

tions, their modes of living and their conditions of employment. Certainly the men and women who work in our shops and mills and factories are of as much account as the men and women who till the soil. Neither could exist long without the other. The bureau of labor should at least be put on the same plane as the other departments of state.

The editor is in receipt of another New Year greeting from "Bob" Oberfelder of Sydney. Colonel "Bob" never forgets his friends, and he must have an almighty good memory, for he has friends unnumbered. He wishes all manner of good to the editor, and the editor joyfully reciprocates by wishing Colonel Oberfelder every possible joy of life, and a long, long time in which to live that life. Every time a fellow gets a bit blue he can always secure comfort and cheer if he is able to call to mind the name of some royal good fellow like "Bob" Oberfelder, who is a friend. Without friends like him life would be considerably more crowded with pessimists and the sky considerably more murky by clouds of doubt.

If we just had to have that terrific cold snap, why didn't it come a week before Christmas instead of a week after? It would have made the holiday trade far better, and it wouldn't have been quite so hard on some of us who had to buy coal right after having to dig up to pay for the Christmas presents we so gladly bought.

STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

The second annual convention of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor was called to order at Havelock President Coffey, at noon, Tuesday, January 3. Fifty-three delegates were present. Owing to the storm the delegates were late in gathering, and immediately after the call to order adjournment was taken to 2 o'clock.

Upon reconvening the active work of the convention was begun. The first excitement arose over the seating of electrical worker delegates. Mayer of Lincoln, representing No. 265 of the Reid-Murphy faction, and Portly of Omaha, representing No. 22 of the McNulty-Collins faction, both presented delegates. The credentials committee refused to make decision and left the matter with the convention. Fisher, representing the McNulty-Collins faction, was given the courtesy of the floor and tried to advance argument in favor of Portly, and Mayer was given the privilege of making a statement. Guye of Omaha advocated the seating of Portly, calling attention to the fact that refusal meant the forfeiture of the charter granted by the American Federation of Labor. Coffey and Maupin were of the opinion that the forfeiture of charter would work no great hardship, and urged the seating of Mayer. Peate of Lincoln also urged the acceptance of Mayer's credentials. By a majority vote of one Portley was seated, whereupon Maupin filed protest on the ground that the Omaha local had not been in existence a month as provided by the constitution. The protest was overruled and Portley was seated. Mayer declined to accept a seat as fraternal delegate.

The next warm discussion arose over the publication of the year book, Maupin, Guye and others protesting against the method used therein. A recommendation setting forth that the convention desired no repetition of the plan was introduced and recommended for passage. President Coffey re-

sented their solution, stating that it was a personal criticism of himself and Secretary Hart. He explained that the work was done to meet an emergency, and was admittedly in plain violation of the constitution. The matter was discussed at great length, and finally it was decided to withdraw the resolution and this was done. Immediately an amendment to the constitution was adopted providing for the issuance of a year book under the direction of the Federation itself and without the intervention of professional solicitors.

President Coffey's annual address was listened to with deep interest, and every recommendation but one was adopted. The exception was the recommendation for the establishment of a monthly bulletin to be published by the Federation. Later it was decided to have the officers issue a quarterly statement to all affiliated unions.

A bill providing for the safeguarding of workmen on buildings, bridge, viaducts, etc., was presented through a member of the carpenters' local of Omaha. The bill is one that every wage earner should be willing to get behind, and the convention unanimously instructed the legislative committee to work for it. But it was suggested bluntly that the legislative committee could do better work if the carpenters of Lincoln and Omaha would affiliate with the Federation and help defray the expense incident to maintaining a legislative lobby.

Among other things along legislative lines urged by the Federation are the following:

Graduated compensation, definition of assumption of risks, employers' liability, abolition of the convict labor lease system, the abolition of the contract system on all public work and the substitution of the day's work system under supervision of state engineer or architect, the branding of prison made goods. The legislative committee was instructed to

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