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Some Curt Comment on Things in General

Councilman Bauer's suggestion that the city establish a market house on what has so long been known as "Haymarket Square" sounds good. Any old thing that might be done to "Haymarket Square" would improve it, for it is about the most unsightly thing within a thousand miles of Lincoln. Dilapidated wagons, piles of old junk, scattered hay, offal—everything to displease the eye and offend the nostrils may be found on "Haymarket Square." Until something is done to cure existing conditions there all talk of making Lincoln a "city beautiful" will be bosh. And the market house proposition strikes us as a good one. Establish it, then let the market gardeners confine their energies to the market place and not be continually annoying housewives by their back door perigrinations. If Councilman Bauer will push his scheme to a successful conclusion, future generations of Lincolnites will rise up and call him blessed.

The American Federation of Labor has its jurisdiction divided up into districts. "District No. 5—Northwestern," comprises the states of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Manitoba. That is quite a sizeable territory, and contains thousands of organized wage earners. But district No. 5 has no organizer, and has not had since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. Other districts of less area but not of greater union population have from two to four organizers, but despite every effort the workers of District No. 5 have never been able to secure an organizer. The union men of District No. 5 ought to begin making a "holler," and keep it up until it receives just and proper recognition from the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

It is with a feeling of humbleness and contrition that we publish the following from the Worcester, Mass., Labor News, but we print it more for the purpose of using it as a basis for explanation than as a basis for apology:

To Will M. Maupin, Editor of The Lincoln Wageworker: Is it possible that you don't know that man Frey, that you refer to as having been appointed as a member of the committee to settle the Electrical Workers' controversy? Have you never seen a copy of the Iron Molders' Journal, one of the neatest and ablest edited international publications in the country, and which is edited by that man Frey? And didn't you know that Frey was the fraternal delegate elected by the Denver convention of the A. F. of L. to this year's British Trades and Labor Congress?

Your lack of acquaintance with men of such prominence is surprising to us up here in Massachusetts, who know and regard John P. Frey, editor of the Iron Molders' Journal, as one of the ablest trade unionists in the country.

Where were you, Mr. Maupin, when Mr. Frey delivered his excellent report on the proceedings of the English Trades Union Congress? Is it possible that your interest in the Reid faction of the Electrical Workers was so strong as to put every thing else connected with the convention in the background?

You say you don't know Frey. If ever you have occasion to go to Cincinnati make him a call and get acquainted. We are certain you will esteem him as much as we who know him.

Of course I know John P. Frey. Perhaps you will recall that I said that "a man named Fry from New Jersey" had been appointed by President Gompers. I wrote my convention story before the names of the arbiters had been officially announced, and my informant said that "a man named Fry, from New Jersey," had been determined upon by Uncle Sam. Had my informant said "Frey of Ohio," I would have instantly recognized the man. I said "Fry," not "Frey." Dodgast it, can't you see where I was misled? Frey of Ohio! Editor of the Iron Molders' Journal! Why, gosh hang it, Mr. Labor News Man, I've known him for years, and when I learned that he was the Frey, not the Fry, appointed by Uncle Sam, my heart was full of rejoicing. Urlick, Duffy and Frey—that makes a bully board of arbitration and conciliation. Couldn't be better. Sure thing, I was

wrapped up in the success of the Reid-Murphy Electrical Workers' faction. To me that was the most important thing about the convention—not even excepting—well, excepting nothing at all. The only thing I regret about the whole thing is that I didn't know from the start that it was Frey—John P. Frey—instead of "a man named Fry from New Jersey," who had been selected by Uncle Sam. I repeat it, I know John P. Frey, and I'm glad of it. To know his is a pleasure; to commune with him is a source of profit. To listen to him is a liberal education in trades unionism. Is this explanation enough? Am I absolved from the charge of being a dad-binged ignoramus? I repeat it—I know Frey, John P. Frey. But does anybody know "a man named Fry of New Jersey"? But, say! Did you notice that they didn't throw the Reid-Murphy fellows over the transom like a lot of would-be leaders said they were going to do? Under all the circumstances, don't you think we fellows from the wild and woolly west cut some ice down there in old Toronto? Do we know John P. Frey!! Say, we may not look it, but, honest injun, we do know a thing or two.

The sooner the managers of the Lincoln Y. M. C. A. back away from that "Plumbing School" proposition the better it will be for the Y. M. C. A. We absolve President Selleck and Secretary Mayne from any intent to injure the cause of organized labor in framing up that deal with J. E. Murray, but we rather incline to the belief that they might have exercised a little more caution, especially in the matter of looking up Murray's record as a manager of "plumbing schools."

The Young Men's Christian Association announces a new feature of their educational work. At a recent meeting of the educational work, of which Mr. W. A. Selleck is chairman, it was decided to start a class in practical plumbing and heating. The committee feels that it is very fortunate in securing J. E. Murray as a teacher as well as a plumber. The course will embrace all the fundamentals as well as sanitary engineering, estimating and draughting. Practice work will constitute a great portion of the instruction. The shop in which the work will be done is so arranged that it will be possible to put in the plumbing for a four-story house. The time required to complete the course will be about six months and the tuition will be \$100. Every man who completes the course will be a competent journeyman plumber.—Lincoln Daily Journal.

Just consider that for a minute or two. Rigging up a plumbing shop in the Y. M. C. A. and guaranteeing to turn out competent journeymen plumbers in six months—at \$100 per head! Messrs. Selleck and Mayne may have believed that the school would be a good thing, but it is hard to believe that men of their common sense could be duped into endorsing a scheme to turn out "competent journeymen plumbers" in six months. And if the Lincoln Y. M. C. A. is going into the business of manufacturing mechanics by rote, why not secure the services of Mr. Moler and start a school to turn out "competent journeymen barbers" in thirty days? Moler says he can do it, and he can come as near it as Murray can to turning out competent journeymen plumbers in six months. And if plumbers and barbers, why not write to Coyne of St. Louis, and get him to start a school to teach the trade of bricklaying in sixty days? Coyne says he can make a competent journeyman bricklayer in sixty days. And if Murray to teach plumbing in six months, and Moler to teach barbering in thirty days, and Coyne to teach bricklaying in sixty days, why not get some employer of "rat" printers who has a shirt-tail full of type and an old army press to open a typographical school and turn out competent journeymen printers in thirty, sixty or ninety days? The field that the Y. M. C. A. purposes cultivating, according to its arrangements with Murray, offers unlimited possibilities. We know a lot of people who will gladly donate handsome sums to help the Y. M. C. A. push that sort of "schooling." They are not philanthropists, however. They are men who are always looking for strike-breaking material, and they know that

their best recruiting grounds are the alleged trade schools operated by men like Moler, Coyne, Murray and others. Secretary Mayne knows that a competent Y. M. C. A. secretary can not be made out of raw material in six months' time. Why, then, should he be so easily duped into believing that a "competent journeyman plumber" can be fashioned out of raw material in six months by J. E. Murray?

Mr. Selleck, who is at the head of the Y. M. C. A. organization, knows that he couldn't for the life of him

in the city is the employer. And it must provide that after the charter is enacted by the legislature the voters of the city may have an opportunity to say whether or not they want it. Failure to provide that is what killed the proposed charter last winter. We don't care a continental what others say defeated the charter—we happen to know that if the proposed charter had contained a submission clause it would have passed the legislature. And unless the charter now under way provides for it there will be enough opposition to it to at least make the

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Christmas is almost here and the postman reminds you of it every trip when he leaves at your door an alluring catalogue from the Mail Order House. The best use to which a mail order catalogue can be put is to kindle the breakfast fire.

The mail order catalogue presents to you handsome pictures of attractive looking Christmas presents quoted at fabulously low prices. You are invited to send your money quick. You send it and are STUNG. But you don't get your money back.

Now is the time to take a look in the splendidly decorated windows of Lincoln's progressive stores. There you see goods—not pictures. You can go inside and feel of them; turn them over; examine them and get the salesman's guarantee that they are just as represented or your money is refunded. You can't get stung here.

You owe it to your home merchant to spend your money with him. He gives you value received—full weight—full measure. He helps to make your town what it is, he spends much of his money for your as well as his own benefit. He keeps it all in circulation where you can reach it again. The mail order house don't. Patronize Wageworker advertisers. They are your friends; they don't deceive you. They support the town which supports you. They have proved their friendship by their ads. They show that they want your trade by asking you for it through the columns of the paper that is trying to help you fight your battles.

take a man who had no knowledge of business methods and in the short space of six months make him competent to manage the affairs of the Western Supply Co. Why, then, should he be so easily led to believe that J. E. Murray can take the raw material and make a skilled mechanic in six months? The idea is absurd, but there will be a lot of dupes who will give up their little old hundred dollars under the impression that they can learn the plumbing trade in a "school" inside of six months, although it takes from three to five years under shop conditions to make a skilled mechanic in that trade. Messrs. Selleck and Mayne, and any others who may have been associated with them in the deal with J. E. Murray, owe it to themselves and to the journeymen plumbers of Lincoln to back up from that proposition—and back up quick.

The gentlemen who are framing up the commission charter should not take too much for granted. There are others than politicians and business men who are interested in the matter. A whole lot of idealistic rot is not what the workers of the city want in that charter. They want something practical. They want the eliminative process of selecting the officials provided for by the charter. In other words, they want it so fixed that anybody who can get a reasonable number of petitioners may be a candidate for any office, and then proceed to eliminate the low men until only two are left. In other words, every man elected must be elected by a majority vote. The charter must provide for the initiative and referendum, and for the recall. It must provide adequate provisions for a park and boulevard system. It must provide for an eight-hour day on all municipal work, and it must provide that the "union scale of wage" shall prevail in all cases where

legislators hesitate about enacting it into law.

In making up the list of business men who had generously aided the unionists to secure the Labor Temple property, it was not strange that there should have been some omissions. The directors who hustled the money were worked to a frazzle, the editor among them, and the result was that in the haste to make speedy recognition of kindly assistance some were overlooked—not intentionally, but because of too much rush. We therefore hasten to acknowledge the following additional stock subscriptions:

FRED SCHMIDT & BRO. \$100
JACOB NORTH & CO. 100
H. K. BURKETT 15

And we further apologize to these good friends for the oversight.

Mrs. Will C. Norton, of Humboldt, Neb., was visiting with friends in Lincoln the first of the week.

Beginning next Monday The Wageworker's business office will be in the Labor Temple, and there will be some one there every afternoon to receive subscriptions, news items, advertising, etc. It will be a cosy little office, and trades unionists and their wives will be just as welcome as the flowers in spring—or the union teamster with a load of coal this winter.

A UNION MADE CHURCH.
The Rev. James S. Meyers of Kansas City, Kan., who is so well and favorably known to the trades unionists of this city, asks every workman employed on the construction of his new church if he is a union man. He states that when the structure is completed he hopes to make it a church where union men can attend and know that the work they see about them was all done by members of organized labor.—Kansas City Labor Herald.

Chasing the Ambulance Wagon in Lincoln

Mrs. Harriet Pittman alleges that she has been made the victim of what is known in big industrial centers as "the ambulance chaser." In other words, while she was overwhelmed with grief at the death of her husband, who was killed in a street car accident, she was deluded into signing a release of all claims for damages, thinking when she signed the paper that she was merely signing a receipt for a paltry \$200 "on account."

Mrs. Pittman's story is told in plain and simple language, and if she can substantiate her claims there should be some remedy at law.

According to Mrs. Pittman, she was duped by General Manager Humpe into signing a release of the Traction company. She says that while still racked with anguish over the bereavement, Humpe appeared at the stricken home and told her of the close friendship that had existed between himself and her dead husband, and of his anxiety to "do something" for the widow of his deceased friend. She asserts without equivocation that at no time did Humpe tell her she was being offered a release, but on the contrary had every reason to believe from his line of conversation that his action was prompted by sympathy and friendship. She continues by alleging that the \$200 was tucked under her pillow, and she was asked to sign what she thought was merely a receipt for that amount of money. It was her understanding that at a later date she could take up the matter of adequate damages with the Traction company officials. When she recovered somewhat from the shock of her bereavement she went to the Traction company office and started to submit her case. Immediately her "release" was flashed upon her and she was told that the company was under no legal obligations to her. She then offered to return the \$200 in exchange for the "release," but the offer was refused.

Mrs. Pittman has instituted suit in district court for damages, and in answer to the Traction company's claim that it has a release of damages she files the above explanation of how the company secured it.

Whether or not Mrs. Pittman's contention is well founded in this particular case, it is a well known fact that transportation corporations have a habit of working just that kind of a deal. Let an accident occur which results fatally and the company be convinced that it is to blame, and immediately it has its most wily agents set to work to secure a "release" of damages. Especially easy is this little scheme when women are dealt with. What woman is able to transact business when her husband lies cold in death in the room, the victim of an accident, and she is left desolate, unprovided for and with no certainty of future support for herself and little ones? It is at such a time that the wily, unctuous "friend of the family" appears and says he wants to help. He represents the corporation. It is true, but he was such a close friend of the dead man, and he is willing to strain a point in this case and help the stricken wife. "Here is a little bit of money to tide you over until you can get settled down a little bit. Just sign this receipt for it, my good woman. It will help pay funeral expenses. Really I have no right to do this, and the company would be justly indignant if it knew I did it; but I was such a friend to your husband and I want to help you in your great trouble."

Nine times out of ten the grief-stricken and almost crazed widow will grasp at the assistance so kindly offered, sign a "receipt" for it—and then find, when too late, that she has signed a release in full of all damages; that for a paltry \$100 or \$200 she has given up all legal claim for what should be rightfully hers, two or three thousand dollars.

This sort of a shell game is being worked every hour in the day in this land of the free. In Mrs. Pittman's charges are true, and we have no reason to doubt her, a little investigation would doubtless disclose that she is not the first one in Lincoln to be duped into signing away her rights. The "ambulance chaser" exists in Lincoln just the same as elsewhere.

A little more than a year ago the editor of The Wageworker was in a railroad wreck near St. Louis. The engineer of the train was killed, and a number of the passengers were in-

jured, though none fatally. It was four hours before the passengers were taken from the scene of the wreck, but it wasn't two hours ere the road's "claim agent" was on the ground trying to "fix things" without delay. He had a wad of one and two dollar bills, and the sight of a roll of that money was very convincing. He secured several "releases" on the spot, and for sums that were ridiculously small. His line of argument was that a little money now without legal trouble was better than a larger sum after a long legal fight, with the very great possibility that the road would win in the courts. Perhaps you can imagine what condition a woman would be in to talk business at such a time if she saw her dead husband pinned under a burning car, or sat by his side in a hospital, hundreds of miles from home and possibly without funds. That's the time that the "smooth man" of the claims department gets in his work.

They always promise to see that the company "does the right thing," but just at the present they want to prove their friendship by doing something at once. "Just take this little piece of money and sign the receipt. Later we'll take it up with the company and get an adjustment." But with a signed waiver of all claims for damages in his pocket, the representative of the corporation hurries back to the office, chuckling to himself.

If there is any way to stop this sort of ghoulish enterprise it is high time it was put into operation.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Brief News Notes of the Busy Helpers of the Printermen.

At Wednesday afternoon's meeting of Capital Auxiliary No. 11 the following officers were elected:
—President, Mrs. C. B. Righter.
—Vice President, Mrs. G. N. Wathan.
—Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Will Bustard.

Chaplain, Mrs. Geo. Freeman.
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Turner, formerly of Lincoln, are rejoicing over a fine baby boy at their home in Springfield, Ill.

Mrs. G. H. Freeman, who has been visiting friends and relatives in Illinois for the past six weeks has returned.

Mrs. W. S. Bustard's phone number has been changed to 6249.

Mrs. O. F. Young was the victim of a badly scalded hand last week. Besides being very painful, it was a great hindrance to her household duties.

Mrs. C. B. Righter, chairman of the auxiliary apron committee, is now ready to receive orders for all kinds of aprons, clothes pin bags, etc. This also includes men's work aprons.

The Labor Temple committee has asked the ladies of Capital Auxiliary to furnish a room in the new Labor Temple. What do the ladies think of it? Be prepared to answer at the next meeting.

Mrs. W. C. Norton of Humboldt, formerly of Lincoln, came up to shop and say hello to friends the first of the week.

Capital Auxiliary met with Mrs. F. W. Mickel on Wednesday.

GIVEN APPEAL.

Supreme Court Grants Plea of Convicted Labor Leaders.

The supreme court of the United States on December 6 granted the petition for a writ of certiorari in the contempt cases of Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and John Mitchell, officers of the American Federation of Labor. The effect of the decision will be to bring the entire record in the Buck Stove & Range company case against these men to the supreme court for review.

Messrs. Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell were present when Chief Justice Fuller indicated the willingness of the court to review their case.

They did not at first seem to entirely comprehend the announcement, but when explained to them their faces were wreathed in smiles.

SERIOUS INJURY.

Wednesday afternoon the aged mother of Erstine King fell on an icy walk and sustained fractures of an arm and a leg. Mrs. King was immediately taken to a hospital and the fractures reduced. Owing to her advanced age it is feared that she will not survive her injuries.