

MOST ENTHUSIASTIC TEXTILE CONVENTION

By SOL AUERBACH.

All the textile workers present at the convention which formed the National Textile Workers' Union listened intently and took in every word of the proceedings as one man, it was their own union that they were forming, and it is the organization in which they have concentrated all their hopes for their future well-being.

If you have ever seen anyone who has come to his own, if you have ever seen battlers taking a moments rest to plan future offensives, if you have ever seen anyone remembering his struggles of the past and enthusiastically girding himself for the struggles of today and tomorrow, then you will understand the intent and pointed interest of the strikers of Fall River and New Bedford, and the other textile workers, who out of past experiences, felt at one with the strikers.

United Creation.

Fall River, New Bedford, Passaic, Lawrence are names that only had to be mentioned at this convention to instill a feeling of united struggle and fortified determination.

What could have been more symptomatic of the united feeling against the old misleaders, of a fighting will to take matters in their own hands, than the remarks made by working delegates from the floor; or the mounting enthusiasm of the nominations; or the acceptance of the constitution. When that portion of the constitution of the workers' own was read, which provides that the union officials shall receive no more pay than the average wage of a skilled worker in the industry, the convention burst out into applause. When the democratic organization of the new textile union was described the grey heads of Portuguese workers nodded gravely in full appreciation.

Youth Leads On.

Under the chairmanship of a seventeen year old strike leader of New Bedford, Joe Figuerido, the convention set itself to the election of its first officers. Figuerido, symbol of the youth in the textile mills, 40 per cent of all textile workers, in a simple and direct way, in a fashion that knows that something is to be done, said, "Our next order of business calls for the election of officers to the National Textile Workers Union." These simple words must have gone to the very hearts of the striking workers, their fighting hopes were actually taking form.

And in an unsophisticated and simple way the textile workers made nominations. Procedure did not matter—all that was necessary was to call out the names nearest to them, the names that they were so well acquainted with. Simultaneously, from all parts of the floor, but in a restrained fashion as if they were not yet sure of the power of their voices, workers called, WEISBORD, BEAL, MURDOCH, REID, KELLER. And when Weisbord arose to decline the nomination in favor of Jim Reid, the veteran textile fighter from the days of the '80's, the convention broke out in clamorous applause, sensing as one the best tradition in the ranks of the textile workers.

Militant Tradition Leads.

In his simple and almost gentle way, Reid, mounted the platform, and in the modest way that appeals to the hearts of the masses, Reid asked permission to close the convention. He could not however stop the prolonged applause.

Daily Worker Speaks.

Figuerido withdrew, as if in respect to the traditions of old that

were renewed and given new life by this gathering, and Jim Reid mounted the platform amidst a storm of applause. He had a newspaper in his hand and he held it up for the convention to see. It was the Daily Worker, and across the top, staring out over the audience like an emblazoned legion, roared: **NEW TEXTILE UNION FORMED.**

Jim Reid, good-naturedly called for the next order of business, the election for the first vice-president. Again from the ranks of the workers, who knew their leaders—all on a par, all leaders who had shown them the way in struggle—BEAL, MURDOCH, WEISMAN, DEAK, WEISBORD, DAWSON, LAMEIRAS, KELLER, SAMEIRAS. These names rank out like a refrain. The workers knew that they were their men, it did not matter which one of them was elected, anyone would do—for those names did not refer to individuals as much as to the spirit and purpose of the textile workers struggle, which as being incorporated into the new union. And finally when Deak was elected, by a unanimous consent, the convention again burst into applause.

All Symbol of Struggle.

The same occurred when nominations were called for second and third vice-presidents. Again the same names rang out, names all grouped together and foremost in the minds of the militant textile workers, for these names represented militancy, fight, bravery, class solidarity. It did not matter to the assembled workers which of these, for all of them were active in the strike regions. When Ellen Dawson and Murdoch were finally unanimously elected second and third vice-president, the convention again burst into applause.

Ready For Organization.

Jim Reid now opened nominations for secretary-treasurer of the National Textile Workers Union. WEISBORD, WEISBORD, WEISBORD and tremendous applause and cheers. It was not necessary to take the nomination to a vote.

Sunday night and Monday morning the textile workers left for the fields of struggle, backboned by an organization that was carefully and intelligently planned, feeling strong in the realization that they had created, by united effort, a concrete nucleus for a strong and militant National Textile Workers' Union.

Letter to Editor

Editor, Daily Worker:

Tell the plutocrat leaders of trade unionism to beware before deciding to throw out of their unions good standing members who happen to believe that Communism is better for working people than capitalism.

Since when is it a crime for Americans to think independently for themselves? How dare these leaders crush free thought. They are no better than the czar and his crowd in Russia and will have to be treated the same way in time if they don't behave.

To throw working people out of the union because of their political or economic opinions is to take away their means of living and is as criminal as cold blooded murder. Let them beware lest they carry against them the charge of murdering families of working men.

Only bums would throw workers out of a union and a job for their honest opinions. They may live in gilded palaces and receive princely salaries and grafts, but they are plain American bums and will have to answer for their organized acts of violence against honest workers.