

NEW NEEDLE TRADES UNIONS

FOUR THOUSAND enthusiastic fur workers gathered in a mass meeting in Cooper Union, New York, August 15, to hear reports from the representatives of Locals 1, 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 40, 70, 54, 58, 53, 91, 88, and the Progressive Bloc from the New York Joint Council. The above locals are the masses of the fur workers of New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Boston, Toronto, and Winnipeg.

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution:

"To do everything in our power to organize one united International Union capable of safeguarding the interests of the fur workers and protecting them against the encroachments of the fur bosses and their company union.

"We also hereby empower and direct the above mentioned representatives to form a provisional National Executive Committee to function as a control body of all local fur unions for the purpose of uniting and mobilizing all of the locals and all of the fur workers throughout the United States and Canada for the organization of a real union

"We further empower and direct the incoming provisional National Executive Committee to call a convention of all local unions within sixty days from this date for the purpose of forming a new International Union of fur workers of the United States and Canada."

Active Organization

It was also resolved at the meeting to prepare immediately to collect the sum of \$25,000 to start immediately to organize the open shops which abound because of the right wing's misleaderships, and to protest against police brutality against the left wing workers which constitutes an official reign of terror to help the right wing. The chairman introduced at this meeting Meyer Weinstein a fur worker who had been slashed by a right wing thug in the shop where he was working because he refused an invitation to attend a right wing meeting.

A typical demonstration was the "block meeting" of August 28, when left wing furriers poured out of the shops along West 29 St., stood in the streets shouting until thousands not yet lined up came out, and marched to the number of 2,500 to union offices.

The entire needle trades' industry is laughing at the pitiful exposure of the Woll-McGrady "Committee For The Preservation of Trade Unions", the right wing organization which A. F. L. bureaucrats financed in the attempt to crush all left wings everywhere, and reduce all unions to company unions. The letter reproduced on this page was accidentally made public, and shows the cash-down policy of the union smashers, and their complete failure to eliminate the left wing.

Rebuilding the Ladies Garment Union

Even before the furriers moved to finally rid themselves

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

A.F. OF L. BDCG.

July 6, 1928.

Copy

Mr. A. I. Shiplacoff, Secretary,
Committee for Preservation of Trade Union,
55 West 21st Street, New York City.

Dear Sir and Brother:-

Upon my return to New York City I was informed of the action of the Preservation of Trade Unions Committee in giving financial assistance to the Fur Workers Joint Council in New York.

It is indeed too bad that no further financial support can be given to the fur workers at this time. As you know, a large number of the disgruntled, and I might say dishonest, members of the fur workers have been suspended from membership for the good and welfare of the organization. They have joined with the communist forces of the city in a last desperate attempt to smash the Fur Workers Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The committee representing the American Federation of Labor feels very much discouraged over this situation and as a result of the action of your committee I have conferred with President Green on this situation and we feel that inasmuch as the Preservation of Trade Unions Committee is not in a position to render any further assistance the American Federation of Labor will surrender its control of the situation just as soon as we can close the various matters up.

If there is anything further that you think might be done in the immediate future, I will be very glad to hear from you. Otherwise the American Federation of Labor will get out of the situation within the next few weeks.

Thanking you for the personal interest you have taken in the matter, I am, with every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

Edward McGrady-Organizer

Copy of Official Letter From McGrady To Shiplacoff Admitting Failure.

of the nightmare of right wing leadership, the left wing members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (the masses of the unionists) made a similar decision.

Fifteen thousand cloak and dressmakers, with delegates from locals in other cities met August 8 in Bronx Stadium, New York, to pledge support to the Organization Committee of 500 authorized by the Progressive Conference in Boston last May. A ringing resolution denouncing Sigman's misleadership, gangsterism, and the corruption that surrounds all his efforts was adopted, and the definite formation of a new, real workers' union in the ladies garment industry decided upon. "Tear up your old union books, take out books in the real workers' union", is the substance of the proclamation to the workers issued after the meeting by the Committee of 500. The announcement has struck Sigman and the Yellow "Forward" into terror. It has brought a broadside of vituperation from Matthew Woll and Green. But it has brought an organization campaign, waged on a constantly broadening front, in countless shops to bar the gangster "organization committees" of the right wing, and line up the workers with the new union. Many shops are struck throughout New York. Many others have already signed up with the new union. Headquarters are at 16 West 21 St.