

STEEL WORKERS! ORGANIZE TO FIGHT TIGHE, TOOL OF BOSSES! DO NOT LET AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION BE SPLIT!

By ISRAEL AMTER.

(Special to The Daily Worker)

ON April 6, the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers will open its convention in Pittsburgh, at a time when the capitalists of this country, bloated with the wealth that they have amassed in the past few years, are planning big things.

This convention is taking place at a time when it is reported the rail manufacturers of the world have formed a combine to divide up the world markets, when there is a steel slump, when stocks have tumbled on the exchange, and when the league of nations has blown up.

Association Small.

The Amalgamated Association embraces about 12,000 workers out of a total of 600,000 to 700,000 workers. Pitifully small it is and it is unable

as yet to penetrate the establishments of the United States and the Bethlehem Steel companies. No attempts are being made to build up the organization. Mike Tighe sits tight, knowing that to organize the steel workers is a difficult job and an at-

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Steel Workers Must Organize to Fight the Tool of the Bosses

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tempt to penetrate the United States Steel will mean every kind of conflict.

In the Amalgamated there is a progressive group, made up of militants of every shade. As yet there is no harmony within the progressive groups, for they have adopted no definite program. It is the duty of the Communists to furnish this program and to weld together the dissenting progressive groups.

Mike Tighe is determined to rule the coming convention, and will use every technicality, subterfuge and other method in order to crush the opposition. Some of the delegates present at the convention will possibly be contested. They may be charged with not being in good standing. Why they are not, is one of the matters to be brot up before the convention. Mike Tighe, however, will probably not let matters get that far. They will be unseated and the case be closed.

There is a tendency on the part of some delegates to refuse to sit in the convention if such decision is made. There is a tendency to withdraw and hold a rump convention. Withdrawal and a rump convention means a split.

Fight Against Split!

Withdrawal is threatened not merely on the technicality mentioned. It is the result of the false reasoning of some of the progressives. They see the vast field of the steel workers practically untouched, and nothing being done to organize them. The reactionary machine has no intention of organizing the steel workers, and the progressives, no-matter however else one may criticize them, do wish to do some organization work. They are trying to build up the existent lodges and to make them active organizations. The Amalgamated Association is at a standstill and nothing is being done to build it up. Mike Tighe sits at the top, supremely satisfied as long as he is given no trouble.

It is the same fight between the progressives and the reactionaries that rages thruout the American Federation of Labor. Hence the progressives foolishly are allowing themselves to be provoked into a split—in this way believing that they are laying the basis for a militant organization that will carry on effective organizational work among the steel workers.

This is an illusion—and may lead to the complete break-down of the union. The progressives cannot capture the bulk of the membership of the Amalgamated Association by splitting away. If they are so confident of themselves, then they must have patience to remain in the organization, to build it up and fight for control.

Splitting the union means that the strength of the two sections will be wasted in fighting each other. There will be no development—the steel companies will sit back in glee in the knowledge that the few workers who had learned the necessity of organizing in order to improve their condition, disagreed and broke up the little unity that they had effected. And the unorganized workers seeing this disunity, will hesitate about joining the union.

A decided stand must be taken by the wide-awake workers among the

BIMBA WILL SPEAK ON 'IS THERE A GOD?' AT CLEVELAND SATURDAY

CLEVELAND, April 1 — Anthony Bimba, one of the editors of the Lithuanian Communist daily *Laisve*, will speak at the Carpenters' Hall, 2226 East 55th St., Saturday evening, April 3 at 8 o'clock. His subject will be: "Is there a God?"

Other speakers will be I. Amter, and J. Brahtin. The meeting is held under the auspices of the Workers (Communist) Party.

progressives to keep the progressive delegates from leaving the convention. The progressives must build up their groups in every lodge. They must invigorate the lodges and start campaigns to get the workers into the union. Organizations are not built in a day—and control of organizations is not won in a day. Impatience is the worst quality for a trade unionist; they still have not the organization under their influence. They must continue the fight. They must make the fight on the floor of the convention. If they are unseated, they must go back to their lodges and take up the fight once more.

Let the progressives take as an example the fight of the left wing in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. They too were on the verge of splitting from the union—at least their tactics at the convention might have led to that. But they stopped in the nick of time, and today the left wing enjoys prestige in the organization that nothing can blast. The fight in the Amalgamated Association will be longer than in any other union. The steel companies prefer the leadership of men like Tighe, who have no intention of organizing the industry, and they will aid this leadership in every way. A small group of workers, just enough to pay the expenses of the national office and to make it possible to raise assessments for organization work and for strikes that never occur, is all that Tighe wants.

Issue Fighting Program.

Perhaps the convention itself—but if not the aftermath of the convention—will teach the progressives the necessity of issuing a program to crystallize the progressive sentiment in the organization. The fight for it must be made in every lodge of the organization—not to capture the offices, but to inflame the membership with a new, militant spirit, which then in due time will sweep Mike Tighe and his lot not only out of the Amalgamated Association but out of the entire American labor movement.

Chicago Groans Under Blanket of Spring Snow

Surface car service through Chicago's snowbanks was maintained only with the greatest difficulty. More than 2,000 men, 165 snow plows and 100 sweepers were kept busy clearing the tracks yesterday. A total of 5,700 men were employed by the street department to clear thoroughfares, but this huge force was sufficient only to keep traffic lanes open in the loop district.

Several roofs collapsed under the heavy burden of snow. In one instance—at a garage—two men were injured and there was a property loss of \$50,000.

SEND IN A SUB.