

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE ONE BIG UNION

(Amended at Winnipeg Convention, January, 1920.)

Preamble.

Modern industrial society is divided into two classes, those who possess and do not produce, and those who produce and do not possess. Alongside this main division all other classifications fade into insignificance. Between these two classes a continual struggle takes place. As with buyers and sellers of any commodity, there exists a struggle on the one hand of the buyer to buy as cheaply as possible and, on the other, of the seller to sell for as much as possible, so with the buyers and sellers of labor power. In the struggle over the purchase and sale of labor power the buyers are always masters—the sellers always workers. From this fact arises the inevitable class struggle.

As industry develops and ownership becomes concentrated more and more into fewer hands; as the control of the economic forces of society become more and more the sole property of imperialistic finance, it becomes apparent that the workers, in order to sell their labor power with any degree of success, must extend their forms of organization in accordance with changing industrial methods. Compelled to organize for self-defence, they are further compelled to educate themselves in preparation for the social change which economic developments will produce whether they seek it or not.

The One Big Union, therefore, seeks to organize the wage worker, not according to craft, but according to industry; according to class and class needs, and calls upon all workers to organize irrespective of nationality, sex, or craft into a workers' organization, so that they may be enabled to more successfully carry on the every-day fight over wages, hours of work, etc., and prepare themselves for the day when production for profit shall be replaced by production for use.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Name.

Clause 1.—The name of the organization shall be the ONE BIG UNION.

Membership.

Clause 2.—Membership in the O. B. U. shall be open to all wage workers. No member shall be eligible for any elective office in the O. B. U. who is carrying a membership card in any International Union, and no delegate to represent a unit who carries any other form of union card.

Initiation Fee.

Clause 3.—The maximum initiation fee to be charged by local units for new members shall be One Dollar.

Shop Cards.

Clause 4.—Union Shop Cards shall be issued to those local units desiring same for display in such places of employment where all the employees are members of the O. B. U.

Certificates.

Clause 5.—Certificates shall be issued to Central Labor Councils and District Boards and isolated units; said certificates shall designate the jurisdiction of the organization to which they are issued.

Executive Board.

Clause 6.—A General Executive Board shall be elected, consisting of a chairman, secretary, and representatives of the various industries.

Clause 7.—The General Executive Board shall be elected by and from the duly accredited delegates attending conventions. The Executive Board shall remain in office until their successors are elected. The wages of the officers of the General Executive Board shall be \$40 per week. Expenses of organizers away from home shall be \$5 per day. Any member of the Executive Board not receiving money for expenses shall receive \$50 per week wages.

Clause 8.—The members of the General Executive Board may act as general organizers or in a consultative capacity at the discretion of the Central Labor Council or District Board they represent. All members of the General Executive Board acting as general organizers shall be at all times under the direction of the General Chairman.

All members of the General Executive Board, acting as organizers, must send in duplicate financial and written reports twice a month, one copy to be sent to head-