

Organize! Cry of Red Labor International

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When one glances at the mass of theses and discussions in all languages the delegates to the Second Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions had to digest, the task of getting down to hard facts as to the actual progress of the Revolutionary World Labor Movement would seem almost impossible. There were, however, big outstanding features, which will inspire us all to greater zeal and efficiency of organization work.

First: Organization. From all countries, especially from England and Russia, came the urge to ORGANIZE THE MASS OF UNORGANIZED WORKERS. Not as a "tactic", but as a fundamental necessity. Contempt was manifest for all ultra-revolutionists who spent their days in talking instead of working.

Especially in America the inaction of so-called militants seemed remarkable to them. With a mass of exploited men, women, and little children threatened continually with unemployment, and low wages, the number of organized is incredibly small.

The workers of all other countries found it very hard to understand this. The lesson was "read to us" over and over, "Go home and work for a stronger Union Membership help everywhere to organize the unorganized". And we know what might have been done if such an ideal had been carried out in the Mesaba Iron Range, for instance, thousands of Iron Miners disorganized by the quarrels of their leaders, all fine militant workers, now entirely without any union organization. The same condition exists among the lumber workers, everywhere.

It seemed to us from America, that if we took home with us any lasting lessons from the experiences of the union men and women, it should be this, "Use every effort to build up the Union membership."

Second: Efficiency in our Unions. From Germany we heard of the strong movement for Shop Control

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"Organize!" Appeal of Red Labor International to Workers of America

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Committees. From other countries, the story of the building of the great union co-operatives. From Russia, came the story of the actual practice of the unions in running the business of Soviet Russia.

In fact, the New Economic Policy depends almost entirely upon the efficiency and intelligence of the unions. If the Government enters into a contract with a group of individuals, which they call an "Industrial Trust," the shop committee of each shop or mine, restaurant, or big store, must continually watch the carrying out of the collective agreement.

If any part of the contract is broken, they have the power to call a strike at once. In one shop I visited, a large Capmakers' Co-operative Factory run by the government and the Capmakers' Union, the comrade who escorted me thru the shop, pointed out a slight young woman who was conferring with the shop committee. "She is the boss of our shop," he said. The Shop Committee has in every factory an office, like an office of a Board of Directors in a large corporation.

Third: Efficiency This is perhaps a part of the second lesson, "A Strong Universal pull for Industrial Amalgamation." This of course makes for efficiency of organization and more than any other force makes for the speedy realization of the United Front.

The high courage and youthful enthusiasm of the delegates was constantly manifested and a real Internationalism that must be felt to be really appreciated. When the two young Turkish delegates arrived, having escaped from prison where they had been thrown with 300 other unionists by the Kemalists, Lovovsk, the President of the Congress, read a declaration about the persecution of these delegates and the Congress welcomed them with great fervor. One of them addressed the Congress in the Turkish language. It was translated by another Turk.

There were many Italian delegates who had suffered much from the outrages of the Fascist and had been threatened with death on their return. The leader of the strike of the Longshoremen of China, was one of the brightest young delegates. He intended to return to China to face the wrath of the powers there. Another fine wife was the young delegate from Iava. Herta Sturm represented the working women of Germany and Bride, of Ireland, came with Minnie Burch of England. In our American delegation we had Rose Worms of the Ladies' Garment Workers' minority, Bill Knudson, Jack Johnstone and Anne Swabeck of the T. U. E. L., Ella Reeve Bloor of the Minneapolis Central Trades Council, Anna Louise Strong, Seattle Central Labor Union, Lpton of Detroit Central Labor Union, George Hardy, of the Industrial Workers of the World minority, Kucher of the New York Independent Union.

By next year we feel sure many more Central Labor Bodies will send Fraternal delegates.

To sum up the gain of this great conference for the delegates, or rather the lessons learned to be translated into all our future work we would say then:

- 1st. Work harder to organize the mass.
- 2nd. Strive harder than ever for Industrial Amalgamation of all crafts in One Industry.
- 3rd. Work for Efficiency in our union business.
- 4th. Fight harder against Dual Unionism.
- 5th. Get the spirit of Internationalism and the high courage of Internationalism.

With this organized spirit, efficiency and intelligence, we shall build the United Front against the International Offensive of Capitalism.

TEN WORKERS SHOULD READ THIS COPY OF THE WORKER. KEEP IT IN CIRCULATION.