, disabled and indigent members. They were the first craftsmen to establish a pension fund for old members. They were the first craftsmen to adopt the initiative and referendum.

LABOR TEMPLE BOARD.

Short Meeting and Some Warm Discussion Concerning the Future.

The directors of the Labor Temple association met in regular session Monday evening, and was perhaps the "warmest" meeting since its organization. Discussion of ways and means brought out a heated argument, and out of it several valuable ideas were born.

Chairman Dickson has not yet assumed his duties as superintendent, but expects to have his business in shape by the first of the month so he can devote his whole time to the work of boosting.

It is pretty generally agreed that the local unions will have to take some concerted action pretty soon, or the project will languish. It has been suggested that the locals be asked to accept a regular assessment to provide a building fund. The plan will be worked out and submitted to the locals as soon as possible.

The building committee expects to meet in a few days and begin its work. The matter of site is being discussed more freely, and it is probable that a decision will be reached before the first of the month.

CEMENT WORKERS.

A New Industry That Is Rapidly Being Organized These Days.

The cement industry has been taking wonderful strides during the last two or three years, and the cement workers are organizing all over the country. There are several cement works in Lincoln and it is rumored that the employees are talking organization. Certainly they should receive every encouragement and they should have a strong union in Lincoln.

The organization takes in all who are engaged in working cement in any of its forms, pavement, building blocks, foundations, cellars, cisterns, etc. There are enough of them in Lincoln to form a big union, and they ought to get busy and do it.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

Here's One of the Oldest Unions in the United States.

The first local union of Cigarmakers was formed in Baltimore in 1851. It didn't last very long, but the idea did. In 1856 a convention was held in New York, employers and employees taking part. This was not satisfactory, and in 1864 the Cigarmakers' National Union was formed, made up wholly of employees. In 1867 jurisdiction was taken over Canada and the organization became known as the Cigarmakers' International Union.

In its forty years of existence the Cigarmakers' Union has paid out upwards of \$25,000,000 in death, sick, accident, strike and out-of-work benefits. It originated the label idea and has been one of the best label boosting organizations.

The Pepperburg factory will probably be running by July 1. The Plattsmouth shop is closed and everything moved to Lincoln. Mr. Pepperburg told The Waggeworker early in the week that he expected to run a force of twenty-five men as a starter, and increase as occasion warranted.

"Of course you will continue to run a union shop," said The Waggeworker man.

"Of course," replied Mr. Pepperburg. "I run a union shop nearly forty years—why should I quit now?"

The Kent factory has been reorganized and the factory now has ample capital behind it. It is putting out a fine cigar bearing the name and picture of William J. Bryan. The brand will be pushed to the limit.

GOOD ADVICE.

The courts may enjoin us from punishing our enemies, but they cannot

crats to go to Denver behind an outside band is percolating through the public mind, and steps are being taken to engage a Lincoln band—a union band, too. As a republican campaign card the sight of a democratic club from Bryan's own town marching behind a non-union band from a village a hundred miles away would be fine, and it would be played to the limit.

The Dixie Concert Band, which is billed for Capital Beach, is a union organization. As soon as it landed in town the manager hunted up the local secretary and presented the required documents.

THE BARBERS.

Fixed the Fourth of July Business Amicably With Employers.

The Fourth of July falls on Saturday this year, but the barbers are going to celebrate just the same. The journeymen and the boss barbers got together last week, and it didn't take long to fix up a scheme that was satisfactory. The shops will remain

INVESTIGATE IT HERE

A horrible system of peonage among the Greek boys of Omaha has been revealed. These boys are kept in a state of practical slavery, illy fed, illy clothed, worked like dogs and made to fatten the purses of conscienceless slave drivers.

There is a well defined suspicion that a similar condition of affairs exists in Lincoln. Occasional complaints have resulted in cursory investigation, but the results have been nil. Scores of Greek boys are employed in "shining parlors" and elsewhere, and a few Greeks seem to be living well with no other exertion than counting the money the little Greeks bring to them. An investigation started in Omaha a few days ago resulted in some disclosures that shocked even Omaha. The World-Herald says: "Monday's investigation started the ball rolling. In company with Tom Birbilis, a naturalized Greek of Council Bluffs, who acted as interpreter, Dean Beecher, Canon R. B. H. Bell and Joe Carroll, visited the reeking room at 1818 St. Mary's avenue, which young Corisis has long regarded as home. Here was found a condition positively appalling.

"Twenty-two Greek men and boys live in this hovel, which measures 22 by 75 feet in size. There are five filthy beds therein, which have never been aired or cleaned, and which are piled one on another when not in use. They are small beds, only one being three-quarters in size, the others one-half. Vermin are thick in them. The room also serves as a stable for the pushcarts which the popcorn and candy vendors of the colony own. There is one plain table in the center, and there the boys and men are forced to eat, the men doing the honor of hosts.

"All this was testified to before Judge Estelle by Corisis and Birbilis, the interpreter. The food is usually a mess of meat and potatoes, the material for which is of mysterious origin, none of the boys knowing from whence it comes. They all eat out of the same dish, digging in with their fingers like so many animals."

The stories told by some of the trembling little Greeks when brought into juvenile court and questioned by Judge Estelle were almost unbelievable, but investigation corroborated them in every detail. Nick Laedas said he didn't know what a bath was—and he looked the part. George Corisis testified that he had taken a bath but twice in fifteen months. Others testified that they had to work a year for nothing, and after that for a mere pittance, their earnings going to a master who fed them like pigs and lodged them worse than pigs are ordinarily lodged.

Is it possible that a similar condition exists in Lincoln? The juvenile court, the Humane Society and the church societies ought to get busy and make a thorough examination of existing conditions. There may be developments that would shock the people, and at the same time release a lot of young Greeks from peonage.

enjoin us from sticking to our friends. Support all union firms and demand the label and this will do the work more effectively than the boycott ever did.—Coopers' Journal.

THE MUSICIANS.

Orchestras Busy, But Outside Business Spoiled by Rain.

Orchestra work, although curtailed by the wet weather, is reasonably good, but the band business has been knocked galley west. It was hoped that ere this arrangement would have been made for a series of band concerts at the park, but rain every day has been discouraging.

The fact that it wouldn't look well for a big delegation of Lincoln demo-

open Friday night the same as usual on Saturday night. Saturday forenoon will find the barbers working, but when the whistle blows for 1 o'clock the men will knock off work and go to shooting firecrackers with the rest of the celebrators.

This is merely a sample of how things can be framed up when there is good-will and confidence on both sides.

The Green shop, now located in the Richards block, will shortly be moved to the room occupied by the Cole-McKenna Cigar Co. The cigar company will continue its occupancy, but the barber shop will occupy most of the space. Mr. Green says he is going to make it the handsomest shop between the two mountain ranges.

What Labor Asked — What Labor Got

Following is the "injunction plank" submitted to the framers of the republican national platform at Chicago by President Gompers and other labor leaders, representing the American Federation of Labor:

"We pledge ourselves to the enactment of a law to prohibit the issuance of injunctions in cases arising out of labor disputes when such injunctions would not apply when no labor disputes existed; and that in no case shall an injunction be issued when there exists a remedy by the ordinary process of law and which act shall provide that in the procedure for the punishment of contempt of court, the party cited for contempt shall, when such contempt was not committed in the actual presence of the court, be entitled to a trial by jury."

This is the reference made to "injunctions" by the framers of the republican national platform:

"The republican party will uphold at all times the authority and integrity of the courts, state and federal, and will ever insist that the powers to enforce their processes and to protect life, liberty and property shall be preserved inviolate. We believe, however, that the rules of procedure in federal court, with respect to the issuance of a writ of injunction, should be more accurately defined by the statute; that no injunctions or temporary restraining order should be issued without notice, except where irreparable injury would result from delay, in which case a speedy hearing thereafter should be granted."

Now What the Devil Does That Mean, Anyhow?

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

Didn't Like the First Name, So Took Their Present One.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was born during the civil war and the place and date of its birth was Detroit, August 17, 1863. The organization was named "Brotherhood of the Footboard," but the name was neither distinctive, explanatory or euphonious, so it was changed at the first annual meeting, held in Indianapolis, August 17, 1864. It was then given the name of Grand International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Numerically and financially it is one of the strongest labor organizations in the world. It has paid millions in insurance to the relatives of deceased members, paid more millions for sick and accident insurance, and has an exchequer that is always in a healthy condition.

Like nearly every other labor organization, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had trouble with a rival organization. At one time the Knights of Labor organized a lot of engineers, and the two organizations clashed. The Brotherhood easily survived, but the Knights fell by the wayside, their organization dissolving and the members as a rule joining with the Brotherhood.

The locomotive engineers played a very conspicuous part in the civil war. It is related that while on the march from Atlanta to the sea Sherman's army had trouble with its railroad connections, the confederates tearing up the rails and destroying rolling stock. At one place a regiment came across an engine that had been taken apart and the pieces scattered along the right of way. The colonel ordered the parts collected and then asked if anybody could put it together. A private stepped from the ranks, saluted and said: "I've been looking her all over, Colonel, and I guess I can put her together. I run the d—d thing out of the shops on her first trip and kept running her for a couple of years."

"Here's another dollar for The Waggeworker," said George Moore the other day. "The railroad man that fails to support the papers that give him a square deal don't deserve a square deal. The Waggeworker is about the only paper I know of in this neck of the woods that don't accuse a railroad man of being a political crook because he happens to be looking out for his bread and butter factory. The Waggeworker and I don't always agree politically, but I know it is always trying to stand up for the wage earners, and that suits me. Just keep her coming and when my time

is up tell me and a dollar's ready for you."

Business is picking up a little, but the continued wet weather is preventing the expected increase. About the only men who are getting in big time are the section men and track repair gangs. The long wet spell has been mighty hard on tracks.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

A Bunch of Labor Temple Boosters That Means Business.

If every union in Lincoln would take as much interest in the Labor Temple project as the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, it wouldn't be long until the roofers went to work on the Temple. The local and its individual members now own about \$400 worth of stock, and unless all signs fail the local itself will have \$1,500 worth in a few months. The proposition to levy an assessment of 1 per cent a week is meeting with favor, and will in all human probability be adopted.

C. D. Gerich, a laborer in the employ of the Independent Telephone company, Omaha, was struck on the head by a pole, which was being lowered, one day last week, and was instantly killed. The accident occurred at Twentieth street and Ames avenue, where a construction gang, of which James Martin was foreman, was at work. There was some hitch in the handling of the heavy pole and when it fell Gerich was struck upon the head. Gerich lived at 2926 Farnam street and leaves a wife and child.

THE CONVICTS IDLE.

Contractor Lee and State Board Fail to Reach Agreement.

The state board insists that Contractor Clinton R. Lee will have to pay 75 cents a day for the convicts who labor in his broom shop, and Lee says he'll be dashed if he pays more than 52½ cents a day. So the big broom shop failed to open up Wednesday morning, and the convicts were idle save for a few employed in gardening and doing the chores.

The state board declares that the state reaps little if any benefit from the contract price of 50 cents, and Lee says he can not afford to pay more.

Under the old contract Lee got his labor at 50 cents a day, with rent, power and heat thrown in, and worked close to 200 men. He threatened to take his broom business to some other penitentiary or else start up a factory and employ free labor. The latter part of the threat is looked upon as one of Mr. Lee's clever jokes.