

CONVENTION A. F. OF L.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 10.—Immediately following the call to order this morning, the resolutions committee from the American Federation of Labor submitted its report. The first resolution recommended by the convention was one reaffirming its favorable position on the initiative and referendum, which was adopted by the convention by a vote of 82 to 56 after considerable debate. Following in rapid succession were recommended and adopted resolutions requesting the support by congress of a bill for the higher education of the blind; in favor of an eight-hour bill for all postoffice employees, and in favor of municipal ownership of public utilities. The committee reported unfavorably upon the following political resolution:

"Whereas, The right of direct legislation is one of the leading political demands of the American Federation of Labor; and

"Whereas, We can never hope to acquire this right as long as we continue to divide our strength at the ballot-box; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor, as an organization, take such steps as are necessary to go into the next national campaign with this single demand, upon which all lovers of freedom and justice can stand."

Special committees on the eight-hour work-day, compulsory arbitration and on Porto Rico, were appointed. Among the resolutions handed to the secretary and referred just prior to adjournment was one providing for the establishment of a national labor press bureau at Washington. The labor press will hold its annual election of officers tomorrow.

At the afternoon session the convention heard the report of the committee on organization, which favored a resolution providing for the appointment, as soon as possible after adjournment of the convention, of four permanent organizers for the ensuing year in the Southern, Northern, Inter-Mountain and Pacific coast states and territories. Other resolutions favor a national organization in the fishing industry and among the leather-workers, rubber-workers and wood, wire and metal lathers and upholsterers. The question of trade autonomy was raised by a resolution by the steam and hot-water fitters asking a constitutional charter on the part of the plumbers' union. The organization committee recommended that committees of three from each union be appointed to confer with a like committee of the American Federation, which recommendation was concurred in.

In its report, which followed, the committee on labels recommended that all school books used in public schools of the various states should bear the label of the Allied Printing Trades Council, and recommended the recognition of the union labels of the boot and shoe-workers, tobacco workers, journeymen horseshoers and lumber trades. These recommendations were adopted by the convention. A partial report of the committee on boycotts contained recommendations for reference to the incoming executive council of a large number of resolutions for placing on the "unfair list" of specified firms and corporations on account of labor troubles with their employees. A resolution extending sympathy to the striking telegraphers on the Santa Fe system was adopted.

Louisville, Dec. 11.—At the morning session of the American Federation of Labor convention a resolution was presented by the cigarmakers' delegation, and under suspension of the rules was immediately adopted by the convention, denouncing the efforts of the Resistencia to keep members of the Cigarmakers' International Union out of the cigar factories in Tampa. The support of the Federation is pledged to the unions of Tampa in their efforts to secure and maintain their rights.

Other resolutions adopted provided for demanding the card of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association when making purchases; for the organization of unions of shipping department workers and all other freight handlers; for organization of blacksmiths and placing of such organizations in the "front rank of trade unionism"; for the organization of trunk and baggage workers and for the organization of agriculturists.

A resolution was adopted directing the secretary of the federation to instruct non-affiliated locals to affiliate with chartered local central bodies and to insist that local unions, chartered direct by the American Federation of Labor, shall affiliate with the chartered central bodies of the American Federation of Labor before affiliating with any other central body in name or pretensions.

The docket of resolutions received by the secretary contained the following, to be passed on by the proper committee and submitted to the convention: A resolution introduced by John Mitchell, of the United Mine-workers, expressing sympathy with the iron moulders union in its struggle with the National Founders' Association against rules requiring members of the former union to work with non-union moulders; a resolution for non-interference by international unions of woodworkers with shipwrights and joiners' unions; one providing that no "local" affiliated with an international or national body chartered by the American Federation of Labor shall be permitted to join any central body that has affiliated with it any organization that has seceded from an international or national body of the American Federation of Labor; one urging the placing of orders for government army hats with union factories; one urging the free school-book system where not in force; one for the reorganization of textile workers in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, and one for the organization of telephone girls.

A resolution for the establishment of the free school-book system where not already in force was adopted. A resolution providing that no local affiliated with a national or international chartered body shall be permitted to join any central body that has affiliated or become affiliated with any body that has seceded from a national or international chartered body was unfavorably reported. A resolution to reinstate Typographical, No. 12, was referred to the incoming executive council. The convention offered its aid toward securing for the people of Porto Rico "freedom of assembly, of speech and the press."

SKILLED WORKMEN.

The Bootblacks' League of the Greater New York, which was killed through politics, will be reorganized on strictly union lines. A preliminary meeting was held in a hall on Grand street, near East Broadway. Dominico Cassano, one of its organizers, read two advertisements in a newspaper. One was for a bookkeeper, whose pay was to be \$5 a week; the other was for a bootblack, whose wages would start at \$6 a week.

"Dat's because we're skilled workers," said Cassano. "Dem mugs as works at bookkeeping ain't skilled workers. See? It takes skill ter give an oil shine. Tink of a bookkeepin' guy givin' an oil shine!"

"Oil shina maka muscle," said an Italian, feeling his biceps. "Shorty" McGinnis remarked that bootblacks had to be born, not made. A meeting for formal organization will be called shortly.—New York Times.

The National Council of Women, held at Minneapolis, Minn., last week, adopted resolutions declaring that the national government should support enough institutions of learning to give every child a common-school education.

BENEFITS OF THE UNION LABEL.

To workingmen the union label means more than the mere device may indicate, more than men outside of the unions may appreciate. It is well known that each union has a label, stamp or device to indicate the product of their work, and union men should see that in their purchases, goods bear their stamp. All strength comes from united action and loyalty to the principles espoused by those banded in any enterprise, says the Freeman's Labor Journal. Unless all unite for the common good, not alone by having their names on the rolls of membership, but in their dealings and every-day actions, the cause will not succeed. Every union man should ask for union-made goods, and when merchants have a demand thus made, they grow anxious to please and retain a union man's custom. He will purchase union-label goods and place them upon his shelves. The next time the union man asks for union-label goods he has them. Thus you are aiding your brethren in other lines, and if the same spirit of reciprocity were maintained by all union men, what a power for good their efforts would be!

It is estimated that there are about 20,000,000 wage-earners in the United States. Of this great number at present about 2,000,000 only are organized. As a result, employers can fix the price of wages at their own figure. Men must work for these figures or go idle. Alone they have no power, but banded together they can demand the wages justly due them, according to their work and ability. And this is the way to promote the use of the union label, and in so doing you are promoting the interests of those who toil. When you make a purchase and find thereon a union label you know that you are helping to support their families. You are also supporting the employer of labor because he is receiving his interest in the profits. If the remaining laborers were banded in the cause of unionism, better conditions would obtain among all classes. The poor would be better able to buy better goods, the employers and merchants would still make their profits.

It is well known that the trusts have strong organizations and have advanced the cost of machinery, supplies, tools, etc., and employers must pay more for these articles. In their desire for greater profit, whom do they cut—the wage-earner, of course. The trusts have their union, and maintain their prices accordingly. Should you not do likewise, as your labor is your capital? A good union man is one who believes and has faith in humanity; one who considers his neighbor's welfare as well as his own. When you are helping yourself by paying attention to the union label you are also helping all others in the great army of the toilers.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT'S REPORT.

Carroll D. Wright, commissioner of labor, has completed his 15th annual report. It embraces data relative to highest, lowest and average wages paid, and the hours of labor in 92 countries, provinces and colonies, exclusive of 47 states and territories in this country. This compilation is taken from authentic official sources and is not the result of original inquiry. The very nature of the work prevents any summary. It gives quotations for each country as far back as any official statement was to be found and down to the present year. These quotations are for 4,459 occupations and subdivisions of occupation. The facts are taken from nearly 1,500 different official reports and they cover 900 definite results.

"I am proud to say," said the financial magnate and captain of industry, "that I began at the foot of the ladder. But I did not stay there long." "Neither did the ladder," cheerfully interpolated another gentleman of the same class.—Indianapolis Press.

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Great friendship is shown by John Dellar to all the union organizations, and he assists them in every way he can to attain their wishes. Having been a hard-working man all his life, Mr. Dellar appreciates the position of the working classes and always selects his friends and companions from among them at all times.

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We carry none but good qualities, which explains why our trade is so well satisfied.

The Louisville (Ky.) Federal Labor Union instructed its delegate to the A. F. of L. convention to submit a resolution declaring for the collective ownership of the means of production.