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BILLY MAJOR'S DOPE

A LITTLE ABOUT DIVERS AND SUNDRY THINGS

The First National Bank is about to begin the erection of a quarter of a million dollar building at the corner of Tenth and O. Pending the completion of the building the bank will be located on South Eleventh. Its president, S. H. Burnham, asked permission of the city authorities to put out a sign showing the temporary location. Permission was refused. The refusal was based on an ordinance enacted for the purpose of stopping some grave abuses, but I'm blessed if I can see the sense in making it so almighty iron clad. The attitude of some people in this town reminds me of a story.

When Phillip D. Armour built and endowed the Armour Institute in Chicago he put at the head of it one of the greatest educators in this or any other country, Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus. One day Dr. Gunsaulus went to Armour and outlined at great length a plan for enlarging the work of the institute. Armour listened without saying a word, and finally Gunsaulus finished by saying:

"I'm afraid, Mr. Armour, you think I go around with my head in the clouds."

"No, I don't think that Doc," said Armour, "but I do think you go around a lot with your feet a d—d long ways from the ground."

I have come to the conclusion that there are a lot of civic leaders in Lincoln trying to enforce their way of doing things and their ideas of how things ought to be done, who are going around with their feet a d—d long ways from the ground.

I presume some of these aesthetic ladies and gentlemen would raise a howl if somebody proposed to build a "welcome arch" across G street, like Denver has at her Union depot and like Omaha has at Eighteenth and Farnam. Some months ago I read a "kick" in one of our daily newspapers on the fact that women going along some of our business streets could look into barber shop windows and actually see men with lather all over their faces. By thunder, I'm expecting every day to see an ordinance enacted prohibiting us working gents from walking along the streets in our shirt sleeves.

Of course there are those who are "knocking" on the suggestion that the city buy Lincoln Park and add it to the city park system. It comes from two classes—the class that has grown wealthy by the increase of real estate brought about by the labor and sacrifices of others, and the class that can always smell "graft" in every proposition calculated to advance public interests. I don't know who owns Lincoln Park—and I don't care a continental. If the city can buy it at a reasonable figure, it ought to buy it. If I knew the men responsible for blocking the effort to secure Peck's Grove for park purposes I'd take especial delight in grilling them every week. They were guilty of little less than a crime against the citizenship of Lincoln.

We've got "art associations," "civic societies," "music societies" and other societies of that class, to burn, and we are always boasting about our "culchaw" and refinement. Don't you know. But our park system is a joke, our boulevards are seas of mud when they are not hub-deep in dust, and our street lighting system is archaic. The men who ought to be taking the lead in remedying these things are so busy at the task of splitting hairs infernally fine and painting the continuity of sun beams that they have no time for anything really worth while to the public at large. Mayor Love proposes a city commission made up of men who shall serve without pay, serving because they are public-spirited. O, tempore! O, mores! Judging the future by the past, if we are going to put Lincoln into the hands of such men I want, when the thing is accomplished, to get a concession for baling the hay I can cut from the city streets.

The longer I associate with union men the prouder I am of my member-

ship in a trade union. You will find more genuine liberality, more broad-mindedness, in a bunch of union men than you can find in any other bunch of men of equal size. I want to prove my assertion by the action of the Central Labor Union last Friday night. By unanimous vote the delegates to that body adopted resolutions commendatory of Rev. Mr. Batten, and assuring him of the friendship of the members of that body. Yet upon the floor of that meeting were men who have been deprived of work by reason of a crusade led by that same reverend gentleman. One of them is a member of the Bartenders' Union. Others are cigarmakers, whose employment has been curtailed in a measure by the closing of the saloons. Others differ radically from Rev. Mr. Batten on some things. Yet these men admire him for his courage, for his willingness to talk for unionism, for his willingness to help workingmen and working women whenever he can. They laid aside their personal differences and paid a deserved tribute to a ministerial friend who never hesitated to oppose them when he thought they were in the wrong. I insist that in adopting that Batten resolution unanimously the Lincoln Central Labor Union made some mighty good union history.

Five cents a dozen for sewing the buttons on the negligee shirts that men wear! How's that for wages? "O, that's not so bad—nearly a half-cent apiece for sewing on those little buttons." Wait a minute! Not five cents a dozen buttons, but five cents a dozen shirts—four buttons to the shirt, forty-eight buttons for a nickel.

That's the wage paid button girls in a shirt factory not seven million miles from Thirteenth and O streets, in the beautiful city of Lincoln. Nine buttons sewed on for a penny! And the girls have to fold the shirts back after they have sewed the buttons on.

Some of these days I'm going to present a lot of facts to the ministers of this city and then watch and see if they can take their minds off of some things future and fasten them on some things present for a little while. A year or so ago the Lincoln Woman's Club listened to a series of lectures on "the art of caring for Oriental rugs." Maybe that splendid organization will condescend, some of these days, to give some attention to the conservation and protection of girls who sew on shirt buttons at the rate of forty-eight buttons for a nickel. Of course Oriental rugs cost money, and girls are cheap—but really we ought to begin thinking a little bit more about the girls. This country will need 'em some of these days.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a story from Hampton's Magazine concerning Clarence O. Pratt, well known among the unionists of Lincoln, and especially the street railway men. It is such a clever and fair story of Pratt that I know you'll enjoy it. And I hope a lot of anti-unionists will read it and change their minds about this "agitator." I'm going to ask the publisher to send marked copies to my good friends, President Sharp and Manager Humpe of the Lincoln Traction Company.

The Parson, the Labor Official and the Undersigned, went fishing last Tuesday, and the three of us held session from "A" to "Z" on the labor movement, the church-at-work and the politicians. I don't propose to have it said that the Apostle Peter was the only man that ever told the truth about his fishing trip, so I'll admit right here that the Parson, the Labor Official and the Undersigned didn't catch enough fish to feed a multitude, but we did have a bully time. Maybe I'll tell you more about it next week.

Three strikes on in Lincoln, yet there is no disorder, no rioting, no loud talk—nothing to disturb the peaceful serenity of the community. Yet there is plenty of provocation, I'm a man of peace, and I deprecate tron-

ble, but I'll be darned if I have ever been able to convince myself that it is wrong to swat a despicable strikebreaker over the head with a cobblestone—morally wrong, I mean. I can forgive the man who calls me a hard name. I can forgive a man who beats me out of my hard-earned money. I can make allowances for the man who lies about me. But I can't forgive the man who "scabs" on me when I am striving to better my condition and the condition of those dependent upon me. There may be men lower in the social scale than the strikebreaker, but I thank God I've never met 'em.

What's all this fuss about the Traction Co. paying the members of its executive board \$150 a month each. I dislike hearing any union man kicking about it, for we union men ought to be the loudest shouters for high wages. Let's admit that the executive committeemen are worth the \$150 a month, and then insist that simple justice demands that the motormen and conductors are entitled to at least 25 cents an hour.

BILLY MAJOR.

THE MUSICIANS.

Lincoln Local Honored by the Spanish-American War Veterans.

At the annual meeting of the Ne-American War Veterans, held in Grand Island, H. E. McGurrin, a member of the Musicians' Union of Lincoln, was selected as department adjutant. Mr. McGurrin has a splendid record as a soldier of Uncle Sam's and in honoring him the boys honored themselves.

Says the Kansas City Labor Herald: "Sixteen of the boys, selected for their extraordinary lung capacity, have been doing duty under Ben Kend-

rick at the Wild West show at Convention Hall this week."

Ben Kendrick is a Nebraska boy, and is one of the finest band artists that ever came out of the land of the sundown west. He is a near relative of J. F. Kendrick of the Lincoln local.

Things in the line of band music are looking up. Capital Beach will soon open up, and there is every likelihood that the number of band concerts in the city parks will be practically doubled this season. But the dancing and theatre seasons are drawing to a close, and this means that the band business will have to hump itself if there is not a big falling off in the demand for musicians.

LABOR MEMORIAL SUNDAY.

Will be Observed at the Temple Sunday Afternoon, May 8.

Arrangements have been made for the proper observance of Labor Memorial Sunday in Lincoln. The date fixed by the American Federation of Labor is the second Sunday in May, this year falling upon the 8th. A committee appointed at the last meeting of the Central Labor Union has arranged for the proper observance of the occasion, and the meeting will be at Labor Temple at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, May 8—a week from next Sunday.

The memorial address will be delivered by Rev. Mr. Zenor, fraternal delegate to the Central Union from the Ministerial Association. A male quartette will sing and there will be special instrumental music.

A cordial invitation is extended to the general public, and it is the duty of every unionist and family to be present and participate in the exercises.

CENTRAL'S DELEGATES PAY FRIEND A TRIBUTE

Lincoln Central Labor Union, at its meeting on Friday evening of last week, took cognizance of the fact that Rev. Samuel Zane Batten is soon to leave Lincoln and take up his residence in Des Moines. Rev. Mr. Batten has for several years been a fraternal delegate from the Ministerial Association to the central body, and has been a regular attendant upon the meetings of the workers. The resolutions adopted by the Central Labor Union—unanimously and by rising vote—tell in good measure the esteem in which the reverend gentleman is held by the unionists with whom he has worked and associated for several years. The resolutions were as follows:

"Whereas, Rev. Samuel Zane Batten has been fraternal delegate to this body from the Ministerial Association for several years, and

"Whereas, Rev. Mr. Batten has time and again shown his zeal for and devotion to the cause of the toilers, and has demonstrated his active belief in the principles of trades unionism and the work of organizing the wage earners, helping us on numerous occasions by timely advice and by personal work, and

"Whereas, It now comes to the knowledge of this body that our brother, Rev. Samuel Zane Batten, is about to remove from Lincoln and take up his residence in another city where he believes his sphere of influence may be widened, therefor be it

"Resolved, That Lincoln Central Labor Union hereby expresses its regret at the loss about to be inflicted upon it and upon the whole body of organized labor in this community by the removal of this good friend, eloquent advocate and active supporter of the cause of organized labor.

"Resolved, That this body take this occasion to express to its brother and fraternal delegate its sincere thanks and appreciation of his many acts of friendly help, his many eloquent addresses in behalf of the downtrodden and the oppressed and his ever-present help when the advice and counsel of true friends were needed.

"Resolved, That this body tender also to Rev. Mr. Batten the most emphatic assurance of its good will and hopes that in his future environment he may be able to continue, and to even greater advantage to the cause

of organized labor, the advocacy of organized labor's cause that has marked his years of residence in this city. And be it further

"Resolved, That Lincoln Central Labor Union, made up of accredited delegates from twenty-six trades unions and representing approximately 3,000 organized workers, commend Rev. Samuel Zane Batten to the men and women of Des Moines, Iowa, where he is shortly to make his home, and assure them that in him they will find a steadfast friend and champion, ever ready to answer their call for helpers in the great task of educating not only the toiler, but the general public to the benefits of thorough organization and complete co-operation.

"Resolved, That this body further express the wish that Rev. Mr. Batten may be spared to long years of usefulness in his chosen field of labor, and that he may continue through all those years to be, as he has been in the past, the champion of justice for the toilers of the land. Be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be made a part of the permanent records of this body, that a copy be forwarded to the Des Moines, Ia., Trades and Labor Assembly, that copies be furnished daily newspapers in Lincoln, and that the same be published in The Wage-worker."

It was decided to observe "Labor Memorial Sunday" in a fitting way, and a committee composed of Walker, Zenor and Maupin was appointed to arrange the details. "Labor Memorial Day" is Sunday, May 8, and Lincoln unionists will observe it with a special meeting at the Labor Temple at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of that day. The memorial address will be delivered by Rev. Mr. Zenor, and there will be special music. The complete program will be announced next week.

The attempt of Treasurer Tom Evans to resign his office was a complete failure the resignation being tabled by a unanimous vote. Tom's got a life job—unless he removes from Lincoln.

Routine matters were given the needed attention, and several committee reports indicated that the work of the body is being pushed at a goody rate.

WITH THE LIVE ONES

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MEN NOW OUT ON STRIKE

The strike of the Printing Pressmen and Assistants is still going on and there is no sign of weakening on the part of the men who are out. The managers of the strike keep getting the "rats" away about as fast as the employers can ship them in, and as a result the struck shops are away "in the air." Places have been found for a number of the strikers and they are at work, but are handy in case they are called back. There have been no new developments during the past week.

One of the most interesting things that has happened in labor circles for a long time is the drastic action President Berry of the International took to maintain the reputation of the International for standing by its contracts. The spectacle of union men striking, only to have their places filled by fellow unionists at the demand of the union officials is rather unique. The web pressmen of Chicago struck because a former platen pressman was made foreman of the Inter-Ocean press room. C. H. Rogers, formerly a member of the Web Pressmen's Union, but later foreman in a flat bed establishment, was offered the foremanship of the Inter-Ocean. He went through the necessary formalities in changing from one local to the other, but when he appeared for work in the Inter-Ocean press room the web pressmen refused to recognize his card. President Berry immediately ordered Rogers to assume his duties as foreman, which he did, and thereupon the other pressmen walked out. President Berry, having been warned that such action would follow, had prepared for it, and no sooner had the pressmen walked out than he had men there to take their places. The web pressmen on the other daily papers struck the next day, but President Berry was ready for them. He gave it out that a pressman's card was good in any union office, and when union pressmen struck in violation of solemn contract with employers and to keep out of recognizing legally issued cards, he proposed to take a stand that would convince the public that the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, was not in favor of upholding such action. "We'll stand by our contract if it disrupts a dozen locals," said President Berry in effect.

This square action on Berry's part will go a long way towards commanding the respect of employers everywhere, and it will make the organization stronger and better in every way. Denver is out after the next convention and has the proper committee at work framing up the campaign.

THE BOILERMAKERS.

"Scabs" Continue to Desert and Play Horse With the Burlington.

If the Burlington management expected the striking Boilermakers to weaken after a fortnight of idleness, then the Burlington management guessed wrong. The Boilermakers are standing as firm as a rock, and to date there has not been a desertion from the ranks. The pickets are constantly on duty, and as a result of their activity the Burlington "brass collars" find difficulty in shipping in the "scabs" as fast as the union pickets influence them to desert. Fewer than 140 Boilermakers went on strike at Havelock, yet to date the Burlington has shipped in more than 300 "scabs," and today has fewer than a hundred in the shops. And of that hundred all but a half-dozen are mere jokes as boilermakers. The average "scab" knows as much about boiler-making as the average union boilermaker knows about repairing watches.

Last week Mayor Hinkle was induced to swear in a lot of men as deputy marshalls, the men being selected by the Burlington management. A few hours later Mayor Hinkle was shown that most of these special policemen were non-residents and he immediately revoked their commission. Yet it is a well known fact that non-residents have been imported for police duty in open violation

of the state law. The attention of County Attorney Tyrrell will be called to this violation of the law, and somebody will have to sweat for it.

Delayed trains are becoming more frequent, and freight shipments are being held up in a desperate effort to get the passenger trains and mails over the road. Nos. One and Three and Two and Six are beginning to show the effects of the strike by growing late and later, while the local passengers are as erratic as a cyclone.

Reports from other struck points are to the effect that the men are standing firm. Two "scab" boilermakers sent to Ravenna were refused board and lodging by every hotel, restaurant and private house in town. As a result the Burlington had to send a bunk car and a cook to Ravenna to supply the needs of the "scabs."

THE LEATHER WORKERS.

Lincoln Strikers Dance and Make Merry Despite Their Trouble.

There seems to be no change in the strike situation among the Leather workers on Horse Goods in Lincoln. The strikers are still out and have shown not the slightest inclination to go back under open shop conditions and at the same old scale of wages and hours. If former employers have made any effort to secure strikebreakers they have so far managed to keep the fact secret. And if they have made efforts they have been unsuccessful. The strikers continue to meet with regularity and do not seem to worry over the outlook.

Instead of being downtcast the striking Leatherworkers make merry. On Tuesday evening of last week they gave a ball that proved unusually successful socially and financially. Strike benefits continue.

But if no gains are being made in Lincoln there are gains elsewhere. Denver reports three serious breaks in the ranks of the employers' combine, and a number of men have returned to work under the conditions they demanded. One employer in Kansas has been haled into court for requiring his employees to sign an agreement not to join a union. Kansas City reports several shops gained, and scattering gains are being reported from other sections.

AN UNFAIR DEAL.

President Gompers Goes Up Against a Premeditated Plan of Snubbing.

When Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was invited to read a paper before the American Academy of Political and Social Science recently it was taken for granted that he would receive gentlemanly consideration from those who invited him to the late session in Philadelphia. But the treatment he got has the appearance of being a premeditated move to give him offense. We believe our people generally love fair play. There has grown up in America lately, however, a class of bat-eyed commercialists whose components never slip a chance to be mean, just because they know how to be. These people do not observe that the public is watching their doings. It was written long ago that such things as the ill-mannered treatment of Mr. Gompers return to plague the inventors.—Trades-Union News.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Jones went to Beatrice the first of the week and spent several days visiting with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Swihart and daughter, Florence, of Fremont, were the guests of relatives in Lincoln last week.

The Socialists will hold their usual propaganda meeting at A. O. U. W. hall, 1007 O St., next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Clyde J. Wright will lecture on "Industrial Concentration." The usual musical program will be rendered by Prof. Franta and Miss Smith. The public is invited.