

## LINCOLN'S NEW LABOR TEMPLE THROWS WIDE ITS DOORS

### Home of Workers Shown With Pride to Friends and Neighbors

The Lincoln Labor Temple was formally opened to the public on Wednesday evening, December 29. Aside from social features, there was no attempt made at a formal dedication, and there were no speeches, no formal exercises—nothing but just "open house," in which every one had an equal part.

For a week a lively bunch of enthusiasts have been hustling day and night to get the Temple in readiness for the opening, and it is due to their efforts that things were in such fine shape. The chief regret was that the opera chairs that are to seat the halls were not on hand in time to be placed. Two hundred and fifty of these chairs have been ordered and are expected to arrive any time, and when they are in place the halls will be in permanent condition.

While the guests of the evening were coming and going Thornburg's orchestra held forth in Hall No. 1 and discoursed sweet music. The members of this orchestra—good union men all—donated their services in order to make the opening as great a success as possible.

In the big store room on the ground floor Jacobs' union orchestra furnished the music that set the feet of the dancers to tripping, and this part of the evening's festivities was enjoyed by a large number. Director Jacobs, who carries two union cards—father and musician—donated the services of this orchestra with the consent of its members.

In the "Smokery" the largest crowd collected, because in the rear end of the pool room a committee from Capital Auxiliary No. 11 presided over the refreshment tables, serving sandwiches and coffee to the coming and going guests. The Auxiliary was given charge of this part of the work and it is under great obligations to Mrs. G. A. Walker for her valuable assistance. The ladies who presided over the refreshment tables were Mesdames Hebbard, Righter, Wolfe, Bustard, Maupin, Ihringer and Walker. Ham sandwiches and pickles were served in profusion, and real coffee—the kind that lets you know what it is while it is going down—was served. Judging by the constant throngs about the tables, it was very evident that this feature of the evening was thoroughly enjoyed.

Over in the store room, which was prepared for the dancers, the Electrical Workers had been busy, and although the room is far from completion they get it into good shape. They run a row of flags on the ceiling the length of the room, and at the end of each flag, 140 in number, was an electric light. The seating arrangements were primitive for the simple reason that up till the last minute the directors expected to have the opera chairs installed. But they did not come, so resort was had to boards placed on nail kegs. But no one gave thought to this as they were too busy dancing to the music furnished by Jacobs' orchestra.

As the arriving guests approached the Temple their eyes were greeted by a handsome electric sign, "Labor Temple." There are 200 lights in this sign, and it is one of the handsomest in the entire city. It is only just to say that the Electrical Workers put in a lot of overtime getting this sign ready, and it was placed in front of the Temple just in time to connect up with the "juice" and furnish light for the opening.

An observing union man made a great discovery as he approached the Temple from O street. He noticed a sign at the corner of Eleventh and P which says "Capital," and just a little further north another one that says "Labor," and this led him to remark that there were visible signs that capital and labor were getting closer together in Lincoln.

When the guests arrived at the Temple they were met by the directors and shown over the building, and the words of commendation and congratulation they heard were enough to explain why they all appeared so proud. It is not too much to say that even union men who have been watching

the progress of the Temple were astonished at the result of the work that has been done. And when the business men—and there were many of them present—looked through the pretty halls and noted the arrangements that had been made for the comfort and convenience of the wage earners, their congratulations were many and hearty. They were a unit in declaring that no better investment had ever been made in Lincoln. By this they did not mean wholly a financial investment. They meant that the Temple would be a great factor in the social and industrial life of the community.

The principal "show room" of the Temple was Hall No. 4, which will always be known as the "Directors' Room." Capital Auxiliary No. 11 undertook the work of furnishing this room, which is equivalent to saying that it is furnished with taste. A handsome library table seven feet long adorns the center of the room, and around it twelve handsome chairs are grouped. The furniture is of waxed oak. Upon the floor is a handsome oriental rug, and the charter of Capital Auxiliary adorns the south wall. In recognition of the services of the Auxiliary, the directors have tendered that organization the free use of the hall for all of the organization's meetings.

Hall No. 2 is, thus far, the room most sought after, and as a result its

walls are adorned with charters and banners galore.

After the guests were shown through the building they were escorted to the refreshment tables and turned over to the ladies there in charge. After satisfying the inner man—or woman, as the case might be—the guests were free to mingle with one another and enjoy a social hour. The throngs began arriving before 8 o'clock, and it was long after midnight ere the last guest departed. During the evening a number of autos were noticed in front of the Temple, showing that business and professional men were interested in the enterprise.

One of the most welcome delegations entertained was made up of ministers and Y. M. C. A. workers, and especial pains were taken to acquaint them thoroughly with the plans of the Temple association. These men were a unit in declaring it is a work that should have the hearty co-operation of all who are interested in the betterment of social and industrial conditions.

President Selleck of the Commercial Club, and a leading spirit in the Y. M. C. A., spent an hour looking around the building and talking with the unionists, and he was enthusiastic over the work. "This means more to Lincoln than any of us can fully realize now," he said. "I want to see this Temple flourish, and you may count on me to lend every assistance in my power to push the work that you men have inaugurated. It is one of the biggest things Lincoln has ever seen, and nothing is more deserving of success."

Rev. Charles M. Shepard, pastor of the First Congregational church, was another interested visitor. Rev. Mr.

Shepard is a printer by trade, but never having worked in a city where there was a union, he never became a member, but one has only to talk with him a minute or two on industrial topics to see where his sympathies lie. He has a brother who is a working member of "Bix Six" in New York. "This is a splendid thing," said Rev. Mr. Shepard, "and deserves the support of every man and woman who is interested in the moral and social uplift. The union men and women of this community have done themselves proud, and they deserve the heartiest encouragement. Things like this will do more to further fellowship and brotherly love than almost any other agency. I want to have some part in this good work."

Secretary Main of the Y. M. C. A. just stood around and got his eyes full before he had a word to say. And even then he found it difficult to find words to express his delight. "Say, boys, this is simply fine, magnificent! I thought I knew something about what you were doing, but this is far beyond anything I expected to see. This is going to mean more for Lincoln than anybody ever dreamed when the movement was inaugurated. I couldn't express all I think without making a speech an hour long, so you'll have to excuse me and let me just wander around and soak some more of it into my system. It is fine!"

A number of the business men who generously came to the front and helped the unionists make the initial payments on the Temple dropped in during the course of the evening, and each one expressed pride in the fact that they had been given an opportunity to have a part in the good work. "You men have builded better than

### A Thousand People Give Hearty Praise To the Big Enterprise

you knew," said one of the business men.

It filled with rejoicing the souls of the men who have taken the lead in making the Temple a fact to hear the good words spoken for the great enterprise. It repaid them for all their sacrifices of time and money in getting the project on its feet, and from now on the management will work with even greater zeal.

#### Temple Notes.

The proudest man in Lincoln Wednesday night was Manager Rudy, who looks after the Temple. And he had every right to be proud, for he has been knocking the eight-hour day rule to smithereens for the past month, getting things in shape for the opening.

President Sam Chaplin flew around like a chicken with its head cut off. He came as near being in six places at once as any man could. He is pretty tired as a result of his efforts, but says he is still able to put his official signature to stock certificates.

President Perrin of the Iowa-Nebraska Council of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is in Lincoln and was present at the opening. He took as much interest in making the social a success as he could have taken had he been a Lincolnite. He hasn't got a pipe yet, but he still has hopes.

Just because there was a formal opening Wednesday night is no sign that you are not welcome at the Temple any time. The public is invited

Everybody had complimentary words for the Auxiliary Room.

The lighting of the Temple called out hearty commendation from all the guests. Labor Temple is the best lighted building in Lincoln.

To visit and inspect the building at any convenient hour. The unionists are so proud of it that they are willing to sit up nights in order to show visitors around.

"Meet me at the Labor Temple" ought to become a familiar phrase among the unionists of this community.

The Temple association has a freight elevator that may be purchased at a reasonable price. Ask Manager Rudy about it.

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Lincoln Labor Temple Building Association will be held at the Temple at 8 o'clock, Tuesday evening, January 4. Annual election.

The Wageworker office is at the Temple now. Auto phone 2672. If the business manager of The Wageworker is not there, leave your subscription with Manager Rudy. News items will be gladly received.

Union men ought to buy their union made tobacco at the Temple "Smokery." Every purchase helps boost the Temple.

There was other music than that furnished by the orchestra Wednesday evening. The cash register kept up a merry tune all the time.

Several of the visiting ladies were initiated into the mysteries of the game of pool.

A revival of unionism is expected to follow as a result of the opening of the Temple.

Director Fred Ihringer disappointed his fellow directors. He promised to be there arrayed in the glories of a swallow-tail suit, and he failed to make good. At the next meeting of the directors he will be subjected to a heavy fine.

"We've just got to have that third story the first thing in the spring," was a common remark. We'll have the third story if you'll do your part. Shares in the Temple Association are selling at \$1 each, and are worth more. Come on, boys.

#### PREGNANT WITH FREEDOM.

Nations of Earth Ready to Give new Birth to Liberty.

The unrest, the discontent, the revolutions, the reachings out of the nations, the social conflicts of twentieth century man—what are they but Nature's labor pains preceding a new birth of Freedom? Here, there, everywhere the nations and peoples of the earth are making ready for the coming of the infant; they are preparing the way of the Lord, which is the "bread giver." They are making ready for the Prince of Peace. Equality of opportunity is the "bread giver." The democracy of Brotherhood is the Prince of Peace, of which Justice is the Father. No child is born into this world without pain, travail, agonies of the mother. The nations of the earth are pregnant with Freedom, and the lords of privilege cannot prevent the inevitable birth. "For thus saith the Lord of Hosts: 'And I will take all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come; and I will fill this house with glory.'"—Chicago Public.

#### GOOD FOR MRS. BELMONT.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont has taken up the cause of the striking shirt waist makers in New York in earnest and striking shirtwaist makers of New York have an able champion. She will back their fight against the sweatshops with her wealth. Her earnestness in the cause of these girls was shown when she went to the night court and signed bail for three young women who had been arrested for acting as strike pickets. Mrs. Belmont gave her \$400,000 residence as security for the bond. She said the house had a \$10,000 mortgage on it and that she had borrowed the money to help the strikers.

## Labor Temple Rules

**THIS IS A HOME!** You are expected to conduct yourself therein just as you would in any other home.

The use of intoxicating liquor or beer is absolutely forbidden upon these premises.

Gambling, swearing, betting--no matter in what form--will not be tolerated.

Loud, boisterous or profane language is forbidden.

Scuffling, wrestling or boxing is forbidden, save when a union may offer boxing or wrestling matches as a form of amusement.

Anyone who mars, defaces or injures the property of the Labor Temple Association in any way whatsoever will be compelled to make restitution, on penalty of prosecution for destruction of property.

Good health and decency require that cuspidors by those who expectorate. Spitting upon the floor is forbidden, and if persisted in will bar the offender forever from the Temple.

Any one entering the Temple in an intoxicated condition will be politely requested to withdraw. If necessary the police will be called.

Please do not lean your heads against the walls.

Please do not tip chairs back against the wall.

This is not a place wherein obscene stories are in order.

All "backcapping" sessions must be held out in the street, preferably in the next block.

Books belonging to the Temple Library may not be removed from the building unless a sufficient deposit is made with the manager. The manager is empowered to designate the size of the deposit. Books retained more than ten days will subject the offender to a forfeiture of deposit.

Borrowers will be required to pay for all damages done to books while in their possession.

Cutting or marring the magazines and newspapers is forbidden.

The House Committee asks the co-operation of all in its efforts to keep the Temple clean, orderly and a fit place for men and women to congregate.