

which is typical of many submitted, will show the psychology of the Western workers at that time:

RESOLUTION A.—BY THE WINNIPEG TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL:

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.—Whereas, in the past the capitalist class have used every means at their disposal to defeat the workers in their attempt to ameliorate the conditions under which they work; and, whereas, the present form of Craft organization leaves us in the position whereby the capitalist class can successfully defeat us in any attempt we may make; therefore, be it resolved, that we call upon the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to take a referendum vote on the question of organizing the Canadian Labor Movement into a modern and scientific organization by Industry instead of by Craft; be it further resolved that if the first resolution is carried that a committee representative of each industry be appointed to draw up a constitution and submit to the membership.

The refusal of the Congress to allow the Western delegates to discuss this resolution in Convention, resulted in the Western delegates holding a caucus wherein they discussed ways and means to have a large delegation from the West attend the next Congress, in order to express the aspirations of the Western workers. In order to accomplish this it was arranged to hold a convention of Trade Unions, affiliated with the A. F. of L., in the early part of 1919, representing the workers west of the Great Lakes.

WHAT THE CONVENTION ACCOMPLISHED

In March, 1919, the convention met in the city of Calgary, Alberta. There were some 250 delegates present, representing unions and trades councils affiliated with the A. F. of L. west of the Great Lakes to the Pacific coast on the Canadian side of the border. The reports of the delegates were almost unanimous in the desire of their organizations to bring about a form of organization that corresponded to the changes that had taken place in industry, which change was caused by the introduction of modern machinery that was fast reducing the once skilled workers to the position of unskilled. The delegates also expressed their dissatisfaction with the A. F. of L. form of organization, which gives control to the officers regardless of the rank and file and thus hinders the progress of the workers. Finally it was decided to take a referendum vote on the question of forming a One Big Union of wage-earners with a common membership card.

HOW THE RANK AND FILE ACTED

The referendum, when placed before the membership, was carried by an overwhelming vote and another convention was held, as provided for by the result of the vote, to draft the constitution. This was done in June, 1919, and the first membership card was issued in the month of July, 1919.

ASSAILED FROM EVERY ANGLE

Representatives of the government, employers, editors of the Kept Press, and reactionary Labor officials of the A. F. of L., ever since the inception of the new organization, have done everything possible to discredit the movement. Stories were spread that the O.B.U. was responsible for the WINNIPEG STRIKE; that the O.B.U. was one thing today and the next day they would contradict themselves by accusing the O.B.U. of standing for something else. Such were, and still are, the tactics adopted by our various opponents. But still the organization continues to increase in power and in membership.

WHY WE GROW

The reason for the wonderful growth of the O.B.U. is that the old Craft Union methods are no longer effective in securing improved conditions for the workers; in fact, they have failed to maintain the standard of living in the face of the improved methods of production, labor-saving machinery, etc. The workers organized in the Craft Unions spend a great deal of their energy in fighting each other because of Craft strikes and jurisdictional fights.