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CENTRAL LABOR UNION

At the meeting the the Central Labor Union last Friday night the work of revising the constitution was completed and the instrument as a whole adopted by unanimous vote. Some changes of importance have been made, especially in the matter of dues, all calculated to increase the attendance and interest.

An invitation from Mayor Love to send two representatives of the body to the committee now preparing a city charter was read and accepted, and Frank M. Coffey and Rev. Mr. Zenor appointed. President Parker announced the make-up of the standing committees and Secretary Kates read a complete report of the business of

the body for the last six months. The record of attendance of delegates was especially interesting and edifying, as was the statement of the receipts and expenses. A petition urging congress to enact the eight-hour law was submitted and since then has been left at the Temple and upwards of 200 signatures secured. The trustees reported that they had audited the books of the secretary and treasurer and found them correct and in good shape. The only bad feature of the report was that the treasury lacked \$2.35 of having any money in it.

Several committees made verbal reports, and Rev. Mr. Batten made a short address that brought out rounds of hearty applause.

THE BRICKLAYERS

Perhaps this little story does not properly belong in this department, but it was recalled by meeting Jim Jellison on the street the other day, and Jim is a bricklayer for fair. We never knew how he managed it, but Jim married one of the cleverest and best little women in the world, and she was a printer. Before Mrs. Jellison was married her name was Minnie Hershey, and she worked in the Falls City print shops for several years. It was some time ago, when a lot of us were younger, that this happened—back in the days when the printer-editor of the Glorious Rag of Industrial Freedom thought he was something of a "swift" at the case.

Ed Howe, now foreman of the Star, worked in Falls City along about that time, afterwards coming to Lincoln and growing up to the foremanship of the Journal. One day Clay Davis of the Falls City News wired Howe that he wanted a printer, one who could set plenty of type. Howe gave "Shorty," Davis the tip and sent him down.

Davis claimed to be a phenom at the case, and he was, too. But Howe knew a thing or two about "edging up ems," so he said:

"You are going to work alongside a girl down there who'll make you go some to keep up with her."

"Aw, rats!" ejaculated Davis; "there ain't no girl in the country that can keep within seeing distance of me when I pull out."

"All right," replied Howe, "but I'll see you later."

A couple of weeks later Davis drifted back to Lincoln and ambled into the Journal composing room.

"Hello, 'Shorty,' I thought you were in Falls City," said Howe.

"Just got back," growled Davis.

"What's the matter?" queried Howe.

"Say, Ed," exclaimed Davis, "I give up. Talk about inventin' type settin' machines! They're invented, 'r I have been working against one. That girl down there got 'em all beat for speed. Blamed if she couldn't do the distribution for both of us and then paste eighteen inches more of solid brevier dupes than I could. I'm slow; I'm a snail; the next time you hear anybody say I'm a 'swift,' you tell 'em I am a joke."

Along about that time there was a bunch of printer boys in Falls City who were quite willing to wager the wages for several weeks in advance that Minnie Hershey could set more type in a given time than any old Missouri River "pirate" that ever scuttled a schooner. Minnie Hershey is a wife and mother now, but she still retains a fondness for the craft.

As we remarked in the beginning, this may not be strictly a bricklayer story, but it was a bricklayer that reminded us of it, so there, now.

It is now known officially as "The Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union." This was decided upon at the Boston convention, and there are those who profess to see in the new name a challenge to the Operative Plasterers.

With \$500,000 in the treasury the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union is considering the matter of erecting and maintaining a home for aged, indigent and disabled members.

March came in like a lamb, and as a result the masons are getting ready to put in full time at a slightly increased wage. Work has been miserably slow for the last three months, but the spring and summer outlook was never better.

PRESBYTERIAN LABOR TEMPLE.

A labor temple, peculiarly a religious institution for workmen, is to be opened on the East side in New York soon by the Presbyterian department of Church and Labor. A building has been rented for the purpose at \$10,000 a year. Prominent among the features to be inaugurated will be a workmen's mass meeting every Sunday afternoon. The building will be open all day and every night, not so much for the carrying on of so-called institutional work, but for the

discussion of vital questions which concern workmen and their families.

WROUGHT UP.

English trade unionists are considerably wrought up over the decision recently handed down by the House of Lords denying the right of a trade union to make a special levy to maintain a member of parliament. The decision held that under the law it was specifically set out what a trade union can do, and that the raising of money for the purpose named was not one of them. Which all goes to show that possibly the more the state interferes the more we don't know "where we're at."

Musicians' Union in Fort Worth, Texas, is now 100 per cent strong.

CARPENTERS & JOINERS

Within the next six months there will be but one union carpenters' organization in the United States. William D. Huber, general president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, passed through Pittsburgh en route from Washington, to Indianapolis after a meeting of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, at which that body decided that the committee representing the United Brotherhood and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters should meet on or before June 1 next to formulate a plan by which the Amalgamated Society will be absorbed by the Brotherhood. The Amalgamated Society, an English organization, has a membership of about 5,000 in the United States. There is a branch in Pittsburgh whose members, it is understood, are not opposed to

the proposed amalgamation. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners have a membership of about 185,000, of which there are about 12,000 in the Pittsburgh district. President Huber also stated that the 800 members of the National Wood Workers of New York had been taken into the Brotherhood and that the national organization is now confined to Chicago.

Local No. 1055 continues its revival, and the interest is unabated. One of the problems now facing the Labor Temple management is that of providing a hall big enough for the carpenters. With a membership now past the 200 mark, if two-thirds of the members attend a meeting the hall now used would be wholly inadequate. But the Temple management will find a way.

BLACKSMITHS & HELPERS

The Blacksmiths and Helpers Union of Havelock are going to be in the social swim on the evening of March 15. That is the occasion of the union's fifth annual ball, and it is going to be a record-breaker. At least that is expected of the hustling committee that has charge of the social function. The ball will be held at Union Hall in Havelock and Bruse's union orchestra will furnish the music. The admission is 50 cents a couple, ladies free.

The Havelock local is growing in numbers and influence every day, and is feeling the good effects of a more thorough working agreement with the allied shop trades. Work is rushing

and the pay checks are correspondingly large.

The demand for an increased car service during the rush hours of the evening is growing. The Traction company will be asked to run a couple or three cars ten or fifteen minutes apart immediately after the closing of the shops for the day. A great many of the shop men live in Lincoln, or between Lincoln and Havelock, and it is pretty tough on tired workmen to have to stand and swing from a strap for a half-hour or forty minutes. If appeals to the Traction Co., fail to produce results, appeal will be made to the state railway commission.

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