SYNDICALISM IN FRANCE

(This is the first and only complete history of the great French labor organization, and we are glad to present it to our readers in this timely manner. This version is being paid for and so little is known about syndicalism. The reader will observe the dissimilarity between the C. G. T. and any other organization in the world. This history, accepted for publication as a pamphlet in Chicago eight-teen months ago and has been pigeon-holed ever since. Syndicalism won't stay "put" any longer. —Editor.)

Functions of Bureaus

Organization and Propaganda: The bureaus organize by propaganda and by speaking and lecturing. If once a bureau is founded in a locality there is no limit to its growth, all the workers in its locality are organized. If the syndicate organizes in a factory, it can craft and industrial federations. The bureaus thus do organizing work that would be next to impossible for the federations.

The bureaus are peculiarly well fitted to organize general strikes. A recent strike of this character was the one day general strike in Havana, as a protest against the sentencing to death of Durand; secretary of the Coal Heavers' Union. The bureaus are veritable hotbeds of Syndicalist propaganda.

Employment Bureau: The bureaus are the employ- ment bureaus of France. They keep the most complete statistics on the labor supply and demand to be had. All jobs are free. The bureaus are widely patronized by em- ployers and workers alike.

Vicissitudes: There is a system for materially aiding trave-leers (some bureaus also aid non-members) to stay in town a day or two to search for work. All bureaus have the system of asking for a contributions of given amount and shall give money. The Paris bureau gives 50c a day. For many national federations the bureau can assist, besides food and shelter, $40 a year from the bureaus alone. A C. G. T. card, grace to the vicissitudes, legally excepts its bearer from vagrancy charges. The "vicissitudes" is a favorite institution of French rebelles.

Sous le Soldat: Literally, "The Soldier's Cent." Members in good standing are given three compulsory military service (two years) are allowed, usually $10.00 every three months. The government pays the workers one cent a day as wages to kill workers and the bureaus, or some syndicate or federation pays them one and one ninth cents a day not to do so. This institution is virtually ruled by the government and has been made more and more profitable to the many militiamen to pay.

Judicial Council: The Paris bureau has a permanent judicial council composed of six doctors, six lawyers, six syndicat-prud'hommes (working class members of local arbitration courts) and six workers. This committee gives its services free to all working men injured at work: hav- ing damage suits against their employers: arrested dur- ing labor troubles, blacklisted, etc. It is a success and is hated by employers, whom the bureau has organized, regular undertakers. To acquire property under capi- talism is not one of the ideals of the bureaus. During severe strikes the local bureau takes charge of the local strikers' children and portions them out to neighboring.bureaus, where they are taken care of while the strike lasts. The bureaus have struck and have stricken for death and out-of-work benefits, "souscomités communautaires," (common table during strikes) etc. Many of them have five libraries and are filled with books.

The bureaus are the pride of French rebels. They are the source from which Syndicalism sprang and spread to the rest of the laboring world. —End.

The C. G. T.

The federations and bureaus are united nationally (col- onies included) under the constitution of the C. G. T.; C. G. T is composed of two sections. 1st: Section of Federations—the national alliance of all the federations. 2nd: Section of Bureaus—the national alliance of all the bureaus. The C. G. T. has been a large scale international organi- zation of all the industries. The Section of Bureaus is the national organization of all the localities. The na- tional organization of all the industries are known as the Federal, and Bureaux Committees, respectively. (See diagram in last article.)

The Committee

The Federal Committee located at Paris, is composed of one delegate from each federation. It has a "bureau," that is the same as that of the Federal Committee. The Secre- tary only (Georges Eymery) receives $50 per month. He gets $50 per month. The Bureaux Committee enforces C. G. T. convention decisions regarding bureaux, collects C. G. T. dues, carries on propaganda, creates new baur- es and develops those already existing. The regional type (mining district) is the official, and efforts are being made to reorganize bureaus of this revolutionary type that ignores capitalist territorial lines. The Bureaux Com- mittee also collects very complete statistics on production, labor supply, working conditions, etc. in all parts of France. This it is able to do simply by compiling the thoro reports of the individual bureaux. The Bureaux Committee serves the purpose of being a sort of filter through which the functions of the individual bureaus combine each other and receive a national expression. It is non-dic- tatorial, the individual bureaux are independent, not autoplayous. Bureaux situated far from Paris usually select well known militants at Paris to represent them on the Bureaux Committee, and the Bureaux Committee can represent three bureaux. Meets twice per month. Cash on hand 1910 $50.

Confidential committee

The Confidential Committee, located at Paris, consists of the combined Federal and Bureaux Committees. At present it numbers about 148 members. Its "bureau" consists of the combined "bureaux" of the Federal and Bureaux Committees. The secretary of the Federal Com- mittee, Leon Jouhaux, is also secretary of the Confed- eral Committee; also called secretary of the C. G. T. No increase in salary. The treasurer of the Confidential Com- mittee is in charge of the financial committee; (Charles Poirier) fees, etc. Secretary receives $50 to $100 per year. There are no payrolls required at meetings. Confidential Committee meets regularly ev- ery three months, or on convocation of its "bureau." It elects from its ranks three committees of twelve each, six from each section. These are; Auditing, Official Jour- nalist, and Public Relations ("Le Voix du Peuple") editors. As the C. G. T. takes a non-political stand, there are no parliamentary committees or lobby- ists. Political meetings in the Confidential Committee meetings is prohibited.

The C. G. T. is the central point in the French labor movement; the bureaux, the federations, the "confedérate" organiza- tions are joined, and where the movement receives a complete class expression. It is united, on the other hand, the national alliance of organized national indus- tries (Section of Federations), and on the other, the na- tional alliance of organized localities (Section of Bureaux), cooperate under the supervision of the Federal Committee, which is the highest organ of the national enforcement of the dictates of the C. G. T. Conventions, and the general arbiter among the various affiliated organizations. Its relations are friendly, and its only concern with them is a matter of personal honor.

As is well known, the C. G. T. national Committee has been accused of being a propaganda, solidarity and advisory nature. It is not in the least legis- lative, and the humboldt syndicalist has the right to ignore its "orders."

As befits it, the Confidential Committee occupies itself in a purely administrative capacity. They clearly the laws, alleged to be in the interest of the working people, wages a most vigorous campaign of agitation against them. It is a veritable bible of anti-socialist agitation laws. In 1903 it organized an nationwide campaign against the private employment offices, which resulted very largely in their suppression. In 1904 the C. G. T. con- ference decided to carry on a great campaign for the establishment of the eight hour day on May 1st, 1906. The task of organizing this great campaign issue naturally fell to the Confidential Committee. The agitation was so inten- se and widespread that the rolling class feared for its sup- port. --A thing of the past and does not apply today as well as it did then. The argument is as follows:

"THEIR MANIFESTO"

A dozen reform socialists, all Congressmen and Councillors, receiving salaries of $15,000 and $6,0000 a year, respectively, have now given birth to a 'manifesto' —With other merits, they certainly have the one of holding office. They acknowledge their reformism. They proclaim themselves exclusive puritans of legal reform and enem- ies of the "industrial conscience." At last all is clear! —How many other politicians, those elected by the So- cialists and Communs, and the Social democrats, have been, have the same horror for the coming revolution? —A Social Revolution! - —Since we have the ballot as the means to make our ideas peacefully triumphant as soon as we have the majority! —And they give us this foolishness without laughing. —If you will wait until you are the majority before applying the collective or socialist system, you will wait till the year 2100. —Majority! —Do you not know then, that the opinion of the major- ity is not in the hands of the bankers and industrial barons? —Under a Monarchy or Republic, with the capitalist system, who makes the Proposals, and who holds the dolls and High Finance, thru the Press, holds the strings.

"Passament rules; Finance governs."

"To show us the glory of parliamentary and the beauty of a peaceful and legal transformation, these social democrats must all be the agents of the indus- trial and the socialists in particular, as a flock of geese!"

We have to repeat and repeat: The emancipation of the proletariat will not come through the ballot, which can, at most, puritan old workers and nationalize the railroad into a work-shop. Is Herve mocking the poor devils now, and does he intend to raise himself to comfort and fortunate on their shoulders, like all politicians? —JOEL SCARCEWICZ.