

# International Committees in Action

By Earl R. Browder

**W**ITH the publication of the program of the Progressive International Committee of the United Mine Workers, another national committee of the trade union left-wing swings its forces into the great battle now going on to modernize the labor movement of America. Following the great drive in the city and State bodies, these industrial committees are forming and, while the League holds the first-line trenches, are carrying the war on to the next line, the various international unions which must be amalgamated before Labor can exert its rightful power.

The oldest and best developed Committee is that of the railroads, the International Committee for Amalgamation in the Railroad Industry. The International Conference called by this body last December shook the railroad unions from their slumber, and established a general movement, officially representing thousands of local unions. It is now carrying on a referendum vote throughout the railroad unions on the issue of amalgamation. Every day new locals, federations, and central bodies, are endorsing its plan. Typical of its progress was the meeting of the Chicago and Alton System Federation, held in Chicago February 9th, with 98 delegates, who unanimously endorsed the Minnesota plan. The enthusiastic mass-meeting of railroad workers in Chicago, Feb. 25th, which greeted G. H. Kennedy, chairman of the International Committee, and Wm. Z. Foster, was but one of a great series of such meetings being held all over the country. The railroaders are getting solidly organized behind their International Committee.

The Metal Trades Committee, formed in December by delegates of many local unions, in attendance at the National Railroad Conference, has circulated 7,000 local unions with its amalgamation plan, and good results are already being shown. In the Metal Polishers' Union a national referendum is now officially being taken on Amalgamation, initiated by the Chicago and Marion locals, and endorsed by District Council No. 4. Throughout the Machinists, Molders, and the other metal trades, the amalgamation movement is gaining ground every day. The Metal Trades Committee is working in close cooperation with the Railroad Committee.

The Needle Trades Committee, comprising the left bloc in that industry, is a section of the Trade Union Educational League. It has recently issued a Plan of Amalgamation and is circularizing the entire industry with it. Ida

Rothstein, has been put in the field as organizer, through the needle trades centres, organizing the left-wing forces behind the Amalgamation Plan, in preparation for the International Conference to be held in New York on May 6th.

The International Committee for Amalgamation in the Printing Trades was formed by delegates and visiting printing tradesmen at the Atlantic City Convention of the Typographical Union. Circulars explaining the amalgamation plan for one union in the printing trades have been sent out over the country, and a definite plan is in preparation which will soon be issued.

In the Food Industry the International Committee is also very active. In this industry the problem of independent unions has rendered the work more involved, but the Committee has drafted a program which covers all the food trade unions, and a uniform program will soon be presented to the entire industry in its Plan.

The Program of the Progressive Miners is printed in full in this issue. The miners have one of the most difficult and serious situations facing them, and their program necessarily goes far beyond the issue of amalgamation, which is the big problem before all the other Committees. Their forces, however, are even greater than in the other industries, and the Progressive Miners are rallying them all with great success. History will soon be in the making as this program reaches the rank and file.

The International Committees for the Building, Leather, and Textile industries are organized on a provisional basis, and are preparing programs to solve the organization problems confronting them. An International Conference will be held for the Textile workers, in New York, May 5th and 6th, and for the Leather and Boot and Shoe workers, in Boston, on May 13th. Progress is reported, by hundreds of local unions, federations, central bodies, etc., adopting amalgamation resolutions, from all over the country. All three of these Committees will soon be in full swing.

The immediate necessity of the movement at this time is to see that in every city and town the workers in each of these industries organize themselves into local industrial groups, connect themselves with their International Secretary, and proceed to work upon the uniform plans being followed by the left-wing unionists all over the country. Particularly should all members of the Trade Union Educational League and readers of THE LABOR HERALD see to it that

such groups are formed at once if they are not already at work.

The amalgamation movement can be considered a living thing only when the International Committees begin to function. Scattered groups of militants, working hap-hazard without any plan agreed upon for all of them, are almost helpless; but as soon as this vital and necessary co-ordinating center is set up, with a uniform plan for all local groups, the former condition of chaos and helplessness gives way to a condition of organization and power. The trade unions will begin to move toward amalgamation, and thus become powerful and strong, only to the extent that we rally all the progressive forces around these International Committees.

Below we give a list of the Committees for the various industries. Let every League member and every sympathizer see to it now that all progressive unionists are connected up with the proper Secretary. Let every city, town, and village, and every workshop and factory, become a radiating center for the amalgamation movement, co-ordinated and made powerful by these International Committees.

The Committees and their Secretaries are as follows:

International Committee for Amalgamation in the Railroad Industry,  
O. H. Wangerin, Secretary-Treasurer,  
411 Dakota Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

International Committee for Amalgamation in the Metal Industry,

John Werlik, Secretary-Treasurer,  
1426 S. Keeler Ave., Chicago, Ill.

International Committee of the Needle Trades Section, T. U. E. L.,

Joseph Zack, Secretary,  
208 E. 12th St., New York City.

International Committee for the Amalgamation of the Printing Trades Unions.

John T. Taylor, Chairman,  
E. E. Porter, Secretary-Treasurer,  
P. O. Box 31, Detroit, Mich.

General Committee for the Amalgamation of all Unions in the Food Industry,

V. H. Sundell, Secretary,  
2432 Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Progressive International Committee of the United Mine Workers of America

Thomas Myerscough, Secretary-Treasurer,  
Labor Lyceum, 35 Miller St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

International Committee for Amalgamation in the Building Trades,

J. W. Johnstone, Secretary,  
118 No. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

International Committee for Amalgamation in the Leather Industry,

Joseph Manley, Provisional Organizer,  
208 E. 12th St., New York City.

International Committee for Amalgamation in the Textile Industry,

Joseph Manley Provisional Organizer,  
208 E. 12th St., New York City.

## What is a Militant?

By Jay Fox

**A** MAN away back in the wilds of New York City writes me to as what I know about the Trade Union Educational League and its "Militants." "What in hell," he asks, "is a militant?" I referred him to these pages for the answer.

A militant in the labor movement is a fighter for the freedom of his class, a soldier in the army of industrial progress. Does this soldier of labor carry arms? He certainly does. He packs around a pocket full of redhot pamphlets and a head full of high explosive arguments designed to prove to you and me why we should be even as he.

The militant worker is not merely a man dissatisfied with things as they are. He is not just a grumbler. The world is full of grumblers who growl at the boss and the wages and the hours, but never do anything to remedy the evils of which they complain. The militant is not of that ilk. He sees clearly the wrongs inflicted upon his class by the robber system of industry under which we are compelled to live. He examines

the machinery of capitalism carefully to see where the defect is, for he generally has no other thought than that a few changes in the system will insure justice to labor. But after a thorough examination of capitalism he is forced to the conclusion that no amount of alteration would insure labor a square deal. He finds that the capitalist system was originally designed as a means of exploiting labor, of robbing the workers of the product of their toil, and therefore cannot be altered to serve the ends of justice. Then he looks around for plans of a new system of labor and a way to get it into operation and having found it, gets busy at once telling you and me all about it through the Trade Union Educational League. When you see a labor union with a punch in it, look behind the punch and you will find a bunch of militants.

### League Against Secession

The League is not a movement separate and distinct from the unions. It is not a secession