

# THE WAGEWORKER

VOL. 5

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FEBRUARY 27, 1909

NO. 47



State Historical Society

## SUBMIT THE CHARTER TO THE VOTERS OF LINCOLN

If the proposed city charter is a good one, the people of Lincoln will ratify it.

If the proposed city charter is a bad one, the people of Lincoln should be given an opportunity to reject it.

**In any event the people of Lincoln should be given an opportunity to pass judgment upon the proposed charter.**

This can only be done by submitting the charter to a referendum vote. And the men who object to thus submitting the charter to a referendum vote will bear watching.

If it is a good thing to provide for a referendum vote on such a simple matter as an ordinance, how much more is it a good thing to submit to a referendum the matter of a charter that has to do with an entire and radical change in the plan of municipal government.

The claim that the present charter has already been passed upon is utterly and unqualifiedly false. A little history concerning this matter of changing to the commission plan of government may not be amiss at this time.

Last summer the attention of many people was called to what is known as the "Des Moines plan," which is a commission plan of city government. The idea met with favor, and it was suggested that in order to get at the sentiment of the people the matter be voted on at the general election. Now mind you, the matter was not legally submitted, nor was it voted on as by law directed. No notice of such election was ever advertised or posted, the question was not printed upon any legal ballot, and no legal return was ever made. Under the guise of "just an attempt to get at public sentiment," City Clerk Pratt had some tickets printed and the election judges—or some of them—were asked to hand out these tickets and keep a separate return on them. Not all of the precincts were supplied with these tickets, and in some of the precincts that were supplied the judges neglected to hand them out. In other precincts

many voters were not informed that such a ballot was being taken, and thus, in view of the failure to legally submit and advertise the question, many voters were practically debarred from expressing an opinion.

No one doubts, after studying all the facts, that the commission plan would have been carried had it been legally submitted and voted upon. But it is not true that the proposed charter would have carried by a vote equal to that cast in favor of the commission plan last fall. The people who expressed their opinion last fall expressed the opinion that they would like to try the commission plan, but in so doing they did not bind themselves to accept any old kind of a charter that might be framed up.

The Wageworker favors the commission plan of government of municipalities. But first of all it favors allowing the people to say what kind of a commission they prefer. It opposes allowing a few idealists to frame up a charter and foist it upon 8,000 voters without their consent. It favors a commission plan that will divide responsibility among men elected to bear that responsibility, pay them a reasonable wage for their work and then compel them to attend to the work. It opposes a plan that will make a bunch of figureheads and open an unlimited field for the placing of favorites in soft berths. It opposes a plan that disfranchises a large number of honest, hard-working and home-building citizens in order to give more force and effect to the votes of men who insist that the possession of wealth, and treasurers and legal lore marks the possessors as the logical keepers of the welfare of the workers and toilers.

The Wageworker is opposed to the May election date for more reasons than one. First, it disfranchises nearly a thousand voters whose means of livelihood compel them to leave the city before the date set for election. It is true that the men who are to be thus disfranchised are only "ignorant Russians," but they are also honest, hard-working, frugal citizens who are building homes, who are honest and quick to pay their obligations, and who are paying taxes

for the support of municipal institutions. By reason of the nature of their work they bring thousands of dollars to Lincoln every year, and this money goes into the legitimate channels of Lincoln trade. The Wageworker holds that such citizens are entitled to as much consideration as the drones of society who live on the unearned increment. Secondly, The Wageworker opposes the May election date for the reason that it is unfair and unwise to thrust sudden responsibility upon the newly elected excise board. With an April election date the excise board has several weeks in which to consider and pass upon excise matters. With the May date the newly elected board has but a day or two in which to meet this heavy responsibility.

But above all, The Wageworker believes in home rule. It favors allowing every municipality to run its own affairs as may best suit its citizens, subject only to the general laws that must bear alike upon all citizens of the state. The people of Lincoln, not the legislators of Nebraska, have the right to decide what municipal rules shall govern them. This right the people of Lincoln will not have if the plans of a few self-constituted guardians of the people succeed.

The present legislature can not foist a charter upon the people of Lincoln without violating the platform pledges of the legislative majority. The battle cry of that majority was "let the people rule." One of its platform pledges was the initiative and referendum. If the people of Lincoln are to rule Lincoln they must be given a chance to say whether or not they approve of the charter. If the platform pledge is to be carried out the charter must be referred back to the people.

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**Let the people rule!**

### Among the Live Workers Here, There and Elsewhere

The annual ball of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division No. 98, was seriously interfered with by King Boreas. Monday evening was wet and rainy and windy, making it disagreeable to go outside of the doors of one's own home, and for this reason the attendance at the ball was not nearly so large as was to have been expected from the number of tickets sold. But despite the untoward weather conditions there was a goodly attendance. Nearly one hundred couples took part in the grand march, and fully three hundred spectators sat in the balcony and enjoyed listening to the excellent music and watching the dancers.

The Auditorium was tastefully decorated with patriotic colors, and railway signal lights of red, white and blue were strung lavishly about. From the stage a huge locomotive headlight shone out upon the dancers.

The grand march was led by the chairman of the ball committee, Mr. J. F. Duffy, and his daughter, Miss Anna. From its close until midnight the enjoyment was shared in by the hundreds present. The committees having the ball in charge were as follows:

Ball committee—J. F. Duffy, chairman. W. T. Leahy, Fred Farquar, C. Hook and D. Heimling.  
Floor committee—J. E. Johnson and E. Bignell.

Reception committee—J. S. McCoy and wife, John Gleason and wife, A. L. Clayberg and wife, Edward Ralfsinger and wife, and A. J. Bignell and wife.

During the evening refreshments of coffee, sandwiches and punch were served, and this feature was by no means overlooked.

Measured from the social standpoint the ball was a complete success, and the engineers are not complaining about the financial success. The

net receipts would have been larger had it not been for the weather, but despite this drawback a neat sum will be carried over to help defray the expenses of the big meeting in Lincoln later in the season. The ball was given for this purpose, and the engineers received cordial support from friends and business generally.

The big meeting will be held in Lincoln during the last week in June, and leading members of the Brotherhood and the Auxiliary will be present from all parts of the country. Grand Chief Stone has arranged to be present. The local division is planning to show the visiting brothers and sisters a royal good time, and those who know of the enterprise and enthusiasm of the local locomotive engineers are resting easy in the assurance that the visitors will go away impressed with Lincoln and Lincoln's hospitality.

The Central Labor Union met Tuesday evening and elected officers for the ensuing year. A lot of detail business was looked after and some attention was paid to the recent street railway merger. The following officers were elected:

D. J. Hanna, President.  
A. B. Woelhoff, Vice-President.  
F. A. Kates, Secretary.  
T. W. Evans, Treasurer.

The internal troubles of the International Electrical Workers was brought up, but the central body decided it was not in a position to take action. This matter was thrashed out at the Denver convention.

The following resolution was adopted, referring to the recent merger of Lincoln's street railways:

"Whereas, It appears from the records of the merger of the Lincoln Traction company and the Citizens' Railway company that there is to be

injected into the stock of the new company something like one and one-half millions of dollars worth of what is commonly known as water; and

"Whereas, The payment of interest and dividends on this will largely fall on the wage-earners of this city, since they and their families are the principal patrons of said company; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we protest against this action and demand that some means be devised whereby the valuation allowed by the state railway commission or some system whereby the interests of the people of Lincoln and suburbs will be protected, be made the basis for capitalization to the end that interest and dividends be paid only on a fair and actual investment; and be it further

"Resolved, That we favor the purchase of the street car system by the city at the earliest date practicable." The appointment of standing committees was deferred until the next meeting. Some interesting talks were made concerning the proposed city charter, but no definite action was taken.

#### PENSION THE FIREMEN.

Senator Ransom of Douglas has in-

roduced a bill providing that all metropolitan cities and cities of the first class shall pension all firemen of the paid fire departments who shall have first served twenty-five years and shall then elect to go on the retired list. At the death of the pensioned fireman the pension shall continue to his widow as long as she lives and remains unmarried. In case there is no widow, then the pension shall be paid to the minor children.

#### MOORE GOT A BUMP.

Well Known Burlington Engineer Gets Hurt in a Wreck.

George H. Moore, the big Burlington engineer who is better known as "Sandhill" Moore, was in a wreck at LaPlatte early last week. A work train failed to get into the clear in time to let the fast train which Moore was pulling go by. Owing to a fog the signals could not be seen and there was no flagman out. Moore reversed and applied the air and then jumped. In alighting he sustained some severe bruises and a fractured clavicle. He was brought to Lincoln and taken to St. Elizabeth's hospital. He is getting along all right, but it will be a week or two before he again mounts the footboard.

### Lincoln's War Was Against All Kinds of Servitude

Abraham Lincoln's memory was celebrated last week in all kinds of ways, by all kinds of people and from all kinds of motives. Pagans defiled him for the ephemeral things he had done; others honored him for the eternal spirit that led him on. Reactionaries celebrated his dead and one achievements; progressives drew inspiration from his ideals. Literalists confined his words for liberty to the narrow and temporary occasion of the anti-slavery struggle; national minds gave to them the breadth and scope of the irrepressible conflict between special privilege and common right, of which the anti-slavery struggle was but a passing phase. For ourselves, we regard Lincoln as greater than his epoch. Backward over the course of history he saw in other forms the very conflict in which in one of its forms he was a participant; forward into the mysterious future he glimpsed still other forms of that same conflict. In homely phrase he described the spirit of the defenders of privilege in all ages, past

or to come, and inclusive of his own, as the spirit of those who say to their fellows, "You work and toil and earn bread, and I'll eat it." Who can read those of Lincoln's words without realizing that his perception of the principles of liberty was limited by no single battle in the war for liberty. Who can doubt that he saw, beyond the slave of the cotton field driven to work, the advancing shadow of the slave of the factory begging for work? It is not what Abraham Lincoln did in a national crisis, but the undying principle he invoked, that exalts his name and preserves his memory.—Louis F. Post, in Chicago Public.

#### GETTING READY TO DANCE.

Barbers Making Every Preparation for a Merry Time.

"We've been a long time making up our minds to give an annual ball," remarked the old-time barber as he adjusted the towel around The Wage-worker man's neck, "but we are going to make up for lost time by giving our members and our friends one of the best ever held in this good town."

"Getting busy, eh?" queried the man in the chair.

"Busy! Well I guess yes. Say, the committee is working their heads off arranging for a little the swellest time you ever read about. Williams' hall, where our ball will be held, has one of the finest dancing floors in the west, and we've selected an orchestra that is strictly all right. We are going to make it a ball that will commend us to the good people of Lincoln, and set a precedent that will cause us to give a ball every year."

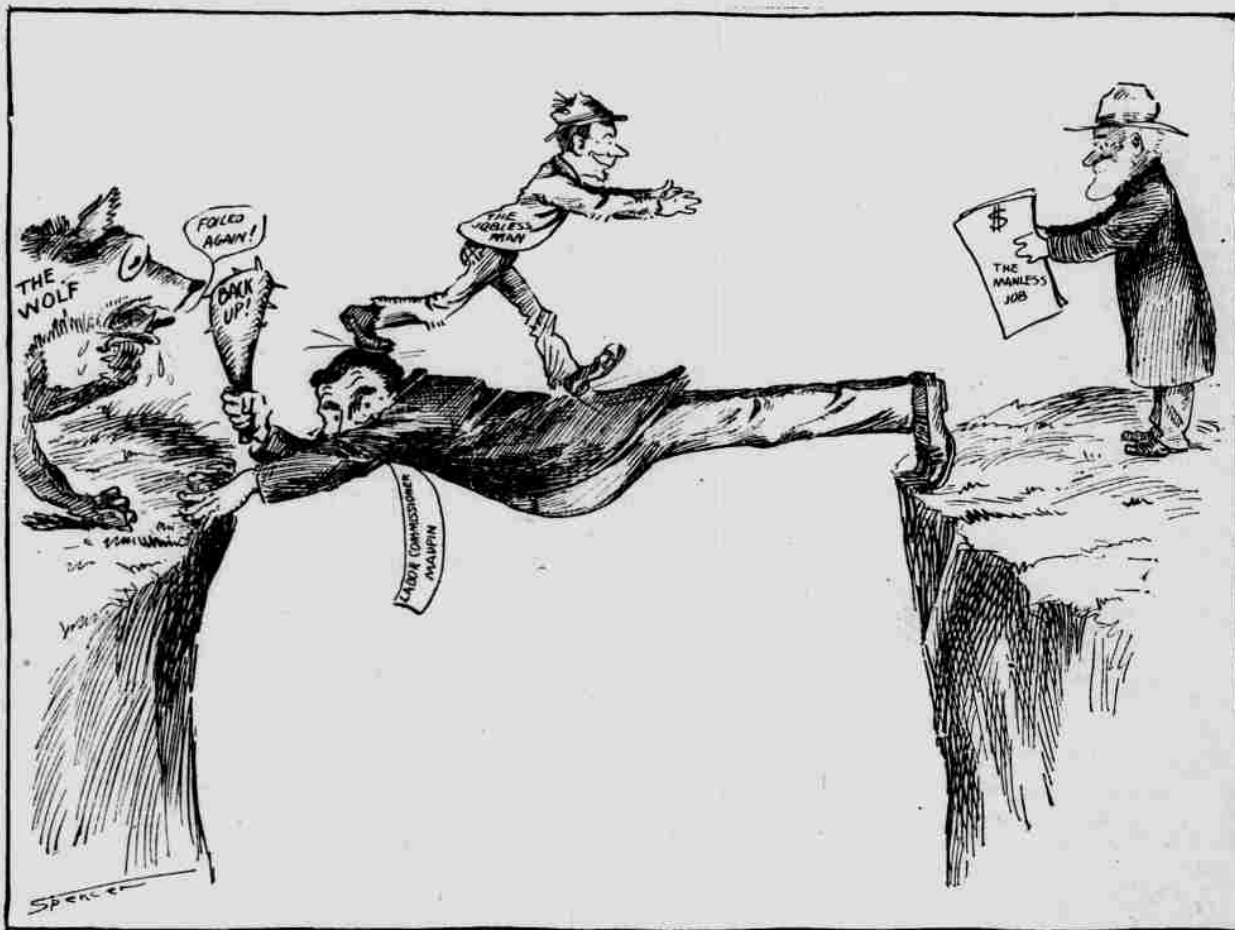
"What kept you from it all these years?"

"Well, we were a little different, I guess. And again we have not gone into the society game to any great extent. Our hours are long, you know, and by the time we have stood around on our feet twelve hours a day we don't feel much like the giddy waltz and the entrancing two-step. But we decided that to keep us one end of the game we would have to give a ball, and we are going to make good, too. We want all you union men to help us make the first ball a success."

By this time the face powder was on and the towel off. The first annual ball of the Journeyman Barbers' Union of Lincoln will be held at Williams' hall on March 4—the day that President Roosevelt steps down and out and William Howard Taft steps up and in. You can not forget the date if you want to. And you shouldn't miss the dance if you can help it.

Look for the label and take nothing wearable or smokable without it.

### Thrilling Stunt Being Pulled Off Daily at Lincoln.



Cartoonist Spencer of The Omaha World-Herald Pictures the State's Free Employment Bureau

**First Annual Ball**  
**JOURNEYMEN BARBERS' UNION**  
Lincoln  
**Williams' Hall**  
**Thursday, March 4**  
BRUSE'S ORCHESTRA. UNION MUSIC.  
Tickets, \$1.00