

About 1898 when the miners were going ahead with their work, after withdrawing from the American Federation of Labor with whom they had been affiliated for about a year, they took up the idea of a western organization which would have western methods, changing what they considered the too slow methods of the eastern organizations as represented by the American Federation. The Western Labor Union was formed in Salt Lake and several years later changed its name to ~~Mx~~ American Labor Union. It was founded by the Western Federation, organized unions in districts where the Federation was strong. It held its own unions at the same time as the Federation. This organization came into an open conflict with the American Federation in Denver in 1901. Dual organizations were ~~formed~~ formed and a bitter civil war ensued in Denver and several local places. Two trades assemblies were in existence. This continued until 1903 when the Citizens Alliance movement of organized employers began a plan of union wrecking. The two trades assemblies came together as one man and fought back. The matter was compromised after the town had been tied up for about a week. The fight of the Citizens Alliance was then transferred to the courts in a number of damage suits which aimed to drain ~~the~~ the union funds. The unions finally came back to the American Federation in the summer of 1904 and this fight ended.