

"Be it resolved that this conference places itself on record as being in full sympathy with the aims and purposes of the Russian bolshevik and German Spartacan revolutions, and be it further resolved that we demand the immediate withdrawal of all allied troops from Russia; and be it further resolved that this conference is in favor of calling a general strike on June 1st should the Allies persist in their administration in Russia or Germany or in any country in which it is or may be established and that a system of propaganda be carried on and that a referendum vote be taken."

At this same conference it was decided to recommend to the general membership that affiliation with the American Federation of Labor be broken off and that a new organization be formed under the name of the One Big Union. The debate and subsequent developments made it quite plain that the O. B. U. was merely another name for the I. W. W. idea.

Two plebiscites were authorized to be taken among the various labor unions. One was on the question of affiliation with the O. B. U. and the other was on the question of a strike for a six hour day. The method of taking the vote was based upon the contention openly made on the floor of the conference that an active minority of labor men was strong enough to swing the vote in the desired way. It was accordingly resolved that all members of unions who did not vote should be construed as having voted in favor of both projects. The balloting proceeded and in May it was announced that there was a majority of unions in favor of the O. B. U., but that even on this basis the vote on the general strike was not large enough to justify action.

Review of the Strike

The general strike in Vancouver and the necessity for organizing to counteract its effects can be understood only by considering what took place in Winnipeg during the preceding few weeks. Upon the pretext of supporting a few hundred metal workers in their strike on the issue of collective bargaining, an organization called the Central Strike Committee succeeded on May 15 in paralyzing the city of Winnipeg. They called out on strike the employees in the fire department, the high pressure water plant, the health department including street cleaners, scaven-