

# Typographical Union Has 80 Year Record of Achievement, Honor

## PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF MEMBERS OBJECT

Organization Is Mother Of American Trade Union Movement—Many Benefits Obtained During Years

By A. B. Williams  
In nearly every town and city in the United States the size of Medford, the citizens are more or less familiar with the fact that there are local lodges and civic and other organizations which have an important bearing upon the welfare and progress of their respective communities.

In the smaller towns and cities is another organization not so generally familiar. Yet this organization is a unit of one national—international—in its scope which has a record of accomplishments and achievements in several respects surpassing those associations more familiarly known—the International Typographical Union.

**History Presented**  
To familiarize the people of southern Oregon with this institution and its achievements, purposes, and aims, and its bearing upon the public welfare, an attempt is here made to present, in a concise form, something of the history and other information of this labor organization.

The International Typographical Union is the mother of the American trades union movement. It was brought into existence in 1852 and has operated continuously for 80 years. During that time it has progressed until today it comprises 300 subordinate unions, with a membership of approximately 80,000. It enjoys a record for accomplishment that is surpassed by no organization or association of the kind in the world.

From its birth the purpose of the organization has been protection and advancement for its members. In later years it incorporated certain humanitarian features which have won the plaudits of the world, the endorsement of prominent industrialists, scientists and thinkers, and been the basis for similar movements in other organizations and even by state and federal governments.

**Health Major Aim**  
One of its major achievements has been its relentless effort for more sanitary and healthful conditions in printing offices, and so successful has been this endeavor that from an average age of 25 years at death in the beginning, due mostly to tuberculosis, the average has been increased to more than 50 years—more than doubled!

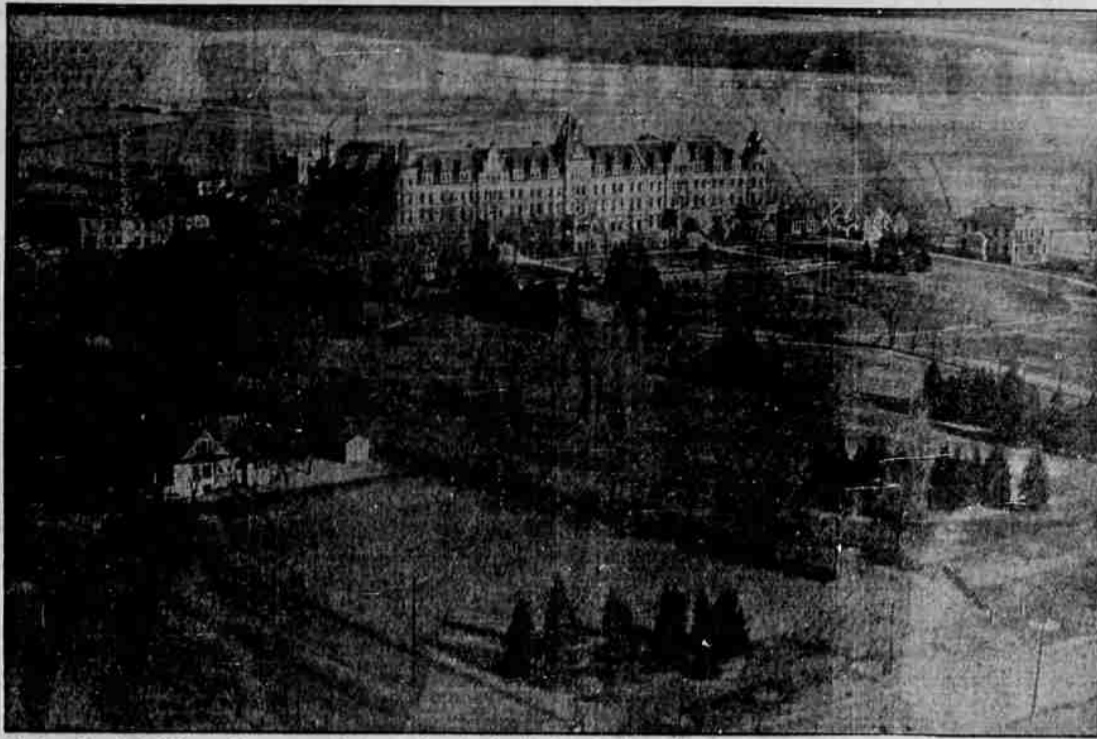
In 1908 the I. T. U. inaugurated the old age pension system, whereby members unable to secure sustaining employment because of age or other disability are entitled to and receive a weekly pension, now amounting to \$8 per week. It now has on its pension rolls approximately 3350 members. This feature alone has saved hundreds of these thousands from becoming public charges and a burden upon public charity during this period of depression.

In 1923 the I. T. U. established a mortuary benefit system whereby beneficiaries of deceased members receive not only sufficient to provide decent burial for the dead, but provide additional for the aid and comfort of the deceased's family. This benefit is graduated from \$75 for continuous membership of one year or less up to \$500 for a continuous membership of fifteen years or more.

**Lightened Labor**  
The I. T. U. is the parent of the shorter work day. The recognition of this effort has not been achieved without an arduous and costly struggle. At the time of the birth of the I. T. U. printers, along with other industrial workers, labored 12 hours per day. It may not be irrelevant to state that the condition at the time was aptly expressed by a farm hand: "A working man didn't need bedding so much as he needed a lantern."

From 12 the hours were reduced to 10, to 9, to 8, to 7 1/2, and now the International proposes, and has adopted a resolution calling for a five-day work week, to spread wage-earning out to reduce unemployment. At the beginning all these reforms were considered fantastic and impracticable. It cost the I. T. U. and its membership over \$20,000,000 to put these reforms into effect. And now behold! Not only have other industrial concerns and governments been converted to the humanitarianism

## Colorado Springs Home Was Established In 1891



Air view of main building and arrangement of grounds and subordinate structures at Colorado Springs, Colo., home for infirm and ailing printers. The main building was constructed in 1891 at a cost of \$60,000 and dedicated May 12, 1892. To the original house has been added a wing on the east, and an extension on the south to provide a modern hospital. The original 80 acres of land has been augmented to over 300 acres of fertile land with cow barns, chicken houses, hog houses, greenhouses and other necessary outbuildings.

and righteousness of these reforms, but many of them are becoming imbued with the five-day week movement and in some cases have already been inaugurated with satisfactory results.

**Task Well Learned**  
The I. T. U. requires all apprentices to be registered and it is a mandate that they be given opportunity to become thoroughly versed and practical in every department in which they work. In addition to this, they are required to take and pass examinations in technical courses provided by the I. T. U. correspondence school so that, when they are graduated they are not merely printers but skilled artisans, ready to take the places of those who must lay aside the tools of the trade and craft.

To date the International Typographical Union has spent, in addition to sums already named, \$15,474,747 as pensions to its members; \$6,794,268 as mortuary benefits; \$364,179 for trade education; not to mention the tens of thousands of dollars expended by subordinate unions in assistance and charity.

Tributes to labor and labor organizations could be quoted from scores of illustrious men and leaders. Two notable ones are here quoted:

"Labor is superior to capital and deserves much the higher consideration. No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty—none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned. Let them beware of surrendering a political power which they already possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to close the doors of advancement, and so fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost."—Abraham Lincoln.

"I believe in organization of the wage-earners. We can succeed only by standing shoulder to shoulder, working in association. A great deal can be accomplished by working each for all and all for each."—Theodore Roosevelt.

**PRINTERS' HOME HAVEN FOR OLD AND IN ILLNESS**

Health Reclaimed By Many At Colorado Springs Institution — \$5,554,621 Expended In Maintenance.

(By A. B. Williams)  
Much as the I. T. U. and its members pride themselves upon the records of their achievements, second to

none is the Union Printers Home at Colorado Springs, Colo. In an article of this character adequate justice cannot be done to this magnificent institution. It would take columns of newspaper space and the pen of a gifted writer to describe and portray the Home, its equipment, its high order of maintenance, its auxiliaries, its grounds and its landscaping. They occupy a site of more than 200 acres and redeemed from a desert waste to a building and surroundings that elicit the highest commendation from all classes.

**Plan Long Held**  
Due to the heavy toll upon its membership in the infancy of the Union, birth was given to the idea of an institution or sanitarium where-in members who had contracted tuberculosis could receive better treatment collectively than in individual localities. The idea grew and grew with the passing years, but it was not until 1886, when, with a nucleus of a \$10,000 gift from George W. Childs and Anthony J. Drexel, newspapermen, a real move was started for an institution for ailing and infirm printers. Colorado Springs was selected because of a climate ideally suited for the purpose, and in 1892 the first unit was built at a cost of about \$70,000.

Since then additions and new buildings have been erected, stables for cows, sheds for hogs and chickens built, the grounds parked and landscaped, hospital and sanitarium wards and recreation rooms provided until today the Union Printers' Home is one of the most imposing, best appointed and most notable institutions of its kind in the world.

**Produce Own Milk.**  
As a sample of the attendant features may be cited that a herd of 140 tested Holstein cows is maintained on the premises to provide a high-class quality of milk. The home now has a frontage of half a mile on Colorado Springs' main thoroughfare. It now houses 245 residents and patients, full capacity. In emergency cases accommodations are provided for new patients, but where cases are not urgent provides the applicant the option of the pension.

The illustrations give but a faint conception of the magnitude of this institution. It has to be seen in the original and examined to be fully appreciated. This home has been developed and maintained to date at a cost of \$5,554,621.

A new annex has just been completed and furnished and equipped, involving an additional outlay of \$100,000 for building and a like amount for equipment.

Many a printer who has fallen prey to some insidious disease or malady, and who had availed himself of the treatments at this home, was not only benefited, but in numerous cases was so rehabilitated that he was able to return to his occupation.

**Have Own Medical Staff.**  
The Home maintains a corps of able surgeons and specialists and highly trained nurses, and its laboratories are equipped with the very latest and best of paraphernalia.

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Box Handkerchiefs, Regular \$1.00 values	85c	Felt Hats, Regular \$5.00 values	\$3.45
One Lot Men's and Boys' all wool Blazers	\$2.95	All Wool Lounging Robes	\$6.35

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