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BRICKLAYERS IN SESSION.

Meet in San Francisco in Thirty-ninth Annual Convention.

The thirty-ninth annual session of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union of America and Canada convened in San Francisco last Monday morning in Pioneer Hall, over 200 delegates, representing unions in various parts of the United States and Canada being present. The assemblage was called to order by Edward J. Rainey, president of the local bricklayers' organization. Previous to the meeting of the convention a parade was formed of the delegates, who were escorted from the headquarters at the Russ House by the local joint committee of arrangements, and the line of march was taken along Montgomery and Market streets to Pioneer Hall.

President Rainey, after calling the gathering to order, extended them a welcome on behalf of the local organization. He said the journeymen of San Francisco and the citizens generally felt honored by the coming of the convention and would do all in their power to make their stay pleasant and agreeable. He expressed a hope that the deliberations of the delegates would result in much benefit for the craft at large.

President Rainey, on concluding his remarks, introduced the Rev. George A. Adams, of the First Congregational Church, who made the opening prayer. E. J. Brandon, chairman of the state conference of bricklayers' organizations, was the next speaker, and extended a welcome on behalf of the journeymen of the different sections of the state. He stated that although the state organizations had only been affiliated with the international organization but a couple of years, yet they were as loyal to the laws of the body as any of the affiliated unions and would always loyally support the body in its principles and laws. He also spoke of the success which the local union had enjoyed in the 20 years of its existence. During that period the local organization never had a dispute of any consequence with the employers, and had always aimed to work in harmony and good feeling for the best interests of the community.

Mayor Schmitz was next introduced. The mention of his name caused a burst of applause from the assembled delegates, which continued for several minutes.

Mayor Schmitz in his address took occasion to extend a hearty greeting to the delegates, and said he would do everything he could to make their visit in the city pleasant. He said the citizens esteemed it a great honor to have the convention meet there. He said he believed that the deliberations of the body would do much for the cause which the organization stands for and that he was proud to be able to greet them as fellow unionists and wanted them to all feel that they were among friends while they were in San Francisco.

At the conclusion of the Mayor's speech another ovation was tendered him, while the band struck up a stirring national air.

The Rev. Father J. P. McQuaide, of the Holy Redeemer Church, then spoke, and was followed by William J. Bowen, president of the International Union, who thanked the Mayor and the preceding speakers for kindly greeting and good feeling.

Mr. Bowen then took charge of the convention. He called for a short recess in order to give the delegates an opportunity to shake hands with the Mayor. After the delegates had paid their compliments to the chief executive the committee on credentials presented its report. Then followed the seating of the delegates and the distribution of badges, after which an adjournment was taken for lunch.

When President Bowen called the convention to order again at 2 o'clock, it was learned that the trunk with the reports and other printed matter had not arrived, but had been delayed in transit somewhere between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It was therefore decided that an adjournment should be taken until 9 o'clock next morning.

President Bowen announced the appointment of John Pettingill, of Lewiston, Me., as assistant secretary, and T. M. Smith, of San Francisco, as sergeant-at-arms. He also appointed a press committee, consisting of Albert Cope, of Decatur, Ill.; E. A. Moffett, of Philadelphia, and E. J. Brandon, of San Francisco.

One of the principal questions that will come before the convention will be the enforcement on the New York unions of a resolution passed at the last convention by which any contractor can install a fire-proofing material provided he pays union wages and observes union conditions.

New York is the only city which has ignored this resolution. The fire-proof brick used in large buildings forms 65 per cent of the bricklayers' work. The present agreement between the Mason Builders' Association and the New York bricklayers contains a clause providing that the mason builders must install this work and must not sublet it. It is understood that the unions will stand by the agreement with the mason builders, who in turn will pay 70 cents an hour after March 1, even if expulsion from the International Union is the result.

Half Holidays for Building Trades.

On January 7 the general half holiday in San Francisco was inaugurated in the building trades industry in accordance with an agreement made between the Affiliated Contractors' Association and the Building Trades Council. The reduction of time will be at the expense of the men, who will hereafter receive pay for but five and a half days for a week's work, instead of on the basis of six days' pay.

Ask for "Golden West" Spices.

FRATERNAL DELEGATE RETURNS HOME

Mr. Brock Reviews Work of the Washington State Federation of Labor.

During the past two years there has been an exchange of visits between the State Federations of Labor of the States of Washington and Oregon. These fraternal visits have resulted in the formation of a commission whose purpose is the collection and compilation of information relating to wages and working conditions in the two states. This information is intended for the guidance and assistance of unions in the two states in equalizing the wage scales in different localities.

The representative of the Oregon State Federation, Arthur Brock, was in attendance at the Washington State Federation of Labor convention, held in Everett, January 4 to 7, inclusive. In speaking of the convention and labor affairs generally in that state, Mr. Brock said:

"The convention was well attended, about two hundred delegates being present, and every town of any consequence being represented. The delegates report that the labor movement is in very good condition. The deplorable factional fights that are developing into feuds, are the worst things that can be mentioned regarding affairs in that state. Almost every town has two or three factions, and in addition to this, there is a fight between Seattle on the one hand, and the combined forces of all the other towns in the state, with the result that Seattle hardly has a look-in at anything. My opinion is that both sides are more or less in the wrong, and that a little more charity and forbearance on both sides is necessary to allow them to get together and make a united stand against the common enemy."

"The convention re-elected practically the entire official staff, and endorsed President Blackman for re-appointment as Labor Commissioner."

"A program was outlined looking to an aggressive campaign during the present session of the Legislature, in pushing legislation of a character beneficial to working people. The fellow servant bill will receive the principal support, the executive board of the Federation having instructions to push this law regardless of what happens to other bills."

"Some fifty resolutions were considered by the convention, most of them declaring for a betterment of the condition of working people."

"The next convention will be held in Aberdeen."

"The City of Everett is well organized, with about twenty-five organizations. The unions own, free of debt, a labor temple. This property is easily worth \$6000 or \$7000, and so far as I know is the only labor temple in the Northwestern states. It serves to bind the unionists more closely together, and in this particular, Everett unions are well worthy of emulation by those of other cities."

Regarding the work of the fraternal commission, Mr. Brock said:

"The Washington convention declared in no uncertain terms for a continuance of the commission. The

commission presented a report, a copy of which I will give you. There was no opposition to its continuance, and the sentiment of the convention was in favor of carrying out to the full extent the fraternal plan."

"The Washington delegates for the next term will be A. P. Arkins, of Anacortes, T. F. Burns, of Seattle, and H. E. Green, of Aberdeen."

The report presented is as follows: "The joint fraternal commission, composed of delegates to the two conventions of the States of Oregon and Washington, beg leave to report as follows:

"While the members of the commission have not given the matter the attention it deserves, it has been because of other duties, and not because of a lack of interest in the work."

"However, after consultation, as to the work accomplished, and the prospects for the future, we have come to the following conclusions:

"The unions and union men and women of the two states have not, apparently, grasped the importance of the movement, and have not co-operated with the commission to the extent that would make the commission a success. Another thing that has hampered the commission has been the lack of funds to prosecute the work. We say this in no critical or fault-finding spirit. We know that the organizations we represent need all the money they can raise, and that other departments of the organizations are of probably more importance than this work."

"Further, we would say that we do not believe the unions of the two states have availed themselves of the information gathered by the commission."

"This leaves as the only thing to be said in favor of the plan, the spirit of fraternity that is being cultivated between the two state organizations. This is a benefit that cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but it is undoubtedly possible to weld together the union men of these two states so that they can work together for mutual benefit."

"The continuation of the fraternal commission, however, will entail more work and more expense than was at first contemplated, and this commission is not prepared to recommend a continuance without laying before the two State Federations the full situation as we see it."

"If the unions affiliated with the two State Federations are prepared to undertake the work of rendering full reports to the commission, covering whatever information may be desired, and also appropriate funds for the collection and compilation of such information, the commission can be made of great benefit to unionists of the two states."

"But if the two Federations are not prepared to follow this course, and the commission is expected to go along as it has, we would probably better stop where we are and save the money now being spent on the movement."

Make an Early Start.

There will be a meeting on Sunday of the committee appointed by the Iron City Central City Trades Council to make arrangements for entertaining the American Federation of Labor convention, to be held in Pittsburgh next November. The committee is said to favor Old City hall for the business session, but some of the labor leaders argue that the place is entirely too small. The latter claim that Machinery hall of the exposition would be more suitable.

The principal matter to be taken up Sunday is the question of securing sufficient funds to warrant giving the visiting delegates an entertainment never excelled by any city where the A. F. of L. has convened. The plan under contemplation places the entertainment fund in the hands of the public, and not to confine it to the labor officials.

It is the intention of the committee to have a committee of fifteen. Five of these to be appointed by Mayor Hays, two by the Chamber of Commerce, two by the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, and six by the labor organizations. The five to be appointed by Mayor Hays shall be exclusively business men and not politicians. It is proposed to have this committee arrange plans to solicit money and deposit it in some bank which shall report daily the amount received from such subscriptions.

The committee of fifteen will not be expected to arrange for the entertainment, but merely to act as guarantors that money collected for

entertainments will be properly handled.—Pittsburg Labor Tribune.

STILL A UNION LAUNDRY.

The Federated Trades Laundry has changed hands and is now operating under the management of Stein Bros., under the name of Columbia Laundry. The business will continue to operate under union conditions at the same location, Seventeenth and Quimby Streets. The Columbia Laundry is the only union laundry in the city, and is entitled to the support of union labor.

Warning to Workmen.

D. I. Murphy, secretary of the Panama Canal Commission, has sent out the following notice:

"The laboring people of the country should be on their guard against so-called labor exchanges, which are holding out promises of employment on the Panama canal and exacting a fee of a dollar or two from each applicant. A concern in one of the Eastern cities is sending broadcast circulars urging early registration, with the assurance that the earliest to register will naturally be in line for the best places that are open. Of course, the Isthmian Canal Commission would give no countenance to such contemptible schemes of sharpers, whose object is to separate the laboring man from his hard-earned dollar."

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