

The trial of the officers of the federation attracted widespread interest, particularly amongst the labor organizations, many of which held meetings protesting against the manner in which the accused had been arrested, and also against the delay in the holding of the trials. Assessments for the defence of the officers were levied on members of the federation, and contributions were received from other labor organizations.

The Federation and the I. W. W.—On June 27, 1905, with a number of delegates from other bodies, the chief officers of the Western Federation of Miners were instrumental in organizing the Industrial Workers of the World, a frankly revolutionary organization. Mr. W. D. Haywood, the secretary of the miners, acted as chairman of the organization meeting. The Western Federation of Miners, with 27,000 members, became enrolled as a part of the new organization, and Mr. Chas. Moyer, the president of the federation, was elected as a member of the executive board of the new organization. The action of the Federation of Miners in taking a prominent part in the formation of the Industrial Workers was condemned by the American Federation of Labor, and unions affiliated with that body were requested not to assist by any further contributions the eight-hour-day campaign of the Federation of Miners. The second convention of the I. W. W. was held in 1906. The legality of some of the acts of this convention was questioned by certain of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners, and the question of sustaining the action of the convention was submitted to a referendum vote of the federation members. The vote was overwhelmingly against approving the acts of the convention, and in addition a number of unions opposed the payment of any further per capita tax. The executive board, therefore, refused to pay any further tax to the I. W. W. until a better understanding was secured. At the 15th annual convention, held in June, 1907, the federation withdrew from what was termed the Trautman faction of the I. W. W. (Trautman was the secretary of the organization), and appointed a committee of seven, including W. D. Haywood and Chas. H. Moyer, to aid in launching a re-organized Industrial Workers of the World. This committee, however, was apparently unable to carry out the objects for which it was appointed.

Agreement with U. M. W. and Reaffiliation with A. F. of L.—At the seventeenth annual convention in July, 1909, a committee was appointed to arrange a conference of labor organizations in the mining industry with a view to bringing about a more compact organization. Subsequently a conference was held with representatives of the United Mine Workers, and as a result an agreement between the two organizations was reached, embracing the following clauses: (1) That at some time in the future there shall be a complete solidification of the W. F. of M. and the U. M. W.; (2) that the present arrangement of a mutual exchange of transfer cards be continued; (3) co-operation of organizers in organizing the coal miners and metal miners; (4) that the Western Federation of Miners affiliate with the American Federation of Labor; (5) that a mining department under the jurisdiction of the A. F. of L. be formed. The agreement was submitted to a referendum vote of the federation and endorsed by an overwhelming majority. On June 22, 1910, application for charter of affiliation was made to the American Federation of Labor, the application being granted on May 9, 1911. The Federation

of Miners was previously affiliated with the A. F. of L., a charter being secured in 1896. This affiliation was severed in 1898, and the Miners affiliated with the Western Labor Union, the affiliation continuing until the latter body dissolved in 1905.

Internal Troubles.—In addition to the conflicts which have been brought about by the demands for better working conditions for its members, the federation has been involved in a serious internal difficulty in Butte, Montana, where the largest local union of the federation, with approximately 7,000 members, has existed for the past thirty-six years. There appears to be a multitude of reasons assigned for the disintegration of the union, but one which stands out prominently is, that the Industrial Workers of the World, with which organization the federation was at one time identified, is responsible for the dissension. In May, 1913, the I. W. W. advertised in Salt Lake, Utah, that miners and muckers were wanted in Butte, although it was stated by the federation officials that such was not the case. From this time on the affairs of Butte local union become worse, charges and counter charges were made from time to time. On June 13, 1914, an attempt was made to wreck the Miners' Hall in Butte. The safe was taken out on a flat and dynamited, the records destroyed and the money taken. Some days later President Moyer went to Butte to investigate the cause of dissension and endeavor to bring about harmony. On June 23 Mr. Moyer attended a regular meeting of the union and made certain propositions to the local, and while he was speaking a crowd of dissidents attacked the hall with dynamite and demolished it. On June 21 an independent union of miners was formed in Butte, fathered, it was stated, by the I. W. W., more than 600 men who were brought to the locality joining the union organization. On August 8 a committee of the federation visited Butte to try and make arrangements for a new election of officers, the former having resigned in accordance with President Moyer's suggestion when he visited the union. With the coming of the committee the new union became active and made demands on the mining companies to discriminate against the members of the W. F. of M. and to force all men working in the mines to join the new independent union, under threat of deportation. The State militia was subsequently ordered to the district to prevent disorder. Later when the militia left the locality, the dualists proposed a demonstration, but the newly-appointed sheriff refused to allow any celebration.

When the federation was organized in 1893 the membership was about 2,500. During the next ten years the membership had reached 50,000. At the close of 1911 the figure was reported at 65,150; in 1912, 61,000; in 1913, 67,050; and in 1914 there were 270 local branches with a membership of 65,400. Of these twenty local branches, with a combined membership of 4,015, are in Canada.

Entry into Canada.—Previous to the coming of the Western Federation of Miners to Canada a number of local miners' unions were in existence in the Dominion, both coal and metalliferous. In most instances these unions soon became identified with the Western Federation, the first Canadian local to affiliate being the Rossland, B.C., Miners' Union. This occurred on July 16, 1895; other affiliations took place from time to time, until, on December 13, 1899, there were sufficient locals to form District Union No. 6. The federation was successful in organizing a number of other