

# THE WAGEWORKER



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## Among the Live Ones Here and Hereabouts

The 1909 convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union was held in Omaha last week—near enough to make it of almost local interest to the unionists of Lincoln. In point of attendance the convention was the largest in the history of the organization, almost 300 delegates being present, and as many more visitors. The convention opened Monday afternoon, June 2, and was in session five days. During the time a large amount of business was transacted, and the local unionists, headed by the Pressmen and Assistants, showed the delegates and visitors a splendid time during the social hours. The headquarters were at the Rome hotel.

With one exception there was no opposition to the re-election of the old international officers, and President George Berry received an ovation when the vote was taken on the presidency. He was re-elected with a great cheer. This was an endorsement of President Berry's management of the eight hour campaign, the special assessments levied and his fight against tuberculosis. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows:

President, George L. Berry, San Francisco.

First vice president, Peter J. Dobbs, New York City.

Second vice president, Michael H. Flannery, Chicago.

Third vice president, Clayton Pense, Chicago.

Secretary-treasurer, Patrick J. McMullen, Cincinnati.

Mr. Pense is the new officer in the above list. He, too, was elected without opposition.

Interesting addresses were made by visitors representing other unions, among them being President Lynch of the printers, Organizer McSwiggen of the flint glass workers and Vice President Keppler of the machinists.

The convention unanimously recorded itself in favor of putting wood pulp and print paper on the free list, and the resolution was forwarded to Senator Norris Brown at Washington and was by him presented to the senate on the day of its receipt.

It is pretty generally admitted that the most important work of the convention was to vote in favor of President Berry's recommendation to establish a home for union pressmen afflicted with tuberculosis. A committee of five, with President Berry as chairman, to frame a comprehensive plan for carrying out the resolution was appointed. The adoption of the report of this committee will be left to a referendum vote of the 22,000 members. The only objection to this came from those who wanted something done right away.

It was decided to increase the force of organizers by three, but only temporarily in case it is found too expensive for the results obtained. If the results warrant it the increase will be made permanent.

The usual trouble over the allied label came up, the pressmen objecting to what they call the "appropriation of property rights in the label by the Typographical Union." A committee will be appointed by President Berry to attend the next session of the joint conference board and demand equal property rights.

The social features of the convention included about everything calculated to make the leisure time of the delegates and their attending relatives full of joyful interest. There were trolley rides galore, "Dutch lunches," banquets, receptions and socials. The Omaha members were ceaseless in their efforts to make the stay of the visitors thoroughly enjoyable.

The effects of the convention upon the union situation in Omaha will be good. The business-like actions of the convention were in marked contrast to what the "union busters" would have the people believe such organization conventions to be. The solidarity of the union, the great interest manifested in the efforts at social betterment, and the very apparent success of those efforts, all went to cheer and hearten up the other organizations of the big city. From every point of view the convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' 1909 at Omaha was a remarkable success, and the Omaha

"bunch" is to be congratulated upon the way it handled the big gathering.

### ALLIED TRADES SMOKER.

#### Printing Craftsmen Get Together and Talk Over the Situation.

The "smoker" tendered by the Typographical Union to the allied printing crafts of the city was held last Tuesday night at Fraternity hall, and from every point of view it was a success. Representatives of every printing trade save one—the stereotypers—were present and enjoyed the union-made cigars and the several good union talks. George Locker, president of the Allied Printing Trades Council, presided with dignity and kept the matters going at a lively rate until eleven o'clock.

Those who attended were rejoiced to meet Robert Gloeking, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders. He made a rousing good organization talk early in the evening, and then later he made a union label talk that caused the craftsmen to sit up and take notice. Mr. Gloeking is a forceful speaker who wastes few words in getting to the points he wants to cover. He gave the careless union men several home thrusts for their failure to make the label the greatest weapon in the union armory.

"The uses and abuses of the label" was a subject assigned to W. M. Maupin, but he begged off from discussing it to any extent, giving as his excuse the fact that he had been too busy with other matters of greatest importance for a few days. Fred Mickel and F. M. Coffey of the Typographical Union, and Walter Brown and Col. Brooks of the Pressmen were among others who spoke to the point. All the talks were along the line of bettering conditions, not only for the union printing craftsmen, but for the fair employers.

The "smoker" was a splendid success and those who engineered it are entitled to the thanks of the printing craftsmen.

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

#### Printers Will Meet and Witness the Installation of New Officers.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will meet Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at Fraternity hall. Because it is the Fourth of July and nothing else on in the way of a celebration, there is every reason why there should be an unusually large attendance. One of the features of the meeting will be the installation of the new officers who will guide the destinies of the organization for the ensuing year.

The matter of affiliating with the Nebraska State Federation of Labor will also come up, and the constitution of that organization will be submitted.

There will be some organization talk, too, as the printers are a little bit anxious to have a closer understanding of the uses of that instrument of unionism.

### CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

#### Little Notes About the Better Halves of the Printer Men.

Capital Auxiliary will meet next Wednesday, the place of meeting not having been decided as yet. At this meeting the following officers, elected at the last meeting, will be installed: President, Mrs. F. H. Hebbard. Vice president, Mrs. W. M. Maupin. Secretary, Mrs. Orville Young. Treasurer, Mrs. Abe Compton. Chaplain, Mrs. George Freeman. Guide, Mrs. Erstine King.

Mrs. Hebbard will represent the organization at the international convention in St. Joseph next month.

Mrs. Will Bustard and Mrs. Hoffmeister are both at St. Elizabeth's hospital. Mrs. Bustard is getting along nicely, but Mrs. Hoffmeister's condition is a source of worry to her husband and friends.

Mrs. W. M. Maupin and the four littlest Maupins are in North Bend, Nebraska, where they will spend the Fourth and several days thereafter with Mrs. Maupin's parents.

### "SCABBING" AT ELECTIONS.

There are approximately two million voters in the United States who are members of organized labor.

They strike together, when necessary; hunt jobs together when out of work, are locked out together when they begin to show a little spirit of independence; but they never vote together. If they would stop "scabbing" on each other on election days they could accomplish more in a few years than they can accomplish in a lifetime by clinging to political party prejudice.—From Railway Clerk.

### MUSICAL UNION.

#### First July Meeting Scheduled for the Glorious Fourth at Eleven A. M.

The Musicians' Protective Union will hold its regular semi-monthly meeting at Bruse's hall Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. This is the first time in the history of this organization that a meeting has fallen upon the glorious Fourth, and the members are talking about making it a record-breaker in point of attendance and interest.

There is little apart from routine business to be taken care of. Several matters will be reported upon. Among them will be the matter of the Lindell hotel. A committee called upon Steve Hoover to see him about employing student musicians, and he readily agreed that hereafter if the hotel furnished music to its guests it would come from instruments in the hands of union musicians. The student orchestra has disbanded for the summer, and so far as the Lindell hotel under the present management is concerned it will be no more. The matter of the Elite theatre will be reported upon.

Park concerts are now an assured fact. Professor August Hagenow took the matter up and the money has been raised for a series of twenty or twenty-five concerts, and there will be at least two a week at Antelope Park beginning early this month. Professor Hagenow is now drilling a band for concert purposes. Of course it will be a union band. Professor Hagenow has been an honorary member of the union since its organization, but he has taken out an active card.

The opening of Capital Beach has added something to the opportunities of union musicians. It gives employment to a band and orchestra. By the way, Capital Beach is more inviting than ever this year, and it is deserving of the patronage of the whole people.

The musicians who turned out, despite the busy times, and helped to make the Raymond Robins meeting a success are entitled to the thanks of the unionists of the city, and the thanks are forthcoming, too. The editor has heard many good words for the loyal musicians for their efforts. And the editor also wants to state that the Lincoln local had a mighty good representative at the Federation meeting in the person of Dr. Gains.

Trustee Pinney expects to push organization work in Nebraska while he holds the important office. He opines that there is room for a couple of more organizations of musicians in Nebraska, and if he finds upon investigation that he is correct he'll build them up. In the meanwhile he will look up the scattered ones and induce them to join either the Lincoln or Omaha local.

### WORKERS WILL WAIT.

New England mill men, it is said, have decided to spend \$20,000,000 in new buildings. As many of their employees have had their wages reduced they will postpone indefinitely their contemplated investments in buildings which they could call homes.—Advance Advocate.

### THE ENGINEERS' MEETING.

#### The Reunion of Locomotive Drivers Was Seemingly a Success.

The reunion engineered by Division No. 98, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was the success that its promoters planned for it. About 200 engineers attended, and there were even more visitors. Many of the attendants came from the remotest part of the country. Several secret meetings of the Brotherhood were held, but there were several open meetings in which railroad men of all the branches participated.

Grand Chief Stone made a strong address during the convention, and he and Mr. Willard, of the Burlington managerial staff had something of a clash which produced considerable

ginger. Chief Stone, however, proved his ability to take care of his side of the case.

The barbecue and field contests held at Capital Beach Wednesday attracted a large crowd. Judge Cosgrave and Mayor Love gave addresses of welcome and the ox was roasted to a turn. The contests were full of excitement and lasted until a reasonably late hour.

There was considerable adverse comment among union men of other crafts on the fact that the committee in charge of the engineers' reunion turned out a lot of its printing minus the union label, and that right in the midst of the hatters' strike, it was widely advertised that the engineers would offer as a prize in one of their main contests a "five dollar Stetson hat." If there is any worse "scab" hat manufactured on earth than the Stetson a lot of union men who study the game are not aware of the fact.

Chief Stone's claim that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers as an organization stands "head and shoulders above all other labor organizations" was quite natural coming from a man deeply interested in his own organization and calling, but it brought a smile to the faces of some men who belong to unions that have never yet got a really big strike, and that poured millions into their defense fund without sweating a hair. Also the faces of a lot of union men who have a habit of digging down and helping brother workers when they are in trouble.

Taken as a whole the reunion was a decided success, and the committees in charge have a right to be proud of the results of their efforts and are entitled to the thanks of their fellow craftsmen.

### THE CARPENTERS.

#### Getting Ready to Take Action Concerning the State Federation.

The Carpenters will meet in regular session next Monday evening, and at that time will install the officers elected for the ensuing term.

A special called meeting will be held a week from next Monday evening, at which time the constitution of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor will be taken up section by section and analyzed.

Work is showing no signs of abatement. The building boom in Lincoln is still on in full force, and the union carpenter who is idle is so from choice not from necessity. There are really more calls for union men than can be supplied. This, of course, does not obtain always. In the last two years a large number of non-union carpenters have been brought to Lincoln by various means, and when work slacks up the effect of their unfair competition is felt by the men who have done all that has been done to bring about the better conditions that the non-union men have equally shared in without cost, either of money or of effort.

### THE LATHERS.

#### Loyal Little Band Has Taken on Renewed Activity of Late.

The union lathers of Lincoln have taken on new activity this season, and as a result they are enjoying an increase in membership and in interest. They are also enjoying a substantial increase in their wage scale. In the meanwhile a number of lathers who should be in the union but are not, are enjoying the benefits that the union men have obtained for them.

Some very effective organization work is being done among the non-union men of the craft and the union is growing stronger every day.

G. A. Walker laid off Monday and made a trip for the purpose of returning with Mrs. Walker, who has been visiting relatives in Omaha for a couple of weeks.

### THE "OPEN SHOP."

When the employers talk of the "open shop" they mean a shop open to the cheapest and most docile laborers and closed against all who dare to organize for the raising of wages and the reduction of hours, and the bettering of the conditions of labor.—New York Call.

The editor of the Laborer rounded out his fourteenth year on the job last Thursday, June 3, 1909. Beat it, some of you guys in the labor paper publishing business. It's the record in all the west and we are proud of it.—Frank A. Kennedy, Omaha Western Laborer.

## Pressmen and Assistants Have Big Convention

There are about 300 more live unionists in Lincoln than there were ten days ago. About 200 of the number are new unionists, and the other hundred are union men who have grown just a little careless and lukewarm. The organization of the Team Drivers and the Street Railway men injected new life into the lukewarm, and in other ways added vastly to the organized labor movement in Lincoln. It was a joy and a pleasure to the old timers in the movement to see the active interest taken by the men who formed Lincoln's new organization. It is a sign that there is something doing when men will work hard all day at their trades and then work until two or three o'clock in the morning helping their brothers to organize.

And say, Mr. Old Time Union Man, don't it look good to see about ninety percent of the motormen and conductors proudly wearing the union button?

Sure! And things will look better when the teamsters begin displaying their buttons as they guide their teams through the streets. One old time unionist who is a much better Christian than the most of us, remarked as he saw the splendid activity along organization lines:

"Boys, this almost makes me feel like exclaiming in the words of the prophet of old, 'Now let thy servant depart in peace since mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord.'"

Organizer Emmett Flood is entitled to the bulk of the credit for the work of organization. He came down to the State Federation meeting and immediately set about acquainting himself with the local situation. With a comprehensive grasp of affairs he soon saw that the time was ripe for missionary work. He selected some capable assistants and set to work. With Assistant Organizer Guey, of Omaha, he worked like a Trojan, and he did not hesitate to draft men into his service. He did not find many shirkers, either. Frank Coffey, General Kelsey, C. H. Chase, and others too numerous to mention, responded to the call. Raymond Robins spoke for fifteen minutes to the street railway men, and they were ready. Flood talked to his brother team drivers for half an hour, and they were ready. Then the charter lists were opened and the only difficulty experienced was in taking down the names fast enough.

Today there are two new charters hanging on the walls of Bruse's hall. One is the charter of Division No. 522, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees. The other is the charter of Local No. 349, International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Now that the good work is started what's the matter with organizing so many more that it will be necessary to secure increased wall space for the display of the charters?

Robert Gloeking, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, was in Lincoln last Tuesday, and while here he performed some good work in the way of arousing interest in the union of his craft. He did not find affairs in the very best of condition, but he did find a little bunch of five or six loyal and faithful unionists who are ready and willing to go the limit in increasing the numerical and mental strength of the organization in the capital city. He addressed an open meeting of bookbinders at Fraternity hall at 7:30 on Tuesday evening, and the result will be apparent in increased interest and membership. President Gloeking attended the pressmen's convention in Omaha and while in the west will visit a number of localities in the interests of the craft.

Are you interested in the graduated income tax plan? If you are not you should be. Those who are interested are invited to attend a meeting at St. Mark's Reformed church, Q street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth next Tuesday evening, at which meeting the merits and demerits of the graduated income tax will be discussed.

The Central Labor Union will meet a week from next Tuesday evening, and there is every reason why it should be the biggest and best meeting of that body in several years. There will be some delegates from new

unions present, and it ought to be worth while to be on the floor and greet the representatives of the street railway men and the teamsters when they show up. Both of these organizations will be represented in the central body and their presence and assistance will go a long way towards helping make the work of that body successful.

Funny thing happened over in Boone, Iowa, a week or two ago—and while it was funny it also demonstrated the power and efficiency of organization. Boone has a street railway system and it is manned by union motormen and conductors. The union is small, having only eleven members, and they were getting 17 1/2 cents an hour. They held a meeting in a car and decided to ask for 20 cents. The G. M. studied the matter over and then refused. The men struck, and the "system" was tied up. If the union had mustered 500 members the international could not have given it better support. Organizer Resin Orr appeared on the scene and managed it as seriously as though it was a Pittsburgh strike. The eleven men stood pat and had the support of the public. In two or three days the management capitulated and the strike was won. It actually costs the company about \$250 a day more now for its conductors and motormen than it did before it granted the increase of 2 1/2 cents an hour. The Lincoln boys ought to pick up courage, eh?

The Kalamazoo Advocate is making a kick because the president of a local union was allowed to step back into the ranks without even a vote of thanks after five years of hard work in the interest of his organization. While the Advocate is kicking we'll bet a four-dollar dog against a couple of two-dollar cats that the ex-president is not. We'll make the same bet that he is glad to get back into the ranks without having had his motives impugned, his honesty questioned or his services discounted by the "knockers." Retiring without thanks, indeed! Bless your soul, the man who tries the hardest to advance the cause of his fellows is the man who usually gets the most cursing. Just watch things a bit and you'll easily locate the man who is doing the most, or his best to push the good work along. He's the man that the "knockers" are hammering all the time. He is the man charged with being selfish, with looking after his own interests, with having some political scheme in his head. That Kalamazoo president is doubtless almighty glad to get back into the ranks without losing everything he had.

### AGAINST LABOR INSURANCE.

#### Plutocrats Trying to Destroy It By Underhand Means.

The insurance features of labor unions mark the latest form of attack by villigant plutocracy, every alert to the danger of losing a penny. At the last meeting of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor President Gompers was ordered to issue a circular to the various internationalists in which co-operation is asked to resist a quiet movement in several states having for its object the classifying of out-of-work, sick and death benefits with old-line insurance. The insurance companies are alarmed at the growing tendency of workers to furnish their own insurance, and efforts are now being made to surround them with such restrictions that they will either be driven out of the field or the extension of this trade-union feature checked. The circular warns the workers of their danger, which also includes fraternal societies.—Philadelphia Trades Union News.

### GUYE COMING BACK.

Louis V. Guey, of Omaha, assistant organizer for the American Federation of Labor, assisted materially in organizing the two new unions of Lincoln last week and this. Now that he is better acquainted with the Lincoln field he expects to give some more time to it in the future, and already has plans under way for the organization of two or three more crafts.

The union printers of Pennsylvania will hold a convention in Philadelphia on the 27th inst.