

the railroad corporations have been rapidly and surely closing up their ranks; scores of the smaller companies have been swallowed up by the trunk lines and all are represented by an "up to date" organization that enables them to act as a unit on all questions of general concern and muster in their united forces at the first chirp from a common enemy. The trend is in the direction of combination and closer organization, in every branch of industry, and what has been true of the smaller railroad lines will be true of the small merchant, manufacturer and farmer. They are being forced to the wall and must give way to the overmastering greed of the larger institutions that are rapidly assuming the proportions of trusts and monopolies in every line of trade, and are exerting a controlling influence in our political as well as industrial affairs. Workingmen must understand that politics is the science of government and that so long as they vote the same ticket as their masters, they forge their own chains and perpetuate the social and industrial conditions of which they complain. Railway employees realize now as they never did before the need of thorough organization, and understand that their only hope lies in the *solidarity* of not only the railway workers but *all* workers, upon the true political and industrial principles of *liberty, justice and fraternity*. In such a movement there is ultimate and inevitable victory, for

"Through all warring seas of life
One vast current sunward rolls,
And within all outward strife
One eternal right controls—
Right, at whose divine command
Slaves go free and captives fall,
In the might of those who stand
All for one and one for all.

Minneapolis, May 4, '96.

Superior Trades Assembly.

UNION HALL,
SUPERIOR, Wis., April 27, 1896. }
Regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Assembly called to order, President Grant in the chair. The roll call showed that eleven unions were represented. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

CREDENTIALS.

Credentials of James M. Murray of the Duluth Federated Trades Assembly, were received and delegate obligated.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following communication

from A. L. Randall, chairman of the International Typographical Union Committee on Government Ownership of Telegraph, was read:

"Being vitally interested in the outcome of the agitation for government ownership of telegraph facilities, the printers of the United States have, through the International Typographical Union, inaugurated an active campaign, in behalf of the reform. This work has been entrusted to a competent committee composed of Washington printers, which has been prosecuting it for the past two years with what, under the circumstances, must be regarded as gratifying success. On the theory that the industrial forces of the country should attend to first things first, the committee asks you to commence immediately a vigorous agitation in your locality, and induce business men, commercial, labor and other organizations and clubs of reformers to pass strong resolutions in favor of this reform, sending them, under seal, to your two senators and the representative of your congressional district, with a demand that the people's representatives advocate and vote for this reform. As many individuals as possible should write direct to senators and representatives.

"Great Britain, in 1889, had 175,000 miles of wire, while the Western Union in the same year had 645,697; yet the latter sent fewer messages than the former. In countries where the government operates the telegraph it has proven that rates are scarcely one-half what they are in this country. The United States is the only country where the telegraph is not a part of the postal system, and if the government controlled here, the rates could be reduced more than one-half and the system be self-sustaining."

After some discussion the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"Whereas, after due consideration and discussion, the members of Superior Trades and Labor Assembly, of Superior, Wis., have been convinced that the best interests of the people would be subserved by the nationalization of our telegraph lines it is hereby

"Resolved, That the Hon. John J. Jenkins, member of congress for this district, and Senators Vilas and Mitchell, representing the state in the senate of the United States, are hereby requested to work and vote for the bill to secure government ownership and control of the telegraph lines, which has secured the indorsement of the International Typographical Union."

The proceedings of the Duluth Federated Trades Assembly were read and filed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Committee appointed at the last meeting to find out if the Victor, Victoria or Rambler bicycles were sold in Superior, reported that they found one Victor in the Pease-Roach hardware store, but the firm will handle no more of them.

Committee on non-union printing offices reported progress.

Committee on street railway transfers reported in favor of letting

the matter rest pending the action of the new mayor and common council. Re-accepted and committee continued.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS.

The treasurer reported cash on hand to the amount of \$56.20.

The hall committee reported \$30 cash on hand.

NEW BUSINESS.

Attention of the assembly was called to the label of the Typographical union and the advisability of seeing that it is on all printed matter of business concerns seeking public patronage, which called forth the following resolution;

"Whereas, The Trades & Labor assembly of Superior, Wis., is a firm believer in the maintenance of fair conditions, union hours and union wages, and believes that these can be best secured by goods bearing the union label, which indicates they have been manufactured by union men, working for fair employers, it is therefore

"Resolved, That the members of this organization pledge themselves to advance the interests of all union labels, and especially that of the International Typographical union, and will request merchants and others with whom they deal to see that it appears upon their printing; and be it further

"Resolved, That the members of this assembly use every honorable endeavor to have the papers to which they subscribe and the books which they purchase, bear the imprint of honest labor, namely, the label representing the Typographical union and affiliated trades."

The plasterers' union reported that they feared outside plasterers would be brought in to do the work on the normal school and other buildings in course of construction. After the matter had been thoroughly discussed a committee consisting of delegates A. Schaible, Ed. J. McKague and T. J. Richardson were appointed to wait on Regent Ostrander in regard to the normal school, and the organization committee were instructed to try and secure the city hall at the earliest possible date for a mass meeting in the interest of home trade and home labor.

The corresponding secretary was instructed to write to all local unions in the northern part of the state requesting them to send delegates to the forthcoming convention of the state Federation of Labor.

T. J. Richardson was elected to fill the vacancy on the board of trustees.

The question of opening a reading room and free employment bureau was brought before the meeting and after the matter had been talked over a committee consisting of Delegates Kelley, Weiss and Schaible, were appointed to look up the matter and report at next meeting.

The hall committee was instructed to re-arrange the hall and add to its furniture.

Delegates instructed to request different unions to influence friends to cease patronizing the Lyceum theater at Duluth.

Adjourned. PETER WEISS, Rec. Sec.