

**OFFICIAL REPORT. FOURTH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
JANUARY 27TH, 28TH, AND 29TH, 1890**

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**VARIOUS**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
JANUARY 27TH, 28TH, AND 29TH, 1890**



OFFICIAL REPORT.

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FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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HELD AT ST. PAUL, MINN.,

JANUARY 27TH, 28TH, AND 29TH, 1890.

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No. 24 FRANKLIN STREET.

1890.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS

ELECTED AT

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION,

HELD AT

ST. PAUL - - - - - MINNESOTA,

January 27th, 28th, and 29th, 1890.

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS.

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FIRST DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

THE Fourth Annual Convention of the National Association of Builders was called to order at 10.30 o'clock, Monday morning, Jan. 27, 1890, at the Chamber of Commerce building in St. Paul, Minn., by Edward E. Scribner, Esq., of St. Paul, President.

The proceedings were opened by prayer by the Rev. Dr. S. G. Smith, of St. Paul.

THE PRESIDENT.—Those of our delegates who at the close of the Chicago Convention made a short visit to St. Paul will remember, and be glad, I am sure, to renew their acquaintance with our then (as now) mayor of the city of St. Paul, the Hon. R. A. Smith. And, by the way, although our Convention has just been opened with prayer by my friend and pastor, Dr. S. G. Smith, and you are about to be addressed by Mayor Smith, we beg to assure you that not all of our greatest and best men are named "Smith." You will now be addressed by his Honor the Mayor:—

MAYOR ROBERT A. SMITH.—We assure you, gentlemen, that we feel greatly honored in your selecting this city for the convening of the National Association of Builders, representing, as you do, most, if not all, of the important cities of this country. You, gentlemen, are from and of the people, and have entered the list with other professions and trades in the race for fortune, and by your energy and ability have succeeded. No class of our citizens is more familiar with the intimate relations of capital and labor than you are, for the reason that you are practical business men.

We are informed that you will discuss the question of shorter hours of labor, and that you hope to reach some definite conclusion in regard to that important matter. The people of this city and all over the country expect that you will discuss the question fairly, and that your conclusions will be for the best interest of all concerned. We hope that other kindred associations will fall into line, and that strikes and business depressions will soon be among the things of the past.

Permit me, gentlemen, in behalf of our citizens, to extend to you a cordial welcome, and the freedom of the city during your stay with us.



The President then delivered his annual address :—

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION, — It affords me great pleasure, as the representative of the Contractors' and Builders' Board of Trade of St. Paul, to add on its behalf a word of welcome to those already extended by our worthy mayor. We trust that your short stay with us may prove both pleasant and profitable.

In the matter of your *social entertainment*, feeling our utter inability to offer such a varied and brilliant programme as that presented to previous Conventions by the Exchanges of larger and older cities, we were well content to show our loyalty to the National Association, by acting in accordance with the recommendations of its Executive Committee on this subject, but we did think we held, in the proposed winter carnival, a trump card, to which even the most exacting economist could not object, but we regret to say that the powers that be, represented by the chief signal officer at Washington, were too strong for us, in that for two winters past they have procured an extra supply of subterranean or other fuel, and so changed our heretofore cold and bracing climate, that thenceforth St. Paul and Minneapolis are to be known as winter resorts for blizzard-stricken New York, or the cyclone and storm-swept plains of Texas, Missouri, etc.

We are pleased to see gathered here many gentlemen who, representing their several Exchanges at previous Conventions, have learned to know, to trust, and to believe in the earnest purpose, desire, and ability of each to legislate intelligently for the upbuilding and improvement of all concerned, whether as employer or manual workman, in the erection and construction of buildings throughout the United States.

We also gladly welcome other representatives of affiliated bodies whom we meet this morning for the first time in Convention assembled, and trust that the acquaintance thus formed may prove both pleasant and valuable. But we feel that we have especial cause for congratulation in the evidence that the influence of this organization for good is spreading to and permeating every important point in this broad land of ours, afforded by the presence here of delegates from the local Exchanges of some six or eight cities, which Exchanges are either newly formed, or have not heretofore affiliated with this body.

As your presiding officer, it is not my purpose to trench in any degree upon the report of our Secretary, which he will read to you at a later hour, hence I refrain from any special or detailed reference to the work done by your representatives in the past, or that which they now seek to accomplish.

The question is frequently asked by some member of a local Exchange, some doubting Thomas, "What has been accomplished through our organization? Of what value is it to us as a fraternity?" To such I would say, that, while our National Association is a purely legislative body, while we have no power to enforce the adoption of our ideas and suggestions, by the various affiliating bodies, while we are only permitted to *recommend* to them the fruits of our councils and deliberations, we have, nevertheless, accomplished much in the elevation and improvement of standards of thought and action among builders. We have grown; we have become and are becoming, not contractors and manual workmen only, but thinking men, men who, in ascertaining our own power, in learning to respect ourselves, are earning and

securing the respect and esteem of all the better classes, the right-thinking men of all professions and callings in the various localities in which we reside.

The work heretofore accomplished by this body having been as stated advisory, and in the form of recommendation rather than mandatory, the *general principles* thereby inculcated must have *time* in which to accomplish the work desired. Let us not be too impatient in looking for more apparent results.

I think, however, that no observing member of a local Exchange affiliating with this body, himself actively engaged in a branch of the building trades and coming in frequent contact with capitalists and their architects, can fail to have noted a remoulding of sentiment, a growing respect for the art of building and its faithful representatives, a more distinct recognition of the value of the builder in all that tends to promote the comfort, the happiness, and welfare of the citizens of this great country. I think he must have noted that not only are we, as builders, coming to have greater faith in and respect for ourselves, but that our brother builder, the architect, is learning to respect and have faith in us and our honesty of purpose not only, but in our ability as well; that in the preparation of plans and specifications for the use and guidance of the builder, in the rules and methods under which such builder is asked to estimate on the cost and value of construction proposed, in the general use and adoption of our "standard contract," we see ample evidence already that the suggestions made by this body are being favorably received and acted upon by the best exponents of the science of architecture in the country, and the fact is being recognized as never before in our organization that to the attainment of the best results in building it is necessary that the designer and the artisan should work together, feeling that they are mutually dependent the one upon the other.

But for this organization, and the earnest discussion by its membership of the apprenticeship question and the needs of American youth in this direction, the seed planted by Col. Auchmuty in New York would not so early have borne such rich fruit, its influence to spread and widen thence in the hands of earnest, practical builders till every city in which has been planted an Exchange affiliating with this body shall have its well-fitted trade school, from whose portals shall graduate, not lawyers or doctors, but young men proud of the right to bear and honor the name of mechanic.

But for this organization and its efficient and hard-working Secretary the builders of this country would not now be ably represented by an official paper whose columns are teeming with thoughts and suggestions of greatest value to its clientage.

But for this organization literally nothing would have been done to concentrate and give definite expression to the views and opinions of those engaged in the various branches of the building trades as to their rights, no steps would have been taken to enter the wedge of reform in any direction.

In closing, I have but to remind the delegates here present, as representatives of filial bodies of this National Association, that these yearly Conventions of ours are but the opportunities for consultation together, for debate upon the most salient features of matters that concern the building fraternity at large, and for decision as to the general policy wisest for all to adopt.

The *real work*, the *real result*, the *actual reforms secured* are, or should be, the work of the filial bodies during the year.

With this statement I will close, realizing that all the time at our disposal will be needed for the discussions and consultations to which I have just referred.

The PRESIDENT. — The first business before the Convention is to appoint a Committee on Credentials. How shall that committee be appointed?

Mr. ANTHONY ITTNER, of St. Louis. — Mr. President, I move you that a committee of five be appointed, to which committee the secretaries shall be added, to examine the credentials of the delegates to this Convention.

The motion was adopted.

The PRESIDENT. — I will appoint as members of such committee, Anthony Ittner, of St. Louis; W. H. Albertson, of Philadelphia; John J. Roberts, of New York; Lawrence Grace, of Cincinnati; and A. W. Murray, of Chicago. These gentlemen will meet during the noon intermission to receive the credentials of the delegates and report upon them as the first business of the afternoon session.

The SECRETARY. — Mr. President, I desire to state that I have asked Mr. William Harkness, Jr., of Philadelphia, and Mr. Charles W. Voshall, of Rochester, to act as my assistants during this Convention.

The following announcements were read by the Secretary:—

ST. PAUL, Jan. 27, 1890.

TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS OF THE UNITED STATES:

The Industrial Union of St. Paul extend to your body a most cordial invitation to meet with them in this room this evening at 8 o'clock. We much desire an expression of your views as to the requirements for a manufacturing city or centre, and also to become acquainted with you and to personally assure you of our hearty interest in your organization as representing the leading manufacturing and building element of the country.

(Signed) CHARLES E. MARVIN,  
*President of the St. Paul Industrial Union.*

PIONEER PRESS BUILDING CO.,

ST. PAUL, Jan. 25, 1890.

Mr. H. R. P. HAMILTON,

*Secretary of the Contractors' and Builders' Board of Trade, of St. Paul:*

Dear Sir, — On behalf of the Pioneer Press Company I herewith extend an invitation to the delegates and visitors to the National Convention to be held in this city next week to visit and inspect the new Pioneer Press building on Thursday morning, Jan. 30, 1890.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) FREDERICK DRISCOLL, *Manager.*