

THE NEEDLE TRADES ALLIANCE IS DEAD; "REST IN PEACE"

By ROSE WORTIS.

The Needle Trade Alliance is dead. This is not a prophecy but a fact. The Alliance organized for the second time last summer, has gone the way of its predecessor. It is no more.

The official weekly of the Journeymen Tailors Union writes:

"As we predicted, the Alliance has ceased to exist. Our union has sent three delegates to the first conference at which an attempt was made to organize the Alliance; and we sent three delegates to the funeral of the Alliance, held February 22nd."

The editor of this weekly complains that his union was the only one that has lost money in the entire venture. For the Journeymen Tailors had actually undertaken to defray expenses of sending three delegates sent to the conference, while all the other unions, located in New York, were spared this unnecessary outlay.

What happened at the conference of February 22nd and who is responsible for the death of the Alliance?

Sigman came to the conference of the Alliance with a grievance. He wanted the Alliance to adopt a common policy for all affiliated unions. This policy was not to outline common methods for building and strengthening the organization, or to lay plans for unified struggle of the workers against the employers, but was to bind all associated unions to carry out a joint campaign against the revolutionary elements in the organization. Sigman demanded a united front against the progressives on his policy of disruption. He wanted a common plan which would compel all

unions to follow his tactics against the Left; to break up locals, and persecute the militants. Without this he saw no reason for the existence of the Alliance.

Hillman came to the same conference with a different plan. He did not oppose such a joint policy, but he wanted that this policy should be expressed in general terms in a resolution against an organized opposition within the unions and that the officialdom of each union should determine its own methods of carrying out that policy. In other words, Hillman wanted a joint resolution which should be in harmony with his tactics as laid down some time ago in the so-called "Declaration of Peace" to the New York Amalgamated organization. While Sigman on the other hand wanted a united campaign against the militants along the lines of the Cossack, union-splitting methods he had already initiated.

Because of this disagreement the conference was disbanded and the "Alliance" for all practical purposes dissolved. Although no official burial took place, the last rites were administered and there is no hope for its resurrection.

The secretary of the Journeymen Tailors Union believes that responsibility for the Alliance rests upon Sigman and Hillman alone, but this is a shortsighted estimation. Responsible is the entire officialdom of our unions which organized this sort of an Alliance. And if the officials are guilty, it is not because they put a practical end to the Alliance, but because they are the principal promoters of the policy that has produced dissention and disintegration.

The death of the Alliance is quite natural. In reality the Alliance was born a monstrosity, the product of a sick leadership. The Alliance was organized only to delude the masses into believing that by this means the workers were being united. In reality however, this leadership never wanted unity. At the conference of February 22nd their bluff was called and the actual death of the Alliance reveals their insincerity.

The rank and file of our union will not mourn over this disclosure and bewail the death of the perverted Alliance. The progressive workers in our unions are striving to achieve a real unification of the unions in the industry. The amalgamation of all the unions in the needle trades is the only plan of strengthening our organized power. Amalgamation is the slogan for which the rank and file must carry on a strong campaign in the unions. There is nothing to regret in the death of the Alliance.

"May its soul rest in peace." That is all that can be said.

May Mean To You?

this May Day? Are you going to be won? They are many and great latest victories are yet to be won. Look around, takes an inventory of and girds its loins for new struggles.

celebrate this May Day? What marches forward with head erect,

great day of achievement for the it be remembered as a day when accomplished by the real militants. DAILY WORKER May Day! Let us have their day's pay to the DAILY WORKER grow by getting

ers to Discuss Shop Nuclei.

unction and methods of organization, regular meeting of Local New York held on Monday, May 5th, 8 p. m.,

of the discussion begun at the last on April 7th. Other problems related also be considered. All organizers