their industrial functions, he sabotaged the whole project so long as he was in office. The Party committee that had been appointed accomplished practically nothing. In 1922, at its Congress, the Party took the matter up again and laid more elaborate plans for a national trade union committee, together with corresponding committees in all the national and local unions. Their function was to organize and propagate communism in the unions. This action at once made the matter a burning issue in the C. G. T. U. The opposition, consisting of “pure” syndicalists, anarchists and Frossardists, made a wild protest. They declared that if the Communist Party were allowed to have such committees it would be the end of the trade union movement as such, for it would lose its independence and degenerate into nothing but an appendage of the hated Communist Party. They emphasized this issue as an argument against affiliating to the Red International of Labor Unions. The latter movement had a strong appeal in the C. G. T. U. By a majority, the Congress decided not only in favor of the R. I. U., but also to permit organized revolutionary propaganda within its ranks provided that the members of these nuclei would submit unquestioningly to the discipline of the unions. The whole issue threatened to split the French labor movement, the new Communist daily and complete the general revolutionary structure.

But France, like other countries, is finding out that it is a real task to learn the functions of these new forms and to adopt a balanced program with regard to them. At present there is a tendency towards a sort of hasty and half-hearted movement, following a broad policy which includes all three of the movements, each in its proper place, with a tendency to favor one or another of the movements at the expense of the rest. In such a competition the trade union committees are not faring very well. They represent the older, tighter and homelier movement and do not attract as much attention and service as the newer and more glittering shop councils and shop nuclei movements.

The working out of a real balanced program, with all three movements given their proper function and place, is, therefore, one of the most urgent needs now confronting the French labor movement. What is wanted is a comprehensive plan embracing at once the shop councils, shop nuclei, and trade union committees.

Greetings to the Italian Daily!

The left-wing unionists, indeed all revolutionary workers of America, will hail as an event in the labor movement in recent days. The left-wing resist reaction! The left-wing showed its own face.

The left-wing had demonstrated, by a great membership meeting, that the control by the right was artificial, and therefore contested the delegation, whose election had been accomplished by violence and illegal methods.

In spite of all its defects, and they were many and serious, the Sixth Biennial Convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, held in Philadelphia, May 12th to 17th, hands down as the most encouraging event in the labor movement in recent days. A militant left-wing was present, defined its position and its program, and though defeated on some issues, but one by the centrist administration, consolidated its position and strengthened all progressive tendencies in the A. C. W. of A.

Every issue of consequence was between the left-wing on the one hand, and the combination of all other forces on the other. The right-wing reactionaries largely surrendered their identity in the convention, so that, although they received consolation in the seating of Local 2 delegation, they were immensely weakened by the policies of the administration having a progressive tendency. Amalgamation, labor party, collaboration with the Russian workers, etc., were emphatically endorsed by the overwhelming sentiment of the convention.

Black reaction, such as now reigns in the I. L. G. W. U., and which had also been stretching out its claws for the A. C. W. of A., was completely defeated. It was 171 left-wing votes to 89 right-wing votes. The left-wing strength stood solid throughout the convention, and at one time swelled into a majority. It was the first real attempt of the left in the A. C. W. of A. as a whole.

In this battle the delegates of the New York cutters' union were the center and militant factor of the right-wing. By their tactics they soon had the right on the run. Their moves were so brilliantly planned and carried out that the right-wing reactionaries largely surrendered their identity in the convention.

The left-wing had demonstrated, by a great membership meeting, that the control by the right was artificial, and therefore contested the delegation, whose election had been accomplished by violence and illegal methods.

The Issue of Week Work

A resolution calling for the establishment of week work in all markets, as against piece-work or standards of production, was another crucial point in the convention. The New York market has week work, established through many battles, while other systems rule...
in other centers. The administration proposed that the issue be left for settlement in each market according to conditions and the desires of the membership in each place.

The left-wing was, of course, the militant champion of work-shop. It battled solidly for this measure, which is one of burning interest to the rank and file. The right-wing, which finds its principal strength in New York, felt that it could not concede this piece work, even though they are known generally to favor it, because of strong rank and file opposition. A few even spoke for the week-work resolution.

The administration was in a delicate position, for if the right-wing had, against its convictions but yielding to the pressure of the New York membership, voted for work-shop, it would undoubtedly have been carried over the administration's protest. But most of the right-wing did not vote at all, 61 delegates absented themselves, abstaining, so the administration measure was carried by a vote of 131 to 69.

June 17th Versus July 4th

Participation in political action in this election year was a very large number of resolutions calling upon the convention to endorse the June 17th, St. Paul, Farmer-Labor Party gathering, to send delegates, and advise local unions to also be represented.

The administration on this issue took a typical centrist, middle-of-the-road position; it proposed to send delegates to both 17th and 4th, meeting in Boston, May 5th to 17th, marked the 25th year of that organization's history. It might have been a great event in the forward march of the union, where the victories and defeats of the past should be reviewed, the structure and policies of the union remodeled and brought up to date to achieve more solidarity, more direct, more rational, and more whole organization renewed in its enthusiasm and helpfulness. Not so with this convention.

A grievous wound, striking into the very vitals of the I. L. G. W. U., was the outstanding result of the Boston convention, instead of the constructive progress that might have been achieved. Like mad devils of the Orient, the organization, under the control of a set of irresponsible ignoramuses, lacerated its own body, and cut into its most vital organ—the militant rank and file workers who for decades have struggled and sacrificed to make the I. L. G. W. U. a strong and powerful union. The expulsion of hundreds of the most loyal and active members was approved in Boston.

Blind fanaticism could go no further than the exclusion of such tried union fighters as those who were expelled from the union, victims of the inanity of the Forwards gang in connection with these people and known throughout the industry, by the rank and file, for their services and sacrifices. Some of the expelled were active in the agitation to appeal their expulsion, leaving the disorganization of the strike work, which had been placed in their hands on demand of the workers involved in spite of the rank and file of the union. They are good enough to do the work for which no other so well-fitted were available, but they are not allowed to hold membership and vote. It is hard to realize the enormity of the crime against the working class that is summed up in these expulsions confirmed at Boston. Words are pale and lifeless things. The disgust, contempt, resentment, anger, and indignation that is aroused in the thinking worker in the garment industry is beyond measure or expression.

How was such a monstrous crime possible? Does the membership acquiesce in the A. C. W. of A. sanction this self-mutilation of the union?

No, the rank and file is not guilty of this crime. It is possible only because a gang of cynical, small-minded, and ignorant men, tools of a private institution, the Daily Forward and Abe Cahan, which is determined to rule the Jewish workers for the benefit of its income from advertisers, found themselves temporarily in control. They became drunk with their power. They determined that they would never give up. To preserve and perpetuate their control it was necessary to silence all opposition.

The result of such a determination was the expulsion policy launched last year. The fruit and flower of it is seen in the Boston Convention. Tens of thousands of members were disfranchised in the elections to the convention, by the expulsion or ruling off the ballot of all left-wingers. Then at the convention 16 delegates in opposition to the destructive policy, elected in spite of the terrorization of the membership against them, were unseated from the convention. Even then, the fifty-odd delegates who still remained and voted against the insane gang in control, represented more members than those who were in the pockets of Sigmam & Co.