THE SYNDICALIST INTERNATIONAL

At its recent conference in London the Industrial Syndicalist League of England is reported to have called an International Syndicalist conference to discuss the question of war. This conference is to be held in Paris.

The holding of this conference is most advisable.

It should receive the hearty support of Syndicalists the world over. Indeed, such conferences should be held periodically, and on those only conferences needed for the Syndicalist movements of the various countries to get in closer touch with each other. At present there are isolated, no bonds existing between them other than those of common ideas. The Syndicalists are barred from the international Socialist congress, as being, however, only those organizations endorsing political action. With the exception of the French, they are also excluded from the labor unions of the International Secretariat. This is owing to the fact that this body only admits one organization (always the largest) and two delegates per country. It effectively shuts out all the Syndicalist minorities.

The International Secretariat is a creature of the Socialist politician Thermidor. They use it as a buffer to protect their International Socialist congress from the Syndicalists. The only reason they allow it to exist are because it is a good insurance against any international from being formed. They keep it emasculated in size and functions, so that it can't come into competition with the International Socialist congress, as a live international immediately would.

Owing to the peculiar conditions prevailing in the various countries, it may be indivisible at this time to start a live labor union international or in opposition to the International Socialist congress, but an International Syndicalist propaganda organization could most profitably be formed. Or, failing in this at least, there should be international conferences held from time to time. The benefit that would result from these would be immense. There wouldn't be the objections to those that there would be to a new international.

It is to be hoped that the proposed London conference does not limit itself to the question of war. There are other questions that need to be discussed. One of the many that might be cited is the question of what kind of a new society we are striving to found. Kropp's and Virollet-le-Duc's point out the necessity of knowing what we are aiming at. At present there are many conflicting theoretic-Marxist, Communist, Social-Democratic, the industrial state of the I. W. W.; the Pouget- Pataro theory of double federation of producing labor unions on one side and the federation of distributing co-operatives on the other; the theory that the miners will own the mines, the railroad owners, etc. The shop organization theory, etc. A thorough discussion of all these theories would do much to clear up the confusion that exists today in the international movement on this important matter.

By all means, let us have the proposed conference.

It is to be hoped that the S. L. of N. A. will have one or more delegates present.

W. M. FOSTER.

WHY IGNORE TRADE UNION ACTIVITY?

The advocates of one big union, with an over-abundance of anti-Syndicalist propaganda, often neglect to bring up certain statistics. When they brand present trade unions as the quintessence of narrow-minded, bigoted politics, they are in effect admitting that they are the avowed enemies of a great social movement. In the history of any great movement there is sure an ebb and flow in the pride of human beings. They are a product of an ill-developed, servile, steeped-in-prejudice human nature that we have not yet overcome. Whether with or without the pale of the A. F. of L. or among human societies in general. How can we expect revolutionary concepts to cut clear through the body of a movement whose 'ultra-reactionary' is so true and as to attempt to correct the evils of present society, farsaking its many advantages, by revolution, an act of wisdom and seclusion, hammering the millennium.

Like all tollers, they need enlightenment, revolutionary education, which can only be imparted to them by being in their midst, and while often misunderstood, struggling with them, to demonstrate to them not only how to avoid defeat, but how to broaden their scope by a closer affiliation, with kindred crafts, and the moral and material benefits accruing from it. Remember that they have always been appealed through their selfishness and credulity, and if we have not lost faith in human nature, they can do much to foster the greater feelings of solidarity—it has been done; it must be done; and through, and experience and discontent have never failed to contribute something to the advancement of any progressive cause. In other words, their mistakes are only incidental, not fundamental, and from their efforts and achievements we are all—W. F. 's, Syndicalists, Anarchists, Strategists, Socialists, Taxpayers or Individualists—reaping countless benefits.

The trade unions in this country only show a slight disposition to struggle according to the rules of the game, it is solely due to the fact that radicals and the syndicalists have forsaken them. The agitation of Proudhon, Nietzsche and Strinner after a six-bit dinner, and corrupt leaders and crafty politicians converted them into a vast wasteland, coupled with a very great gratification of the political ambition. And, if today only know how to fight clumsily, let us not withdraw from them the militant minority who can teach them how to fight with dexterity for a definite aim.

WHY?

A COMPARISON

The woman suffrage agitation in England has become so intense that the stability of the present government is actually threatened. Suffragettes are actually overrunning the government, threatening the most dire and effective revenge upon the government if it don't give them the ballot by the present session of parliament. They say the window-breaking and mail destruction campaigns are but trivial to what is yet to come. And the militant tactics taken by the government to guarantee that they will make good their threats. Hence the present consternation throughout England. It is gen- erally conceded that if the women don't get their ballot during this session of parliament they will surely get it during the next one.

This whole suffragette agitation is one of the best exhibitions of the power of direct action and the militant minority given. A handful of un- franchised, but militant women, by sheer "cussed- ness" and contempt for law, conventions, property rights, etc., are knocking up such a row that the government is left with no other alternative than to leave the women to the ballot during this session of parliament they will surely get it during the next one.

The capitalist minority is one of the worst enemies of the power of direct action and the militant minority given. A handful of un-franchised, but militant women, by sheer "cussed- ness" and contempt for law, conventions, property rights, etc., are knocking up such a row that the government is left with no other alternative than to leave the women to the ballot during this session of parliament they will surely get it during the next one.

Compare their accomplishments with those of the suffragettes (even including the German). For forty years this huge, ultra-legal, respectable and civilized organization (with latent capitalist limitations) which (once it used direct action tactics) has begged, pleaded and voted for the franchise, and apparently it is unable to get it in the year 1908. Next year after it is too late for the present. It is therefore it's safe to say that the government will give the franchise only if it compellingly asserts its characteristics Socialist milkspit attack. All their direct action tactics have been the defeat of the working class. Their army attitude and red-blooded tactics of the "universal English suffragettes."