

real carpenters of Lincoln. As a result, the trade is demoralized and the union has steadily grown smaller in numbers. But there are still some faithful souls left, and these are making a gallant fight.

The Bricklayers and Masons have enjoyed several succeeding seasons of prosperity. This organization has not suffered like the other organizations of the building trades, having been successful in maintaining the closed shop and increasing the wage scale.

The Theatrical Stage Employes have but recently made a record for themselves by securing contracts with every theater in Lincoln. By the terms of these contracts only members of the organization are to be employed, and the wage scale has been increased.

The Musicians' Protective Union is one of the strongest organizations in Lincoln. Three years ago it was deemed impossible to get enough musicians together to hold a charter. But a few brave spirits kept at work. Today they are able to point to an organization numbering upwards of 150 members, and acknowledged to be one of the largest and liveliest locals of the entire craft.

The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers has been more than holding its own, and today boasts of a large membership and a scale of wages and hours that is vastly better than existed a very few years ago.

The Plumbers have had a hard fight against open shop conditions, and the local organization is by no means as strong as it was three or four years ago. But the faithful members have kept plugging away, and the good conditions that many non-union men enjoy today are due to the tireless efforts of union plumbers who have never let up in their fight.

The Barbers have reason to rejoice over the conditions they have brought about. In the last few years they have decreased the hours of work and increased the wage scale, and today there is a feeling of the utmost friendship existing between "boss barbers" and the members of the local union. There are a number of non-union barbers in Lincoln who are selfishly profiting by the sacrifices of the members of the local union. Without paying a penny or sacrificing a moment of time, these nonunion men are enjoying conditions and wages that were brought into being by the union barbers of Lincoln.

The Electrical Workers rightfully boast of having one of the "live wires" among local organizations. The Lincoln local of this great brotherhood is the largest in the district composed of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, and it has secured conditions that are far in advance of the conditions that existed a few years ago.

The Gloveworkers' Union is one of the young organizations of Lincoln, and the only one of the kind in the state. While small in numbers it is made up of men and women who are heart and soul in the union cause, and it has already contributed much to the upbuilding of unionism in this section.

The Pressmen and Assistants Union has been making good progress during the year, and it is now enjoying good conditions and wages. Its membership is increasing steadily, and the union spirit is growing in a like ratio.

The Leatherworkers on Horse Goods have enjoyed a fairly good season. There are three or four large employers of labor in this line, and for many months there has not been a cloud upon the horizon. Work has been good, and a feeling of friendship between employers and employes maintained at all times.

The Horseshoers have maintained an or-

ganization in spite of adverse conditions, and are today in better shape than ever before.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?

"There are two ideas of government. There are those who believe that, if you will only legislate to make the well-to-do prosperous, their prosperity will leak through on those below. * * * If you legislate to make the masses prosperous their prosperity will find its way up through every class which rests upon them."—W. J. Bryan, in 1896.

AN OLD TIMER AT THE GAME.

It is with pleasure that The Wageworker here gives a speaking likeness of one of the oldest members of the union game in the entire west, General Thomas C. Kelsey, a member of the local organization of Leatherworkers on Horse Goods. General Kelsey gets his military title from the fact



that he led a division of the Coxe army, although he did see several years of real service during the "late unpleasantness" between the north and the south. General Kelsey has carried a union card for almost half a century, and during every month of that time he has been talking and acting unionism. He has made good wherever he has been placed.

LIBERATI'S BIG BAND.

The managers of the State Fair, at Lincoln, September 6th to 10th, have again secured the world renowned Liberati's Band of New York. They will give three grand concerts in the auditorium every day and one concert each evening in front of the grand stand. Besides the band he has with him a full complement of grand opera singers. To those who have attended the State Fair the past two years that is announcement enough.

THE GENUINE PUBLIC SPIRIT.

The Wageworker maintains, that all things considered, the union men of Lincoln do more to build up the city than any other class. They are more public spirited, they make more sacrifices for the common good, and they contribute more to the general uplift. Just a little sample:

A movement was started to provide for a series of free public band concerts in the city park. The park commission had no money with which to build a band stand. Ex-Mayor Brown undertook to secure the necessary building material, and succeeded. Then the union bricklayers donated their work and built the foundation. The union carpenters then donated their work and erected the band stand. The union painters and decorators painted it in fine style. And lastly, the union electrical workers wired it and made it all ready for the lights.

Then the union musicians subscribed \$150 in cash towards the concert fund. If this does not show the right kind of public spirit The Wageworker has another guess coming. If a lot of wealthy citizens would contribute as much in proportion, Lincoln would have one of the finest parks in the country, and free public band concerts in a half-dozen parks two or three times a week.

JERE SULLIVAN'S STRAIGHT TALK.

Our organization and its membership are greatly indebted to the editors and publishers of labor papers throughout the country. Unstinted praise and unqualified thanks, as well as such support as our membership can give should be bestowed generously, for in season and out the labor editors of the land have maintained a tireless campaign in our behalf—their interest has begotten magnificent results, no better champions of our buttons and labels exist. With mighty few exceptions the labor press has raised its voice effectively in opposition to fanatical laws that would relegate our trade to the junk heap of industrial occupations and confiscate the property of our employers without a thought of the injury and loss to both.

Praise and thanks purchase no necessities of life—labor editors must live and care for those dependent on them; they are entitled not only to your moral encouragement, but what is more to the point, your financial support. Let the membership of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America manifest their appreciation of the noble work done and being accomplished for us by the labor press, by substantial subscription lists and patronage of such firms as advertise in the labor press, for by so doing, we show in a tangible manner that we propose to stick to those who stick to us.

THE HAVELOCK UNIONS.

One of the liveliest cities in Nebraska is Havelock, a suburb of Lincoln where the Burlington maintains its large shops. Havelock is one of the growing towns of Nebraska, and the coming year promises to see all records broken in the line of industrial development. It is now an assured fact that the Burlington will soon more than double the capacity of its shops at this point and several local manufacturing establishments are preparing to enlarge. All this, with the prospect of adding new lines of industry, puts Havelock upon the industrial map in large letters.

In industrial lines the blacksmiths, machinists and boilermakers maintain live organizations, each one of these unions having enjoyed a prosperous year. Conditions have been considerably bettered by reason of these organizations, and many objectionable ideas have been throttled in good time. Some of the liveliest unionists in the movement live in Havelock, and The Wageworker is indebted to many of them for valuable assistance, not only in the line of publicity, but in the line of working for the upbuilding of the union cause.

BEARING THE BURDEN OF GOVERNMENT.

"The income tax is just. It simply intends to put the burdens of government justly upon the backs of the people. I am in favor of an income tax. When I find a man who is not willing to bear his share of the burdens of the government which protects him I find a man who is unworthy to enjoy the blessings of a government like ours."—W. J. Bryan, in 1896.