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Company.**

**36th Annual Convention of the
American Federation of Labor**

BALTIMORE, Md., Nov. 18.—Four hundred and eighty delegates, representing three million organized workers of the United States, responded to the roll-call at the opening session of the thirty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which was called to order by President Samuel Gompers in the Lyric Theatre shortly before 10 o'clock this morning. The convention is the largest congress of workmen ever held in this country.

Before the call to order the President summoned to seats on the stage the fraternal delegates representing the labor organizations of Canada, Great Britain and Japan. It was the first time the Japanese labor unions had sent a delegate to the American convention and their representative, B. Suzuki, of Tokio, was enthusiastically applauded as he took his seat.

The gathering was opened with addresses of welcome by Governor Harrington, Mayor Preston, and the heads of the Baltimore labor unions, and appropriate responses were made by President Gompers and several of the delegates. These formalities over, Secretary Frank Morrison proceeded to read the call for the convention. This said in part:

"It is, of course, entirely unnecessary here to enumerate all the important subjects with which our convention will concern itself, but the reminder is not at all amiss that every effort must be made to broaden the field and means for the organization of the yet unorganized workers, to strive to bring about more effectually than ever a better day in the lives and homes of the toilers, to defend and maintain by every honorable means our power the right to organize for our common defense and advancement, for the exercise of our normal and constitutional activities to protect and promote the rights and interests

of the workers; and to assert at any risk the freedom of speech and of press and of equal rights before the law of every worker with every other citizen; to aid our fellow-workers against the effort now being made by labor's enemies to entangle the workers in the meshes in litigation before the courts in the several States; to arouse our fellow workers and fellow citizens to the dangers which threaten to curb or take away their guaranteed rights and freedom; the tremendous conflict now being waged in Europe and its possible consequences and results, not only upon the people of America, as well as on the whole civilized world, must of necessity receive the deepest solicited consideration of the working people of America."

The annual address of President Gompers, the main features of which were already familiar to the most of the delegates through the distribution of advance copies, was nevertheless listened to with rapt attention by the vast assemblage and its salient points were greeted with loud and prolonged applause. The consensus of opinion as that the address constituted the most powerful pronouncement of the present and future stand of organized labor in the history of the movement in this country. References to the Adamson eight-hour law and the attitude adopted by the labor organizations in relation to the national political campaign just closed attracted particular attention.

The remainder of the initial session of the convention was devoted to the appointment of the various committees and the completion of other details of organization. When the delegates reassembled after luncheon the annual reports of the various officers, the standing committees and the executive council were taken up for consideration.

**The United States and
the World Peace.**

It was a notable coincidence that the same day which established the re-election of Woodrow Wilson should have brought a convert to the idea of a new world order in the person of the German Chancellor. Let us take Bethmann-Hollweg's pronouncement in favor of a league of peace at its minimum valuation. Let us give full weight to the reservations and conditions in Germany's readiness "to enter a league of peace which will restrain the perpetrator of peace." It still remains true that the German Chancellor gives notice that he is shaken in the old and evil faith of force as the only ultimate method for the adjustment of international relations.

If at, and after, the end of the war the world will become fully conscious of the horrifying destruction of life and property, then through the whole of humanity there will ring out a cry for peaceful arrangements and understandings which, as far as they are within human power, will prevent the return of such a monstrous catastrophe. This cry will be so powerful and so justified that it must lead to some result.

Who is the craven and mollicodde that so gives himself to millennial dreams? It is the War Lord himself. Is he absolutely sincere? It does not matter for the moment. It is enough that the voice of the Hohenzollern, through the mouth of a Prime Minister, should make acknowledgement of the fact that the world and the soul of man cannot be quite the same after the great war, that it should give recognition to the destruction of ancient fetiches and to the stirrings of new longings for escape from the old, fatal dogmas of world statecraft.

Whether the Kaiser is sincere or is only making believe to yield to a force beyond his control, the reality of that force is confessed. Everywhere statesmen have recognized it; in neutral Europe; men like Grey and Bryce in England; and in this country, where the idea of a league for the enforcement of peace is sweeping on victoriously. Only one man of eminence has failed to seize the meaning of the new time, and he, curiously enough, is the one man in America supposed to be endowed with a genius for gauging public sentiment. Everybody is a mollicodde to-day except Mr. Roosevelt. Among the soft-fibred

"pacifists" now stand the Kaiser, Earl Grey, Mr. Taft, Mr. Wilson. Only for the Colonel has there been no lesson and no change in a world catastrophe which has torn up the ideas and ideals of men by the roots. He has gone careering up and down the country with the same old palaver about war and justice as if a war in which every one of a dozen nations is fighting for justice had not made mockery of the phrase. He has been sounding the same old cry about armaments as the only guarantee of peace in face of the astounding spectacle which super-armed Europe offers. He has revelled in the ancient slogans of national honor and national manhood, and has remained blind to the fact that men who have not

**TURKISH TROOPS
ARE EULOGIZED**

Sultan Announces Negotiations With Germany—Speech From Throne Opens Ottoman Parliament

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 20, via London.—A Constantinople dispatch says the sultan opened parliament in the presence of the cabinet and the German ambassador in a speech from the throne, in which he referred to the Turkish troops in all theaters of war. The sultan said that after the abolition of the capitulations, granting extra territorial rights to foreigners, Turkey began negotiations with Germany in regard to an agreement to regulate their legal relations on the basis of European laws and the principle of reciprocity. He hoped the agreement would soon be ratified. Turkey also gave notice the sultan continued, of the termination of the Paris and Berlin agreements, which became useless in view of the constant violation of their stipulations.

Turkey's relations with her allies were developing, the sultan added. He reiterated his statement of last year, concerning a common policy in the prosecution of the war on all fronts in order to obtain peace and develop the capabilities of the country.

Hadji Adij Bey was appointed president of the chamber and Hussein Djahid and Ahmed Ghazi Pasha, vice-presidents.

lost their manhood, men who would not hesitate to give their lives for the national honor, have yet learned to scrutinize and appraise the phrase for which they are asked to sacrifice themselves and work woe on others. To Mr. Roosevelt the war in Europe might as well have been a border foray in Afghanistan. The prospect of this nation of a hundred million plunging into the war and so making the bedlam of the world unanimous, is seemingly no more to him than any other little adventure into Haiti, or Samoa, or Patagonia. When I was President, says Mr. Roosevelt, I frightened the Kaiser out of Venezuela; why didn't Mr. Wilson frighten him out of Belgium? The man who speaks so is not only blind to what has been going on in Europe; he is blind to what is going on around him.

That change which Mr. Roosevelt had failed to discover in his countrymen, Woodrow Wilson has recognized from the beginning. Coward, poltroon, white feather, and "too proud to fight" have been flung at the man to whom the West has riven with loyal enthusiasm. The man over whom the bouncing patriots of Wall Street hung their heads in shame has been approved against them by the white-livered citizens of Wyoming and Montana, by the decrepit manhood of Arizona and New Mexico, by the cattlemen and sheep herders and lumber-jacks and farmers who have grown slothful and cowardly with easy living. We know the answer for Colorado and Kansas, of course. Secure against the horrors of invasion, the people of the Plains and the Rockies have refused to consider anything but their own selfish comfort. But what of Washington and California, against whom Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Hearst have been leading the battle fleets of Japan? What of Arizona and New Mexico, which have seen war much more closely than the war-lords of the Stock Exchange? Where is the voice of bitter judgment from commonwealths writing in the shame of our violated national dignity? Those Commonwealths have spoken. Take the map of the United States and trace on it the itinerary of Mr. Roosevelt's flaming gospel: the line will mark the course of the heavy Wilson majorities. For Wilson had seen what Mr. Roosevelt had closed his eyes to—that the same region which was formerly stirred by Mr. Roosevelt's new nationalism is now abrim with the currents of a new world feeling.

Fortunate for the honor and prestige of America that in the settlement of the new world order, that for the role which America is bound to play after the catastrophe of half a thousand years, the country's guidance will be in the hands of a man whose eyes look into the promise of the future and not into the fears and jealousies and vanities of the past.—The Nation.

Wisdom of Epictetus.

It is not poverty that causes sorrow, but covetous desires; nor do riches deliver from fear, but reasoning. If, therefore, you acquire a habit of reasoning, you will neither desire riches nor complain of poverty.

J.J. St. John

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