

Duluth Trades Assembly.

Official proceedings, Hunter's Hall, April 24, 1896. President Charles M. Thomas, presiding.

The following named delegates were seated: John Shannon, Theatrical Stage employes; William Morrison, Charles Crain, Ore Trimmers; J. F. McDonald, W. B. Wolcott, J. M. Murray, Waiters' Protective union, and Severin Rogstad Clerk's union.

The minutes of the meeting of April 10 were approved as read. The adoption of the minutes of the special meeting of April 17 brought forth a protest from Delegate Baker, of the Carpenters' union, who claimed that the call for the meeting was not legal and it was an utter impossibility to adopt the minutes under such circumstances. The prevailing opinion was, however, that the meeting was a legal one and the minutes were finally adopted by a vote of 19 to 6.

REPORTS OF UNIONS.

A. A. Iron and Steel Workers, fair.
Bakers, fair.
Butchers, good.
Barbers, fair, union men patronize non-union shops.
Boilermakers, absent.
Bricklayers, dull.
Coopers, dull. Boycott on Imperial Mill doing good.
Carpenters, good; 18 new members last meeting.
Clerks, fair.
Cigar Makers, dull.
Electric Workers, good.
Horsehoers, dull.
Longshoremen, absent.
Laundry Workers, good.
Musicians, dull.
Painters, absent.
Plasterers, improving.
Plumbers, improving.
Pressmen, absent.
Scandinavian Typographical, good.
Stone Cutters, dull.
Street Car Employes. Union in very good condition. All working.
Steam Fitters, dull.
Superior Trades Assembly, improving; Federal Union organized. Held open meeting and was addressed by Duluth and Superior speakers; had good results.
Tailors, prospering; trouble with Nelson & Swanson adjusted.
Tinnners, fair; all working.
Stage employes, still on strike.
Typographical Union, good.
Waiters, fair.
Wood Workers, dull.
City Firemen, good.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Committee to await on Dixon & Lowry has been assured by that firm they will not purchase Rockford mantels in the future.

The organization committee has been successful in organizing an Ore Trimmers union with 50 charter members, and in a short time will have a great many more.

Mrs. Akin of the reception committee reported that Mr. C. J. Rinn, the Soudan miner, is temporarily located at the Tremont hotel.

The committee soliciting financial aid for the stage employes have been very successful and at

the next meeting of this body they will turn over to the strikers the money they have collected.

The committee taking names of patrons of the Lyceum have a long list of the same which they will have published in a few days.

Wm. Randall of the Garment Workers committee reported that Kastriner & Neuman at West Duluth will have the union label on all goods which they purchase in St. Paul. Delegate McEwen believed that this firm has the label on their clothing, because Duluth is such a well organized town that they are unable to sell their clothing without it. He had been informed that although the manufacturer has a scab shop he places the label on all goods sold to this firm.

The committee to assist the tailors made a pleasing report, saying that the trouble existing between the tailors union and Nelson & Swanson, had been settled satisfactorily to all concerned.

The club rooms committee has secured two rooms on 3rd ave. west, in the Dodge building, that are suitable quarters for the union club. During the summer the rent will be only \$11 per month, including light, heat and the services of a janitor. The advisability of securing these rooms was left to the board of directors.

Chairman Meagher of the dance committee says the third annual ball will be a success in every way. They have secured the Pavilion for May 1st, the rent for that date being \$20 and the Street Railway company have agreed to refund \$10 if 500 people are in attendance. A well-known thoroughly reliable caterer has promised to serve supper. A great many tickets have been sold, and a grand time is assured to all who attend.

J. W. Nichols, who has been actively engaged in the prosecution of Manager Ball, stated that owing to lack of evidence on the part of witnesses, who could not remember very well as to dates, etc., the conviction of Mr. Ball was not accomplished and as a second charge cannot be brought against an individual an attempt to get another trial would be useless, and would cost hundreds of dollars, and probably not bring about a conviction.

On motion of Mrs. Akin the regular order of business was suspended and the privilege of the floor was extended to Sylvester Kelliher, general secretary of the American Railway union, who was incarcerated in the Woodstock jail with Eugene V. Debs.

Mr. Kelliher made a most eloquent address on the labor movement as it is today and what it will be in a few years hence.

Every word spoken by Mr. Kelliher proved to his listeners that he is a champion of labor's rights, and no fair minded man, whether a capitalist or a laborer, could say that to confine in a prison such a noble man as Mr. Kelliher, without a just cause, is not a crime and a disgrace to the nation.

He gave an insight into the present standing of the American Railway Union, the work which has

been done in its behalf, and what the organizers and promoters of the big union expect to be able to accomplish in the near future. "At the time at which Mr. Debs and myself and other leaders of the A. R. U. were sentenced, it was openly boasted that the organization was dead, and that it would never again be a power in organized labor," said Mr. Kelliher, "but those who made the boasts did not understand with whom they had to deal. They did not know that there were thousands of people throughout the length and breadth of this land who had sworn to succeed at any sacrifice; who were determined to carry this organization to success, to place it where it would in a measure control the wages paid its members, if the struggle lasted for 10 years or 20. I can say truthfully that the A. R. U. never was in better condition than it is at the present day; that more work has been done in the past sixty days than ever before in the same length of time, and that we have made remarkable gains throughout the Eastern and Southern states. As Mr. Debs stated in a letter which I received from him yesterday, it is a matter not of months, but of days, before we will be in a position to take our stand publicly and to assume the position which we propose to maintain." We expect within a few weeks to have our delegates from a Duluth union again with you, and also to have delegates again in every trades assembly throughout the country." Mr. Kelliher urged the necessity of united opposition to the encroachments of capital, expressing the assurance that the only salvation for the country in the great crisis which he was assured was near at hand lies in the sense of right and equal justice which throbs in the hearts of workmen of the nation. He urged upon the assembly the need of caution in every move, of allowing no personal motives to urge the organization to any action not sanctioned by absolute right and justice, and of guarding against petty enmities in its own ranks.

In his denunciation of Judge Woods, who sentenced the A. R. U. leaders, he was most severe, denouncing him as the corrupt tool of corporations, placed upon the bench by corporate power, and whose every promotion had been a bribe. Mr. Kelliher's address was received with the warmest enthusiasm. At the mention of Eugene V. Debs' name the assembly fairly went wild with applause.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kelliher's address a rising vote of thanks was tendered him, which was a small appreciation of the Assembly's respect for him.

Regular order of business being resumed, J. W. Nichols invited all members of the body to attend a meeting of the Working Men's Insurance Company at the Union Club on April 23, and at that time the work will be completed.

Delegate Cobb stated that it would be a brotherly act on our part to remit all dues of Coopers' Union since the beginning of their lock-out, as they are now financially