The Labor World

Vol. I. *DULUTH, MINN., APRIL 11, 1896.* *No. 1.*

THE LABOR WORLD.

Dedicated to the Labor World and its Editor.

I speak for those brave sons of toil,
No matter what their station,
Who sail the seas and till the soil,
The builders of a nation.

I speak for those upon the rail,
With faithfulness and daring,
Who run the freight and rush the mail.
For danger little caring.
The switchman with the empty sleeve,
The brakeman on his crutches,
Their loved ones who must toil and grieve
In circumstances' clutches.

I speak for those who in the damp
And chill of winter weather,
Toil in the wood and logging camp
Through dreary days together.
The woodsman who, with sturdy blow
Makes earth and forest quiver,
Who lays the towering pine trees low,
And totes them to the river.

I speak for those who at the loom,
Within their sad hearts grieving,
Cross warp and woof with tears of gloom
And blend them in the weaving.
Poor wearied ones that toil for those
Who to them should be brothers,
But who instead are tireless foes,
And rob for self and others.

I speak for those who stock the hearth
To make our fireside cheerful,
From out the womb of mother earth,
While their's are sad and tearful.
I speak for loved ones of the craft,
Who, when the mine is burning,
In agony around the shaft
Pray for their safe returning.

The labor world shall be my field,
My motto: No Surrender.
So thus I stand to all revealed,
Another staunch defender.

—ELLIS B. HARRIS.

President of the Duluth Trades and Labor Assembly.

C. M. Thomas, the present president of the Federated Trades Assembly was born February 16, 1859, at Springfield, Ill. When six years of age his father emigrated to Iowa where young Thomas received such education as could be had in the common schools of his district. In 1877 he moved to Pine county, Minnesota. In 1879 he was attracted to Spink county, Dakota, then a territory, where he took advantage of the free land grants, living on his claim in the summer, making required improvements, and teaching school in the winter.

President Thomas came to Duluth in 1890. For a year he was engaged in the dray business, afterwards engaging with the street railway company as conductor, which position he held for three years, resigning to accept his present position as manager of the co-operative store.

Mr. Thomas was president for three terms of the Street Railway Union, and served two years as delegate to the Federated Trades Assembly. Was elected delegate to the convention of street railway employees at Milwaukee, October, 1894. At this convention President Thomas was elect-

C. M. THOMAS.

ed national vice-president and served one term.

President Thomas is one of Duluth's labor leaders whose work, advice and counsel has helped organized labor to make rapid progress within the past two years.

At present Mr. Thomas is manager of the Union Mercantile company, dealers in staple and fancy groceries, at 2004 west Superior street. The Union Mercantile company is incorporated under the laws of Minnesota. The street railway employees are the original promoters.

They are also the principle stockholders in the company, but all union men are eligible. No stockholder, however, can hold stock to exceed five shares, $10 per share. The limit amount of stock $10,000. The officers are Charles M. Thomas, president; Michael Gleason, treasurer; John D. Young, Joseph Kenny, Charles Lindberg, Swan M. Johnson and Joseph W. Cummings, directors. Officers are elected by the stockholders.

President C. M. Thomas was unanimously elected president of the Duluth Federated Trades Assembly at their last semi-annual election in December. He fills the chair in a creditable manner and is deserving of the respect and confidence reposed in him by the one hundred and fifty delegates that crowd the hall every meeting night.

Is Solidarity of Labor Impossible?

EUGENE V. DEBS.

In mere physical enterprises the age in which we live laughs at impossibilities. The ancient alchemists sought to transmute base metals into gold. In this way they were not successful but their labors and discoveries laid the foundation of scientific chemistry, the value of which it were impossible to overestimate. Living today they would suffer all the odium that attaches to cranks, visionaries, vagarists. They were dreamers and with patience and sincerity wrought to realize their visions. Did they work in vain? By no means. Chemistry is their monument and the old alchemists are immortal and all nations are their beneficiaries.

We talk of the Fatherhood of God. Is that a vagary? A mere freak of the fancy? If so, it were better to dismiss it. It is fashionable to refer eloquently to the brotherhood of men. Is that another hallucination unworthy of consideration by men of brains? If so, let it also be remanded to the limbo of forgotten myths. Galileo, several centuries ago became satisfied that the earth moved. It was a fact, but the monks of the Inquisition said it was a lie and made the old mathematician and astronomers recant to save himself from torture. Thus it is seen that along