

WAGeworker

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TO LABOR UNIONS.

Will you assist us by appointing some one in your union to furnish us with news? The Wageworker wants to publish the news of your local, and in order to do so must have your assistance. It is our aim to give our readers all the labor news that is to be had and we wish to do it properly, so that you will be satisfied. By helping us in this way, you not only make this paper more valuable and complete, but your knowledge of what is going on in the labor movement is better and the good feeling among the various crafts is more strongly cemented. When this fellowship idea is instilled thoroughly among us there is less likelihood of a break in the ranks and it is certainly needed at the present time.

DREAMS, IDLE DREAMS.

It seems that the eminent publicists who are now engaged in the work of preparing a commission charter for the city of Lincoln are engaged in the pleasant task of dreaming.

They are dreaming that a "star chamber" charter is going to meet with the approval of the workers of this city.

They dream that a charter which fails to fix beyond cavil all responsibilities upon the commissioners will be acceptable.

They dream that the workingmen of Lincoln will swallow a charter that permits only rich men or antiquated fossils to become the business managers of the city.

They dream of a "legislative council" that will meet every two or three months and solemnly look over the work that has been done by a lot of appointees who are not subject to recall.

As a matter of fact, from what little has been permitted to leak out of the "star chamber" sessions of the self-appointed committee, it seems that the committeemen are dreaming of making a charter that will be the wonder and admiration of all future generations, and carve the names of the framers upon memory's tablets more enduring than bronze and granite.

It is time for the committee to wake up!

There are a lot of us fellows in Lincoln who pay taxes, who are vitally interested in responsible and responsive municipal government, who may not be "dreamers," but we are possessed of a little "boss sense." And there are a few things we are going to have in any old charter that is adopted by this city—and don't you forget it!

We are going to have a charter that absolutely fixes responsibility on the commissioners.

And we are going to have the initiative, referendum and recall.

And we are not going to allow a continuance of the contract system of public works.

And we are going to refuse to let any old commission have the absolute say about where paving shall or shall not be done.

And we are going to insist on the eight-hour day.

And we are going to have a salary commission—good salaries; salaries that will warrant clear-headed men in devoting their time to the city's business.

No dream about all that, Messrs. Committeemen.

That charter will have to be submitted to the voters of this city. If it isn't it will meet the same fate that was accorded that other commission charter.

Men who sell furniture and practice law and deal in real estate are not the only men who can frame charters, nor are they the only men who know all about municipal government.

There are several thousand common, ordinary workingmen in Lincoln

"greasy mechanics," if you please, who will have something to say about that charter.

Keep that fact well in mind, Messrs. Committeemen!

And if you really mean well towards Lincoln, wake up and quit dreaming! Any charter which contemplates preventing an electrical worker, or a printer, or a mason, or a ditch digger from aspiring to a commissionership will be knocked galleywest and crooked.

We beg to suggest to the charter committee that it hold a session or two in the Labor Temple, and there get the opinions of the men who are making Lincoln—the men who keep the furniture dealers and the real estate dealers, the lawyers, the doctors and grocers in business. The men who make Lincoln are not all members of the Commercial Club—not by about 'steen thousand. Enough, anyhow, to put the rollers under any charter dream that follows the lines indicated by what has so far leaked from the "star chamber" charter committee sessions.

The men who are framing up Lincoln's new charter will have to reckon with the workingmen—the mechanics and laborers—of this city.

Don't forget that little fact!

What a lot of "anarchists" those Toledo, Ohio, barbers are. Just because eggs are selling for 60 cents a dozen those barbers have the nerve to kick because their wages permit them to purchase only a dozen eggs with three hours' labor. What do they want anyhow? They get twelve eggs for three hours' hard work, and it takes a hen twenty-four hours to lay one egg. Those barbers ought to be ashamed to look a virtuous hen in the face!

What's this? Likelihood of a settlement of the differences the city has with the gas company? If that should happen wouldn't some journalistic stockholders in another public service corporation be deprived of a "good enough Morgan" to talk about when their pet corporation is under fire?

Don't be alarmed at what you read in the daily papers about possible "labor troubles" in Lincoln this spring. There are three guarantees against any such trouble—the good sense of the employers, the good sense of the employees—and the Labor Temple.

The men who worked so long on the Labor Temple plan were called "dreamers." And now the men who are talking Labor Chautauqua are being called the same thing. Here's hoping that if they are dreamers they will not wake up!

No, the workers of Lincoln are not going to demand higher wages. They are merely going to ask for a little larger share of the "protection" mentioned by the advocates of the Aldrich-Cannon tariff law. It's a very simple proposition.

L. O. Jones indignantly protested against the garment making contract at the state prison. It was "unfair competition." Did Brer Jones ever try to get a similar contract at the State Industrial School for Girls at Geneva?

It makes us tired to see union men petitioning congress for redress for grievances. What's the matter with electing a few congressmen who will do it without having to be petitioned?

British voters make the House of Lords come to time. This gives us hope that some day American voters will make the American House of Lords come across.

The Wageworker stops the press long enough to insert this little paragraph assuring City Clerk Ozman of its distinguished consideration.

On Lincoln's birthday there wasn't a single flag displayed by any firm or corporation in the city that bears the name of the martyred president.

Those infernal unions are throwing a lot of ice house chills into Brer Post, right there in Battle Creek. It is enough to make the ex-stenographer have some of her dresses dyed!

We greatly fear that our good friend George L. Sheldon has managed to sit down between two stools with his temperance program.

The ten cents a pound tax on oleomargarine is a ten cents a pound tax on the workers, and a premium on the butter trust.

A union friend of a phrenological turn of mind suggests that maybe City Clerk Ozman's bump of discretion is a dent.

There is a lot of Labor Temple stock yet for sale.

President Kirby, president of the

—We've had many good sales but this is the best offer we have ever made for the man who appreciates a chance to buy high-grade clothing.

\$18 to \$40 Fine Suits and O'coats

Your Choice of The Entire Lot For

\$16.40

This is not a job lot of garments bought for special selling, but it is a sale to dispose of all our regular \$18 to \$40 Suits and O'coats. Come in and take your choice at \$16.40

Winter is not over yet; you'll have a month or more in which to wear these clothes—then they are good to keep for next winter, just as good next season as this and you can save more than half on them.

Unusually Good Values to be Had in Our Suits and O'coats
Selling at \$5, \$10 and \$15

Armstrong Clothing Company
GOOD CLOTHES MERCHANTS

National Manufacturers' Association, says the unions are responsible for the high cost of living. C. W. Post declares that less than 10 per cent of the workers belong to the unions. Gee, we wish those two eminent friends of labor would get together!

Less than fifty workmen attended the "Temple Talks" meeting at Labor Temple last Sunday afternoon. But it's a cinch that there were a couple of thousand loafing around and hollering that they "don't have any place to go on Sunday!"

If your union's annual ball is not given mention in the columns of The Wageworker, it is the fault of the committee having the ball in charge.

Frank Kennedy of the Omaha Western Laborer says he is going to keep out of "printer politics" this year. That sounds like!

A dozen bigger towns than Lincoln began talking Labor Temple about the time Lincoln began. But Lincoln has her Labor Temple.

Only three more days until spring—but don't let that induce you to allow the coal bin to become empty.

Don't forget that the workers of Lincoln will have the last whack at any charter proposed.

You can demand the label—yet.

And you should!

Always.

Let's not talk about the weather.

Remember and give the horse a square deal.

CARPENTERS & JOINERS

An increase in membership of 300 per cent inside of a month! That is the record set by Carpenters' Union No. 1055 of Lincoln. On February 1 No. 1055 had an even fifty members. On February 25 the membership was 201, with thirty applications for membership on file. At the meeting last Monday evening thirty-five members were obligated. At the meeting next Monday night as many more will be obligated. Recruits are had from the suburbs, several joining from Havlock, University Place and Bethany.

Organizer Michler is devoting his entire time and energy to the work of building up the Lincoln local, and he is being assisted by a live committee.

One of the startling facts revealed by the campaign for membership is the number of carpenters in Lincoln who had never heard about the benefit of unionism, and who had become imbued with the idea that the union merely meant trouble. These carpenters came from the country towns during the last two years, and until this month had never been asked to join the union, nor had the matter been explained to them. Now that the

campaign of education is progressing it is learned that these men are union men at heart and only need a little information to induce them to become members in fact.

The carpenters of the Pike's Peak district, which includes Colorado Springs, Pueblo and neighboring cities, have secured an increase amounting to 50 cents per day, making the day's wage \$4.50. This increase for the carpenters was immediately followed by an increase of 25 cents a day for the building laborers. More than 600 carpenters are benefited by the increase.

The short/warm spell enabled masons to finish up several walls, with the result that when the cold snap came carpenters were able to work on the inside. The Lindell hotel job is keeping a big bunch of carpenters employed.

If No. 1055 grows much more it will be necessary to permanently engage the big hall on the ground floor of the Temple. The carpenters' union is once more at the head of the list in regards to membership.

firms which manufacture and retail. The two big firms are manufacturers only. Work in this craft is by the piece, and the new scale asks for a slight increase over and above the present scale, based on the eight-hour day instead of the nine-hour day. "Increased cost of living" is urged as a reason for an increased wage, and advancing civilization might well be urged as a reason for demanding the shorter day.

To date nothing definite has been decided upon in Lincoln, but all rumors to the effect that a strike is likely may well be discounted. Such rumors always bob up every time a new scale is mentioned. The relations between employers and employees in the horse goods industry in Lincoln have been very pleasant for the past two years, and there is every reason to believe that these friendly relations will be continued.

CONVENTIONS OF 1910.

Where the Big Meetings Will Be Held This Year.

April 4, St. Paul, Minn., International Association of Fur Workers.

April 18-23, New Orleans, La., Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

May 2, Philadelphia, Pa., Chartered Society of Amalgamated Lace Operatives of America.

May 9, Louisville, Ky., Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

May —, Cincinnati, Ohio, Tin Plate Workers' International Protective Association.

May 11, Cincinnati, Ohio, American Federation of Musicians.

May 23, Buffalo, N. Y., National Print Cutters' Association of America.

June 6, Chicago, Ill., International Association of Marble Workers.

June 13, St. Louis, Mo., International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship

THE LEATHERWORKERS

The last convention of the Brotherhood of Leatherworkers on Horse Goods decided to make a demand for the eight-hour day in the craft, and 1910 was selected as a good time for making the beginning. The Toronto convention of the A. F. of L. voted unanimously to endorse the demand and pledged the support of the organ-

ization to the makers of horse millinery.

The Lincoln local has prepared its new scale on the basis of the eight-hour day and has presented it to the employers of the city for their consideration. There are two big employing firms in Lincoln, Harpham Bros. and Buckstaff Bros. There are smaller