

Federation of Labor Congress

**Color Line Causes Discussion
—Important Statistics on
Strike Results.**

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 5.—Two hundred and eighty-five delegates representing more than a million and a half workmen, responded to the roll call at the opening session of the twenty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which was called to order by President, Samuel Gompers at College hall this morning. The convention is said to be the largest congress of workers in this country.

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Secretary-treasurer of the Chicago, International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen, objecting to their being seated. He maintained that the mine workers were not entitled to representation in the convention because they were not paying \$4,000, had not been paid to the federation. President Mitchell of the mine workers replied that his organization was not asking for special privileges. Several thousand of its members were on strike almost continually for the past two years, he said. He had asked the executive board to remit the levy because the miners had paid an assessment of \$5,000 for the aid of the mechanists. He said if the convention decided that his organization was in arrears, he would have the money drawn a check for the amount due.

The negro question came before the convention in the shape of a report from the executive committee. William Seal was elected by a large Labor Union of Richmond to represent it, appears that the Richmond Central body refused to admit to membership negro workmen belonging to the Colored Tobacco Workers' Unions in Richmond. Henry Fischer, president of the National Tobacco Workers' Union, was instructed by the colored unions of Richmond to oppose the

Seal on the ground that the organization he represented drew the color line. The speaker heard both sides and recommended that the board of directors recommended that the executive board of the American Federation of Labor be informed that the board of the International Union in Richmond had separate negro recommendations were accepted by the convention without opposition.

The reading of the annual report of President Gompers consumed three hours. Secretary Morrison's report and that of Treasurer John Lennow were also read. The board of directors' committee, and at 6 o'clock this evening the convention adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr. Gompers' report showed a net decrease of 313 local unions for the year and a gain of 364,410 members. From the 100 international unions and the 4,058 charters for newly-formed unions and charters surrendered or unions dissolved, 31 last there were affiliated with the international national and international unions 87 city central labor unions; 327

unions, having no national or international basis 750 and federal labor unions 393. There were four strikes of a general character during the year. About these the report says:

"That the river and dock workers of San Francisco was a distinct victory. The reports for the strike of the Amalgamated Association of Steel and Iron Workers was migratory and unsatisfactory and it was terminated upon conditions less advantageous than perhaps could have been obtained. The International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, which has very largely succeeded in establishing the nine-hour rule in the trade. They claim the settlements reached have given them a 10 per cent increase in wages, 1,000 others have effected by company

The report notes a growing tendency to agreements in industry. To create a defence fund it recommends changing the federation's constitution so as to admit of a larger assessment and the levying of a 10 per cent contribution on all

by executive council early in the year of a portion of the assessment provided so that a fund may be at its disposal at any time in the interests of any of the affiliated organizations "engaged"

Mr. Gompers says he has arranged an active campaign for the re-enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act and expresses surprise at "the patience of the Pacific Coast citizens in submitting to a state of affairs so horrible and degrading. It arraigns Chinese immigrants as lowering American standards. Treasurer Lennon's report showed an

total funds to hand, \$8,814. Secretary Morrison's report shows the total number of strikes of all kinds reported, aggregated 1,066 in which 153,505 men were benefited, and 1,470 were not benefited. Their total cost was \$548,003.

— SIGN PEACE. —

Proceedings When General Diaz Leader of Liberals Surrendered.

Colon, Dec. 5.—Via Galveston.—The following message was delayed by the Colombian censor. General Alban, wearing his own uniform and accompanied by 100 Colombian soldiers, left Panama yesterday morning to receive the surrender of the Liberal General Porfirio Diaz. The two generals met at Gorgona, where the rebels had returned to Empire station, where the

General Diaz, with about 80 followers, and accompanied by General Alban, reached Panama at 6 o'clock yesterday evening.

General Alban conducted the Liberal leader, who still wore the Liberal emblem, a red ribbon around his hat, to a carriage and drove him to his hotel house in Panama. All persons here unite in agreeing that Alban is not only a brave general, but a true gentleman as well.

That part of the Conservative forces under General Alban, which was despatched to Agua Dulce have not yet returned. It is surmised this expedition

In pursuit of the Liberal General Victoriano Lorenzo, but there is absolutely no information as to whether these two forces have become engaged. It is rumored in Panama that 200 Liberals from Tumaco have landed in the Department of Panama to reinforce the command of General Belisario Porras. The Conservative government is in no way disturbed at this rumor. Since yesterday all trains have been running across the Isthmus without escorts of United States Marines. Both ends of the Isthmus are quiet.

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