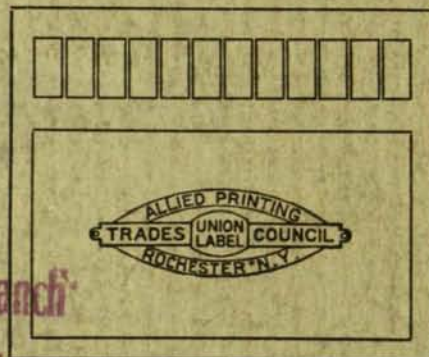
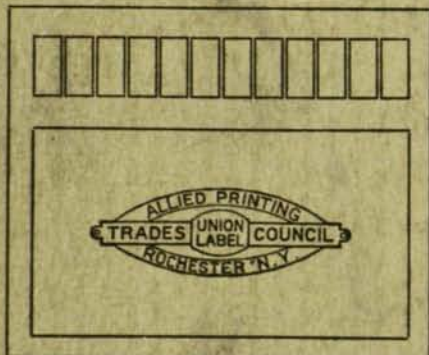


HISTORICAL REVIEW

of Rochester
Typographical
Union No. 15



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Tuesday Evening, March seventh, nineteen sixteen

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HISTORICAL REVIEW

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Rochester Typographical Union Number Fifteen



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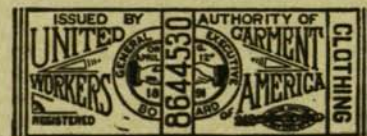
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Historical Review of Typographical Union No. 15



HEN and by whom the first organization was formed among the Printers of Rochester, no one now living can state with positive accuracy. Opinions differ among the older members of the present Union, and there are no records in existence to substantiate any of them prior to 1853. It is said, however, that an organization did exist here among the Printers as early as 1848.

It seems highly probable that certain evil wage practices of the early days gave birth to the first germ of unionism among Rochester Printers. At one time the iniquitous "order system" prevailed in the local print shops, under which employees were compelled to accept their scant wages in equal parts of cash and store orders. In order to overthrow this system, the Printers came together and through united efforts for some years finally succeeded in their demands. The credit for the formation and

ultimate success of this early movement to "adjust a grievance" is largely due James B. Spinning, who is still living and one of the old age pensioners of the International Typographical Union.

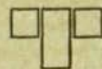
This little historical episode may justly be termed the "birth of Typographical Union No. 15."

The earliest authentic records show that Rochester Typographical Union, No. 15, was officially organized in April, 1853, with the following charter members: Daniel D. T. Moore, Lafayette Wilder, William S. Falls, Samuel M. Raymond, Ezra R. Andrews, William R. Wells, William M. Lewis, A. M. Ostrander, A. Sintzenich, Joseph B. Fuller, Thomas Gliddon, John White and Carlos Comens.

The first president was Daniel D. T. Moore. There are no authentic records left to tell us what transpired up to 1863, when we find the president to be William D. Kennedy. Another lapse of time takes place, with nothing to inform us of what occurred



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Historical Review—Continued



till 1872, the president being Homer H. Rowell. Prior to that James B. Spinning had served as president, and in 1873 he was sent as a delegate to the Montreal Convention, which was the first meeting of the International Typographical Union outside of the jurisdiction of the American flag.

Brother Rowell was succeeded in 1873 by President Bostwick, followed by President Connor in 1874, Thomas H. Gosson in 1875, William Winfield in 1876 and James F. O'Neil in 1877.

There seems to be a missing link in the chain of the organization between 1877 and 1881, the charter evidently having been surrendered. In 1881, however, the Printers again came together under the Knights of Labor as Local No. 1735. The membership increased to nearly 300, a scale of \$14 per week and 30 cents per thousand was signed, Ezra R. Andrews acting for the proprietors and James B. Spinning for the Printers. On February 14, 1883, the union was reorganized under the international body, and the application for a charter was signed by the following Printers: George A. Barnum, Albert S. Root, Peter J. Sutton, Lucas O. Phinney, William J. Winfield, William C. Robinson and Louis

Baer. By degrees the members of No. 15 became dissatisfied with the Knights of Labor and undertook to administer affairs themselves.

During 1883 and 1884 William J. Winfield was again president of No. 15, and was followed by Presidents Lathrop in 1885, Faragher in 1886 and Parker in 1887.

In 1887 occurred the first strike of large proportions in the history of the Union. All the offices of the city were involved, but little seems to have been gained by the Union Printers for the sacrifice, except that necessary "experience" which may later be turned to good account.

Following the strike of 1887, the destinies of No. 15 were guided by the following presidents: Lucas Phinney, 1888; Samuel Lombard, 1889-90; Charles Wright, 1891; Walter B. Turnbull succeeded by Thomas F. Moore, 1892; George E. Faulkner, 1893; Thomas F. Moore, 1894-95; M. A. Whitmore, 1896; Rudolph Moore, 1897; John J. McCarthy, 1898; Edward S. Kates, 1899; Robert D. Runyan, 1900; Bert C. Backus, 1901-02; Edward S. Kates, 1903; William E. Orser, 1904; Bert H. Bates, 1905-06-07.



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COMPLIMENTS OF A
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Historical Review—Continued



President Bates was succeeded during his 1907 term of office by Marshall R. Dutton.

The year 1906 was destined to be one of the most eventful in the history of the Union. For some time previous the International Typographical Union was endeavoring to secure the recognition by the United Typothetae of America of the eight-hour workday in the job offices of the jurisdiction. Previous to this the eight-hour day for newspaper compositors and the nine-hour day for job compositors had been secured through friendly negotiations with the employers.

In 1905, however, the two great organizations locked horns upon the universal eight-hour proposition and Rochester Local No. 15 received a strike order from Indianapolis, which was similar to that issued to every other local in the United States and Canada where the eight-hour day had been refused.

The International Typographical Union had prepared for a strenuous battle and through the loyalty and sacrifice of its membership who were not affected by the strike, it was able to present such a formidable financial and numerical front to

“the enemy” that success was assured. This eight-hour campaign of the Union Printers of America, carried to success under the leadership of International President James M. Lynch, called forth the wonder and praise of both capitalist and labor bodies throughout the world.

Typographical Union No. 15 may well feel proud of its part in that momentous struggle. Over 100 Printers obeyed the strike call here, and the fight was carried on progressively by local officers and members for over two years, and until the city was finally and completely won for the eight-hour day.

The membership of No. 15 stood the acid test during the strike of 1905—both the man who struck and the man who paid, loyally and willingly making the supreme sacrifice for the common cause. No little credit, however, was due to the officers in charge of the local strike. President Bert H. Bates, Vice-president Marshall R. Dutton and Secretary-treasurer Henry D. Henderson all proved efficient and devoted leaders in a time of stress.

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Historical Review—Continued

the eight-hour day and No. 15 took a new spurt toward power and efficiency.

President Charles Vick was succeeded in 1908 by Edward J. Walsh, who also served a full term of office during 1909. He was followed by William Comerford in 1910; John Connolly in 1911; Peter Bohrer, Jr., 1912; John Eckhardt, 1913; Blaine Butterfield, 1914; and Fred Hewitt, succeeded by George Burns in 1915.

The present officers of No. 15 are as follows: President, George Burns; vice-president, John Connolly; secretary-treasurer, Robert N. Chapman; recording secretary, John Ruppertsberger; reading clerk, Walter Jarvis; sergeant at arms, Matthew Clinton. The members of the executive board are:

John Connolly, Burton Mitchell, Ernest Parent, Charles Rodell and Harry Bohrer.

At the height of its prosperity and power in this year of 1916, Typographical Union No. 15 pauses to do honor to all its members who have given of their time and talents to the success of No. 15 and to the common cause of Unionism. Particularly does it call to mind those of our leaders who were ever faithful and loyal while occupying places of trust and usefulness.

While much more could be said of those who have helped in the good work accomplished by the members of No. 15, it is needless to mention those by name here as their work stands out prominently before the members in what they have accomplished.

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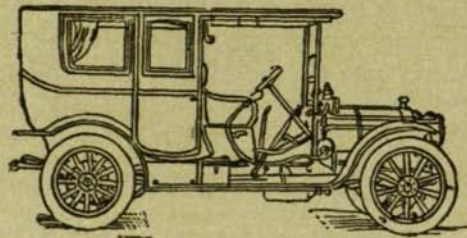
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\$100 Funeral—A beautiful black or colored broadcloth casket, half or full couch, extension bar handles, trimmed with liberty silk lining, engraved name plate to match, best rough-box, wreath, and palms and fixtures, burial robe, gloves, chairs, hearse and four coaches for One Hundred Dollars.

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Envy

I.

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And muffles his steps in the snows of the past;
And I see in the embers, I'm dreaming before,
Lost faces of love, as they looked at me last.
The round laughing eyes of the desk-mate of old,
Gleam out for a moment with truant desire,
Then fade and are lost in a City of Gold,
As I sit in the silence and gaze in the fire.

II.

And then comes a face peering back in my own,
Of a shy little girl, with her lids drooping low,
As she faltering tells in a far-a-way tone,
The ghost of a story of long, long ago,
Then her dewy blue eyes, they are lifted again,
But I see their glad light slowly fade and expire,
As I reach and cry to her, in vain, all in vain,
As I sit in the silence and gaze in the fire.

III.

Then the face of a mother looks back through the mist,
Of the tears that are welling, and lucent with light
I see the dear smile of the lips I have kissed,
As she knelt by my cradle at morning and night,
And my arms are out held with a yearning too wild,
For any but God in His love to inspire,
As she pleads at the foot of his throne for her child,
As I sit in the silence and gaze in the fire.

IV.

O, pathos of rapture, O glorious pain!
My heart is a blossom of joy overrun,
With a shower of tears, as a lily with rain,
That weeps in the shadow and laughs in the sun,
The blight of the frost, may descend on the trees,
And the leaf and the flowers may fall and expire,
But ever and ever love blossoms for me,
As I sit in the silence, and gaze in the fire.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

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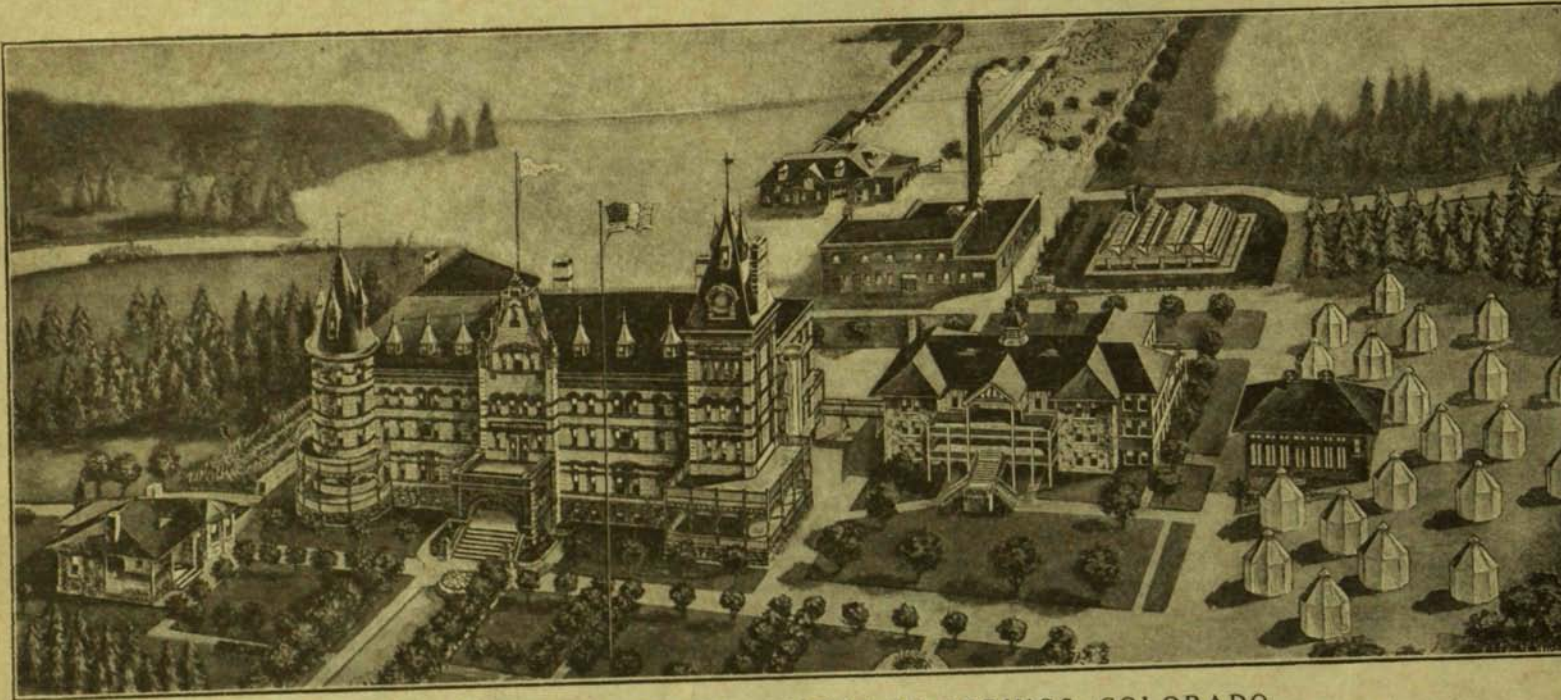
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