

# AT SWORDS POINTS

## PLUMBERS' UNION AND THE DULUTH PLUMBING CO. HAVE TROUBLE.

Arises Over Work Done on Fowler Block, and General Strike of Workmen on Remodelling of Block Is Threatened—Attempt to Be Made Today to Settle Matters—L. Freimuth Addresses Assembly.

The Federated Trades assembly met last evening and discussed several important measures. The feature of the session was the airing of the trouble with union labor engaged in rearranging the Fowler building, corner of Lake avenue and Superior street. The difficulty arises over the contract for the plumbing of the building, which was awarded to the Duluth Plumbing company. Some time ago, it is represented, one of the employes of the company that does not hold a card in the Plumbers' union, but is known as a h-pper, was complained of by the union for doing work that only journeymen plumbers were supposed to do. The plumbers allege that the company agreed to discharge the man if caught doing the work again.

A short time afterwards, the plumbers say, the man was found at the forbidden work. The union immediately demanded that the man be discharged, as agreed upon, and also asked that the Duluth Plumbing company pay to them a certain amount of money, which it asserted had been paid out by them because of previous trouble with that company. The company objected and refused, according to the union, to either pay the money or discharge the men. The company was shortly afterwards declared unfair, and the matter brought to the attention of the Building Trades council, composed of all the building trades unions.

At a meeting of that organization the first of the week it was decided that if Mr. Appleyard, the superintendent in charge of the building, and who, it is said, made the contracts, did not make arrangements to take the contract from the Duluth Plumbing company's hands, or have that company effect a settlement with the plumbers' union, all the workmen employed on the building would be called out and a boycott be declared against it on Monday morning next. As L. Freimuth has a lease of the building, and has been planning to move his stock of goods into it March 1, a delay in the work means a serious loss for him.

In view of this fact, and with an eye towards helping effect an amicable settlement, Mr. Freimuth asked to be allowed to address the trades assembly last night, and state his position in the matter. He said that he had always been a friend of organized labor, and would continue to be, and wanted to explain to the assembly his position in the controversy that had arisen. He said that he leased the building and was to occupy it at a certain date, but that he has nothing to do with the letting of contracts for its rearrangement more than to be consulted as to what material he wanted. But, he said that a committee of the plumbers' union had called upon him and intimated that if he did not see that the work done in the building was all by

union labor, he might be boycotted. Mr. Freimuth thoroughly explained that his position in the matter was that of an innocent party, and his only interest was to be able to occupy the building at the time agreed upon. He said, however, that he would use his best endeavor to have the matter satisfactorily adjusted, although he had no power other than to suggest.

After Mr. Freimuth's departure, the trouble was fully discussed by the delegates. There seemed to be a disposition to be fair in the matter and avoid trouble of any kind. The plumbers declared that they have had trouble with the Duluth Plumbing company so often that they had determined this last time to fight it out and either win or lose. It was agreed that a committee should be appointed from the trades assembly to confer with the plumbers and the Duluth Plumbing company this noon, and also with Superintendent Appleyard, and endeavor to effect a settlement that will be satisfactory to both parties. The committee appointed consists of Delegates Jones, Richardson and Schoening.

A resolution passed by the carpenters' union relating to public lands, and directed against the public park reservation in Northern Minnesota and elsewhere, was read and endorsed by the assembly. The resolution provides that all remaining public lands be held for the benefit of the whole people, and not given to anyone except bona fide settlers and home builders. It recites that the government should by judicious expenditures foster and encourage private and individual enterprise in the development of lands, and should also construct utilities for subjugating and improving the soil, to result in its cultivation by actual settlers, instead of allowing it to be taken by speculators and syndicates. The resolution was addressed to Minnesota's congressional delegation.

Several new delegates made their appearance and took the obligation. The following standing committees were appointed by the president for the ensuing term:

Grievance—Schoening, Krause and Kreiger; city council—Jones, Cullen and Davis; boycott—Richter, Perring and Meare; organization—Richardson, Dunn, Saxine; legislation—Kriz, Wood and Willett; and delegate to Superior assembly—Richter.