



# THE FIRST FEDERAL SYNDICALIST CONGRESS

## Held In London, Reports On Movement In Different Countries

By Geo. H. Swasey  
(Special to Solidarity)

It is with a feeling of pleasure that I write these lines in picture of an event that may mean great things for the world's proletariat, and especially the advanced portions thereof, of which I am proud to count myself a member.

I believe it was in February or March, 1913, that the first notice appeared in the I. W. W. press, in an event that may mean great things for the world's proletariat, and especially the advanced portions thereof, of which I am proud to count myself a member.

Although I had started for Europe in 1912, leaving Los Angeles on June 2, I made special haste when this bit of news met my eye. I sailed on April 17 for Liverpool, so as to be present at the congress. On arriving in London I found the meeting had been postponed until Sept. 27. What I had expected was the meeting was postponed until Sept. 27. What I had expected was the meeting was postponed until Sept. 27.

On invitation from a fellow worker, Paris was my abode for two weeks during the national French holiday, July 14th (the day when the Bastille fell or was torn down by the people of Paris in 1789). What was worth nothing will form another article.

These 40 men and women, the most illustrious in the revolutionary union movement came from 10 countries: Argentina, Brazil, France, Holland, Spain, Belgium, England, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Poland, Cuba, Austria, sent resolutions and words of cheer. Of fraternal delegates there were five from England and Spain. Although making a very good showing for the first convocation.

The most difficult thing was the translation of speeches and proposals into the various languages, which, despite the valiant efforts of such men as Shapiro, who speaks seven and Kowalski, who speaks four and many others who speak two or three each, was sufficient of a block to make progress very slow. As it was, only two parts of an important agenda were dealt with in the five days of sessions.

The important point of Anti-militarism was left till the next meeting, which will be held in Holland in 1915. Sabotage and international scaling, and also the question of an international language were left untouched.

The question which will interest the members of the Industrial Workers of the World most, was the reports of the movements in the various countries. I haven't the data of all of them, but will give those I have.

congress is the Confederation Obrera Regional Argentina (Argentine Confederation of Labor). Alcides de Ambriz was the delegate by proxy. De Ambriz is Europe's best known syndicalist. In Milan, Italy, he has great influence extending throughout a large territory.

It appears that there are two large union organizations in Argentina, one syndicalist and the other social democratic. One of 1,250,000 workers in Argentina 85,000 are in the above organization, which is very splendid compared with America and England. It is about 1 to 15. I wish we were organized at the same ratio in the I. W. W.

A long report was given of the various struggles of the Argentine workers, which have been largely suppressed by high-handed acts of government procedure. One tyrant, a chief of police in Buenos Aires, after a particularly atrocious act, was executed by means of a bomb. It hasn't been so bad since. The union has about 200 branches all over the country and is in a flourishing condition. This union is anti-political and has gained much for the fellow workers in our southern republic.

BEGLIUM. This highly organized capitalists country has had for its political head such patriots as King Leopold III, who became famous for giving pearl necklaces to actresses, the money for which was being from the rubber taxes in the Congo Free (?) State.

The movement here has a great handicap in the three languages spoken—French, German and Dutch, and also in the vast difference in government. The fiery Frenchman and the slow Dutchman have never been able to get along. Groups have existed in Belgium for several years. In June, 1912, preparations for the general strike for equal suffrage absorbed all the workers' activities, and when the Social Democratic Party controlled the S. P. finally did take place in April, 1913, it ended as it must, in a complete failure.

GERMANY. About 8,000 members are organized in the syndicalist unions of Germany. These have buried at them all the venom of the social democratic added to that of the masters. Where a political party has 4,500,000 votes, this is a dreadful handicap.

The Catholic unions seal on the unions controlled by the social democrats, and both seal on the S. P. syndicalists. Still they grow slowly, and have had many successful battles with the bosses because of the use of direct action.

A paper is published weekly called "Der Pioneer," which is furnished to all members and also for outside circulation, 10,000 copies a week is the output of the paper.

ITALY. Italy had three delegates from four unions: the Syndicalist Union of Milan, the Italian Syndicalist Union, Confined On Page Four.

# Mr. Block

## He finds a place to flop



—To Be Continued

# FREE SPEECH IN DETROIT

A surprising incident occurred in Detroit, a few weeks ago. It is an open known fact, almost through its chief of police, was going to eliminate commercialized vice (prostitution). But how many would believe that these activities were responsible for free speech in Detroit? Nevertheless such seems to be the case.

Whether Gillespie has really opened a new way to combat this scourge, or whether he will have plenty of time and money to care for them. Again: "I sometimes feel convinced that certain men and organizations who say that the whole of society is based on only one principle, a conjecture, but we know that directly after that speech he allowed the S. W. U. to be indicted."

# PROTEST IN PATERSON

(Special to Solidarity)  
Paterson, N. J., Oct. 20. A mass protest meeting was held on Oct. 18th to protest against the raiding of the fellow workers who were active during the last strike. A big crowd was on hand and the sentiment of the audience was that if the courts would not let up that they were willing to close down the factories until the jail doors would open.

The organization is in good condition and we are building it up fine. During the strike the police have fined certain men and organizations who were active during the last strike. A big crowd was on hand and the sentiment of the audience was that if the courts would not let up that they were willing to close down the factories until the jail doors would open.

# The Tobacco Workers Victory In Pittsburg

After a bitter struggle of over four months, the tobacco workers of Pittsburg, who are organized under the I. W. W., have succeeded in gaining their victory over the organized Bosses Association.

All of the bosses with the exception of the Goldsmits, who broke away from the association, settled with their employees. One of the greatest fights over the settlement was the recognition of the union. The bosses refused at first to consider, but after a three hours wrangling they were forced to give in.

The tobacco workers thank the working class of this country for the moral and financial aid that was extended to them while they were out on strike. Five dollars was immediately sent to Bill Hayward's fund and more will soon come.

# ACTOR'S JOIN I. W. W.

Chicago, Oct. 16. Solidarity: Amusement Workers' Union No. 526, Theatrical Branch No. 5, was organized in Chicago on the 14th of the present month, with 100 members, and present indications point to a growth of 1,000 by the first of the coming year. Each and every member so far enrolled are former members of what has been known as the "White Rats" Actors' Union of America.

# I. W. W. AIDS COPPER STRIKERS

Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 15. A lively fight ensued yesterday between a bunch of strikers and I. W. W. men. The scabs were on their way to Calumet, Mich., to take part in the strike on the copper miners. They were met by some of our members, who had been sent to Calumet to help defeat the striking miners. But these rats refused to give ground.

# Solidarity Will Be Four Years Old, January 3d, 1914

We will celebrate our anniversary with a Special Number of Solidarity

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SOLIDARITY

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CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM OF THE I. W. W.

THE "MIXED" LOCAL IN THE WEST

In our last issue under the sub-heading "The Mixed Local," we considered some aspects of that peculiar formation, as illustrated only in the eastern section of the country.

The editor of Solidarity in the issue of September 27 deals with the "mixed local" as a deep-seated "disease" that is affecting the welfare of the I. W. W. We of the West realize the weakness of the mixed local, but what will you? It is not a matter of choice, we can accept mixed local or none.

The editor of Solidarity is familiar with the peculiar industrial conditions of the West, having traveled extensively as a pioneer I. W. W. agitator in 1905 and 1906, and also during the following year served as an I. W. W. organizer in the red wood lumber industry of California.

Practically all I. W. W. locals in the West are in the distributing centers—such as Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Poughland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and others.

the West.

But something vital is lacking: a disposition on the part of the tens of thousands of recruits made in this way, to stick to the organization. We noted a similar defect in the East, due to the incorrect formation of the industrial unions as relating to the branches thereof.

Take, for example, the redwood lumber belt. The writer spent a year there, in Humboldt county, California. At that time (1906) the A. F. of L. had five local unions of woodmen and sawmill workers, in as many different sections of the county.

The fact of locals "disappearing" from season to season, need make no difference in this respect; they should be correctly formed at least once a season. Transfers are easy, from one industrial union to another, from one industry to another.

We mentioned above, the "quantity" of mixed local propaganda in the West. That implies that there must be some question about its quality. So there is, according to our judgment.

History and experience are against "mass unionism." Industrial organization must be based on the "mixed" local for recruiting purposes; while as a general propaganda instrument it can be shown, we think, that the Propaganda League is a substitute for the mixed local.

WHERE THERE IS LIFE THERE IS HOPE

Well, we judge from recent announcements that the I. W. W. has not yet been completely annihilated. Here's a foreman who has been in the I. W. W. for some time, and is going to walk on Jan. 2, 1914, before the Church of the Messiah.

The Department of Agriculture announces that the steel trust is always about the neck of the meat is suffering a shortage and the cotton crop is the worst in ten years.

AS TO BOYCOTTING SOLIDARITY

San Francisco, Oct. 15, 1913. Editor Solidarity: I am requested by Local 173, I. W. W., to forward you communication from Local 73, Stockton, to Local 173, regarding Solidarity; also the answer of Local 173.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 30, 1913. Fellow Workers: This communication is to notify you of the action Local 73 has taken that affects the whole organization, and our reasons for so doing.

Finally, the members of this local would like to remain in such financial condition that it is dependent on the weekly receipts from our members. We are trusting that you will take immediate action for a free press.

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 14, 1913. Fellow Workers: Your Communication as regards your action in discontinuing the publication of "Solidarity" was read before the regular business meeting of Local 173, and your action was approved.

Our papers are for the purpose of propagating the expressed needs of the working class and not the peculiarities of individuals. For instance, a matter of worker, religiously, politically, anarchically, inclined or what not, if we read our columns open, and we would use our papers for their own particular purpose.

LOCAL 173, I. W. W. J. H. PANCNER, JOE SEBASTIA, Committee.

LABOR AND THE LAW

How can public authorities, so-called, expect for the law and all legal institutions when they are being used by those same authorities to prevent the realization of the demands of the laborers? The alleged impartial nature of the law has been exposed as a mere instrument of oppression in the hands of the capitalist class.

In the interest of the most powerful and most powerful of the present day, the law is being used to prevent the realization of the demands of the laborers.

How can the workmen who take the New York Sun or will move to the New York Sun, in any case, respect the police of Lynn? The chief of police of Lynn won't permit I. W. W. Leader to

"Lynn, Mass., Oct. 12. There have been issued by Chief of Police Burdick to Mr. Joseph J. Ector, the following order: From every public hall in Lynn. The orders have the signature of Chief of Police Burdick, and it is said, a large majority of the Lynn shoe operatives.

Here in a plain case of police oppression in all his vitality and energy in this instance, the shoe manufacturers of Lynn, Mass. By what right does Chief of Police Burdick bar Ector from speaking, except the right of superior force and armed abuse? Obviously the chief is serving no so-called public interest in preventing Ector from speaking for such conduct as his only serve to give greater emphasis to the wrongs committed by labor, and to precipitate and accentuate the very conditions which he professes to be correcting.

It is no diseases in the fact of such a legal procedure to a community-law-breaker who may start in to follow physicians' orders. No able to come on of some of us to keep his health. The health of the nation is being ruined by the strike. He is dead broke and has had to depend on the charity of the New York Fellow Workers for his bed and board.

HAYWOOD LL--- NEEDS HELP

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, October 10th, 1913.

Haywood is seriously ill in New York City. He is suffering from a complete breakdown as a result of the long and arduous strike. He is dead broke and has had to depend on the charity of the New York Fellow Workers for his bed and board.

Send all money to JESSIE SHASLEY, 27 Cedar Street, New York, N. Y.

I. W. W. PREAMBLE

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