

CARPENTERS & JOINERS

Local No. 1055, Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, has come out of its long sleep, and is today wide-awake enough to demand the persistent and insistent attention of the trades unionists of the community. That No. 1055 is now thoroughly awake and right in line with the spirit born of the Labor Temple movement, was demonstrated Monday night, when what was perhaps the largest mass meeting of wage earners ever held in Lincoln for the purpose of discussing unionism, was held at the Temple. First and last more than 400 men were present, and as a result of the local committee's hustling the meeting was not only hugely successful but the membership of No. 1055 was practically doubled.

The planning for this glorious meeting has been going on for a month, and the entire membership gave the committee the right kind of support. The results show what may be accomplished by the right sort of hustling.

There was enough variety in the program offered to please all tastes. The genial "Doc" Bixby was there with all his radiating good nature, and read a little poem of his own manufacture which sang with the praises of the men who wield the hammer and saw. He also told a few stories and made some happy hits, and quitted the platform when he had the appetites of his auditors whetted up for more. Miss Dullenty, whose father is a live member of No. 1055, rendered a piano solo, "Meditation," with musicianly grace and finish and was warmly applauded. A piano duet by Misses set the feet of the assembly workers to tapping and earned for the young ladies a hearty round of applause.

President Frank M. Coffey of the State Federation of Labor was the first speaker introduced by Chairman Quick. Mr. Coffey demonstrated that unions have justified their existence and declared that unions demanded no favors they were unwilling to concede; that they demanded justice instead of begging favors. The speaker was especially severe in his criticism of some recent injunctions, and asserted that the time is come when wage earners must organize to protect themselves against the aggressions of those who would enslave them. Mr. Coffey's address was thoughtful and argumentative and was listened to with deep interest.

T. C. Kelsey spoke briefly, urging organization and independence of thought and action.

Rev. Mr. Zenor, pastor of the East Lincoln Christian church and fraternal delegate from the Ministerial Association to the Central Labor Union, made a big hit with the assembly. Rev. Mr. Zenor frankly admits that up until a year ago he was rather prejudiced against trades unionism, the prejudice being born of ignorance. He began studying the question and associating with union men for the purpose of learning things from their viewpoint. For a year he has been a fraternal delegate, and as a result of his study and associations he is today one of the staunchest and most eloquent defenders of the principles of trades unionism in this section of the country. When he stands up to speak to union men they sit straighter, for they know they are going to hear something to their advantage. The reverend gentleman was at his best last Monday evening, and as a result he held the audience for twenty minutes without losing their attention once, and he was frequently applauded. Quick, sharp and incisive, Rev. Mr. Zenor's word carry weight. The trades unionists of this community realize that they have a splendid champion in Rev. Mr. Zenor, and they are taking advantage of his generosity and using him whenever possible.

Will M. Maupin, deputy labor commissioner, related a few anecdotes and read a couple of poems of his own manufacture, preferring this to making any remarks on unionism. He said there were a number of better orators present and he thought it would be easier and more profitable to let them argue while he tried to entertain a little.

W. D. Michler, general organizer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, or Kansas City, was the last speaker. Mr. Michler is well known in Lincoln union circles. He dwelt particularly on the benefits of organization and explained in detail the work of the brotherhood. With all

the facts and figures at his tongue's end, Mr. Michler is able to demonstrate beyond cavil the benefits of the organization and convince the most skeptical.

The open meeting was brought to an end by David Manrose, who presented one of the cleverest little vaudeville stunts imaginable. Mr. Manlove is a "lightning artist" with the brush and watercolors, and with his electric lighted frame and his clever way of manipulating the brush and the lights he made a big hit with the audience. He earned the long applause which rewarded his clever work.

At the conclusion of the open meeting, which was held in the big hall on the first floor, the local convened in Hall No. 2 and proceeded with the work of initiating the huge class of upwards of sixty applicants for membership. This was done as speedily as possible, and then the entire membership proceeded to enjoy a little social "feed." Apples, sandwiches, cigars and pipes were passed around, and a genuine old "gabfest" was pulled off.

With a membership practically doubled by this short campaign No. 1055 is going to keep right on and do some more doubling. Three years ago the local had a membership of upwards of 250. But through following unwise policies—as is now admitted—the membership dwindled down to about fifty, and a sort of paresis, or locomotor ataxia, seemed to have gripped the organization. But the heaven of union enterprise was still there, and recently it began "working." The indications are now that before spring work opens in earnest the carpenters will again be thoroughly organized and once more the largest union in this section of the country.

"O, I want to tell you this Labor Temple is putting the ginger into all of us!" exclaimed a union carpenter Monday evening. "We couldn't have stirred up all this enthusiasm on such short notice if we had not become the possessors of something that demonstrated our way of accomplishing results. Now, when they ask us what unionism has done, we just point to the Temple. That settles that part of the argument."

Chairman Quick, who presided over Monday night's meeting, has a lot of native wit, and his introduction of some of the speakers was thoroughly enjoyed, even by the speakers themselves.

"This is only a starter," declared Billy Emberson Monday evening. "We are going to shove old 1055 further along than she was even in the palmy days of 1906. We are all just waking up again."

"Sure thing!" exclaimed Fred Eisler, who quit a minute the task of trying to be in three or four places at once. "Just watch us make No. 1055 the liveliest wire in the union bunch around here. We are just getting our second wind, and with the experience of the past to guide us we are going to do things worth while in future."

A column or two might be filled with the self-congratulatory remarks of the union carpenters who had helped to make the meeting a success, but the remarks would all be about alike. So what's the use? It was one of the biggest union meetings ever held in Lincoln, and its results are going to be beneficial in every department of the labor movement. From this time forward Local No. 1055, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, must be accounted as a big factor in the union game—bigger than ever, which is saying a lot, for at one time No. 1055 was there with the goods. It will be again—with more goods.

TRACING THE POSTAL DEFICIT.

More than one hundred thousand copies of Speaker Cannon's Kansas City speech, in which he denounced the insurgents, are being sent out from Washington under the congressional franking privilege. And yet congress affects to wonder at the annual deficit in the postoffice department.—Kansas City Star.

INCREASE IN WAGES.

The machinists and boiler-makers employed at the shops of the C. & P. & St. L. in this city have been granted an increase in wages from 32 cents to 34 cents per hour, effective January 1st. The increase, although small, will add considerably to the pay roll, and the employees will be benefited by it.—St. Louis Times.

NO TECHNICALITIES SHOULD INTERFERE!

The Wageworker believes in the initiative and referendum. It believes that the people should have a right to vote upon any question, at any time, if that question is of interest to a sufficient number. The referendum law of this state, as it applies to cities and towns, provides that a petition containing the signatures of 20 per cent of the legal voters of the city is sufficient to send any question to the referendum. Such a petition, containing the required number of names, has been filed with the city clerk asking for a referendum on the "wet" or "dry" question this spring.

It is now demonstrated that technicalities are to interfere and prevent the voters from having an opportunity to express themselves. Because the signers failed, with few exceptions, to append "Lincoln, Nebraska," after their names, City Clerk Ozman, backed by City Attorney Flansburg, decides that the signatures are illegal.

This is a petty technicality that the gentlemen should be ashamed to advance. They have a right to their views as to the best policy for the city to pursue. They have no right to resort to petty subterfuge in order to prevent others from expressing their views. Tactics of that sort may go in the courts as they are at present conducted, but they will not go down with the masses of the people. By signing such a petition the signer does not bind himself to vote either way. He merely shows that he has confidence in the voters and is willing to abide by the decision of the majority.

The Wageworker has taken no part in the present discussion as to whether Lincoln shall be "wet" or "dry," but if the advocates of a "dry" city are going to defeat the intent of the referendum law—if they are unwilling to give the voters a chance to express their choice, then the Wageworker will fight them to a finish. Not because the Wageworker particularly favors a "wet" city, but because The Wageworker believes thoroughly in the initiative and referendum—in the right of the voters of this municipality, or any other, to say for themselves what they want. That principle is a whole lot dearer to The Wageworker than the abstract question of whether Lincoln shall be "wet" or "dry."

The prohibition advocates ought to make it known, without equivocation, that they do not concur in the stand taken by City Clerk Ozman and City Attorney Flansburg. Fair-minded people are easily disgusted with petty technicalities. More than twenty per cent of the voters have asked for a referendum on the excise question. That is all, and more than the law requires. The Wageworker insists upon the referendum. Technicalities may delay it, but cannot prevent it. And unless the question is referred on the present petition The Wageworker is going to take a hand in the fight, and it is not going to support any cause advocated by men who are so afraid of public opinion that they will resort to petty technicalities to prevent the people from having an opportunity to vote. The Wageworker and its editor have spent to many years and to much effort to secure the initiative and referendum to now begin standing in with men who are afraid to let it become operative.

The "wet" or "dry" question has been thoroughly discussed in Lincoln. The people know what they want. A legal number have asked for an opportunity to vote on it, and they ought to have it—and they will have it, no matter what legal technicalities may be offered. And the more the advocates of prohibition try to prevent this expression of opinion the more certain they will make it that men who are willing to fight to the death for the referendum will register a vote of protest against such foolish tactics.

The Civic League should take warning in time.

SARCASTIC HIRED MAN.

Blair Farm Laborer Shoots it into Unthanking Farmer.

Editor Omaha Daily News: I am a reader of the Daily News, and I wish to say in regard to J. F. Lambson's letter of the 26th inst., stating that men worked for \$14 per month fifty-eight years ago, that the hired men of today bring ten bushels of corn to the boss, while in those days they brought one. The price is better, too. The reason the men ride nowadays is they use brains with muscles.

I don't belong to any union, but I think the laboring people of the cities have to hold together, or their bosses would soon tell them to live on bread, cold water and fresh air. The renters are as good workers as the owners, and just as honest, too, but they hate to give all to the land baron.

A farmer that treats his help white can generally get young men of his county to work for him, but if he happens to be a grinch, he puts up with the hoboes, and then wants pity.

Perhaps Mr. Lambson's land was generously given to him by Uncle Sam, or else he did not have to pay more than \$8 or \$9 an acre. He says, "Why don't the poor people of the cities go to the country?" Does he

know how many there are? Land around here is worth \$100 an acre—\$8,000 for eighty acres.

Go to the country, roost in the trees, raise poultry and garden stuff on the sand bar that is free, or else say in Omaha and work for \$2 a day. Preval on your wife and children to fast, wear sack-cloth, or, better still, wear leaves, as they did in the Garden of Eden, and after a while you will have \$8,000, the price of eighty acres of land.

CLAUS SCHMIDT, Blair, Neb.

COLORED GIRLS WON'T SCAB.

The boss shirt waist makers in Philadelphia have become very desperate because of their inability to get enough Jewish girls or Americans, to scab on the strikers, so the past few days ads have appeared in the press for negro girls to learn the trade. Immediately after the first attempt to get colored girls to scab, the colored members of the Socialist party began an agitation to prevent members of their race being used to break the strike. Thus far, it is said, the bosses have not succeeded in getting any colored girls to stick as scabs.—Detroit Advocate.

Is the State Journal putting the "copper" on its prohibition bets?

HAVELOCK WORKERS

Say, that town of Havelock—begg pardon, city—is forging to the front in a way to remind one of the story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp. Actually, the folk out there are talking about annexing Lincoln and University Place and calling the whole thing Havelock.

Wouldn't that jar you? They may do it, too, unless Lincoln and University Place ginger up and keep in the running.

And the unionists of Havelock are not lagging behind in the race, either. They are up and coming, showing the kind of union spirit that gets somewhere, and without a lot of lost time, either. When you can get 300 union men to meet of a Sunday afternoon, in a city the size of Havelock, for the purpose of talking about matters calculated to benefit them, you can set it down that the union spirit is rampant. And that's just what occurred at Havelock last Sunday afternoon. Three hundred union men met at Union Hall and organized what might properly be called a "metal trades section." The meeting was made up of the membership of the Boiler-makers, Machinists and Blacksmiths, and the men were there for business. William Greenwood officiated as chairman and began the meeting by outlining the plans in view and urging closer co-operation between men of crafts that were in many respects closely allied. F. M. Coffey, president of the State Federation of Labor; Will M. Maupin, deputy labor commissioner, and T. C. Kelsey were the "imported speakers," and S. A. D. Smith spoke for the local membership. The addresses were all of the same tenor—better organization, better co-operation.

Not the least pleasing feature of the meeting—at least to The Wageworker—was the good line of talk put up for better support of the labor press. And it was a line of talk backed up by the actual "do," for the subscription lists of The Wageworker show a handsome increase as a result of the Havelock meeting.

A male quartette rendered a couple of selections at the beginning in order to put the men present in a good humor. The efforts of the quartette were successful. After the speaking a recess was taken, and when the meeting was called to order again the three trades were seated in separate sections of the hall, and the work of organizing the joint council taken up. It was decided to let each local appoint three members of the joint committee, the committee to select its own chairman and secretary. As a result of the halloing the following committee was selected:

Boiler-makers—Charles Rankin, Thomas Duffy, James Jonas. Blacksmiths—S. A. D. Smith, C. V. Lindquist, R. O. Wagner. Machinists—J. A. Malstead, William Greenwood, L. C. Koenig.

Arrangements were made for a meeting of the committee during the week, for the purpose of organizing. The matter of fuller representation in the Central Labor Union was thoroughly discussed and it was generally agreed that hereafter Havelock would be represented in that body.

At its last meeting Machinists Union No. 698 appointed a committee to arrange for one of the semi-monthly meetings in the Labor Temple, and also invested \$25 in stock of the Temple Association. This investment will be increased from time to time. The machinists meet twice a month, alternately between Havelock and Lincoln.

Ever see the Jonas boys of Havelock? Four of 'em—count 'em—four. All boiler-makers, all over six feet tall, all weighing more than 200, and all just as enthusiastic unionists as they are big physically, and just as jolly as they are full of enthusiasm.

Havelock is going to vote on the adoption of the initiative and referendum on February 15. It ought to carry. The initiative and referendum is a cardinal principle of unionism. It is democratic because it is republican. It gives to the people the right to decide for themselves what they shall have. If the initiative and referendum is a good thing for trades unions, it ought to be a good thing for the village, the town, the city, the county, the state and the republic. The Wageworker hopes to chronicle the fact that Havelock has adopted this reform policy without enough dissenting votes to be worth counting.

Havelock Lodge No. 119, Brotherhood of Boiler-makers and Iron Ship Builders, will hold its seventeenth annual ball at Union Hall, Havelock, on Tuesday evening, February 15. Bruse's six-piece orchestra will furnish the music. Tickets 50 cents, ladies free. Everybody is invited, and all who attend are assured of a good time, for the Boiler-makers always "make good" with their social events. The three unions of Havelock are increasing their membership with pleasing regularity. The Boiler-makers are especially fortunate in this respect, and the membership is now close to 150.

Work on the new shops is being pushed, and as a result there is lots of work in sight for the building tradesmen. Everybody who knows how can get work in the Shop City, and overtime is really becoming a burden to the men. The structural ironworkers are especially busy, and they have practically enough work in sight to last a year. The Burlington is expending in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 on shop additions.

Union Hall in Havelock is the place where the Nebraska State Federation of Labor will meet next January. It is a fine little auditorium and a credit to the enterprising men who created it.

Havelock will soon be big enough to organize two or three more unions. There is a likelihood that a Federal Union will be organized there soon, the idea being to begin an educational campaign along union lines without further loss of time.

Havelock and Lincoln Machinists are organizing a Woman's Auxiliary. This example should be followed by other unions.

OMAHA STRIKE OFF.

Unfair Contractor Sells Out and Peace is Again Restored.

The strike of union building tradesmen on the Brandeis theater building is off, and work has been resumed under union conditions. The fact that "scab" sheet metal workers were employed on the building is in no wise the fault of the Brandeis boys. They are always square with organized labor—none more so. The contract for the building was let to the Thompson-Starrett Co. of Chicago, who agreed to use only union labor. The sheet metal contract was sublet to a fellow named Carter, who is one of those wise guys who insists on "running his own business," and then trotting to the Omaha Business Men's Association with his tail between his legs with the plea that the association handle his business for him. Carter employed "scab" metal workers, and the union men in other departments walked out.

Carter secured an injunction restraining the Thompson-Starrett Co. from cancelling his contract, and also an injunction restraining the union building tradesmen of Omaha from doing anything but eat, sleep and breathe. Judge Sears granted the blanket injunction.

The fairness of the Thompson-Starrett Co. was shown when it settled the whole difficulty by giving Carter the full value of his contract and buying him off. But Carter had to wait until the Business Men's Association gave him permission. He couldn't "run his own business" until the union busters gave him permission.

Some of these days the union men of Omaha will bury all their fool differences and get together. Then they will be able to go after the Wattles-Rees-Martin-Montgomery-Mahoney bunch of labor haters and come back with a big bunch of capitalistic scalps.

But the union men of Omaha will have to quit fighting among themselves and also quit being the tools of wily political shysters before they will get anywhere.

BEN HANFORD DEAD.

Ben Hanford, a member of New York Typographical Union No. 6, and one of the foremost socialist writers of the day, died at his home in Brooklyn last week. He was a true-blue unionist and one of the most active workers in the cause of labor. When "Big Six" boycotted the New York Sun in 1899 it got out a daily newspaper of its own, and Ben Hanford was the editor. It was a potent factor in winning the strike. Ben Hanford will be missed in the game, for he was always on the job when needed. Peace to his ashes.