

Fat Boys At A. F. of L. Convention Do Nothing For the Youth

By SAM DARCY.

DETROIT, Mich.—The forty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor has as usual sidestepped the issue of organizing and solving the problems facing the eleven million young workers of this country. This time however, it was not done as smoothly and without ripples as in previous years.

During the course of the past year such prominent labor bodies as the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, Wisconsin Federation of Labor, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union, International Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union and many other bodies passed resolutions on youth problems. Most of these were lost somewhere among the committees except the resolutions against C. M. T. C. which were introduced by Barry of Pennsylvania and a weak resolution by the delegates from the I. L. G. W. U. It is known that many of the resolutions, the one favoring the organizing of the unorganized young workers, for example, was in the convention hall, but had apparently been sidetracked.

In previous years some discussion was allowed on the question of child labor. This year there was not even mention of it. Yet child labor has increased three-fold since the last census. Green and the rest of the smug, self-satisfied, fat boys rendered their report in a small printed pamphlet in which they urge young workers to enter the C. M. T. C. and say that the military features of the C. M. T. C. are a very small part of the work there.

Passaic Strike Discussed

The most important moments of the convention were spent on the Passaic strike, the I. L. G. W. U. strike and recognition of Soviet Russia. In all of these matters the bureaucrats showed their fear of the growing Communist influence in the trade unions by lengthy discourses of the red menace. There were apparently no Communist delegates to the convention, yet hardly was a question of any importance discussed without reference to the Communists. The bureaucrats saw the hands of the Communists everywhere and recoiled with loud cries of horror. For the first time progressive issues were thrown onto the convention floor with the threat of a mass revolt within the unions should the officials fail. They (the officials) retaliated with a demonstration of warning to the progressive forces.

One after the other the reactionaries spoke attacking the progressive proposition, particularly the one asking for Russian recognition. They bulldozed the convention thoroughly. No one dared vote against Green and Co. But Green and his friends have not yet solved the problems of the convention and bulldozing won't do it. The eleven million young workers yet remain unorganized, the trade unions generally are still losing membership and the question of recognition of the first workers' republic, Soviet Russia, has not been solved to the satisfaction of the rank and file of the unions. The unanimity at the convention is only a smoke screen to hide the break among the membership against the officials.

The performance in Detroit has misled workers to believe that the situation is hopeless. The very fury of their attack against the Communists shows their fear.

Eddy For Labor Mission to Russia

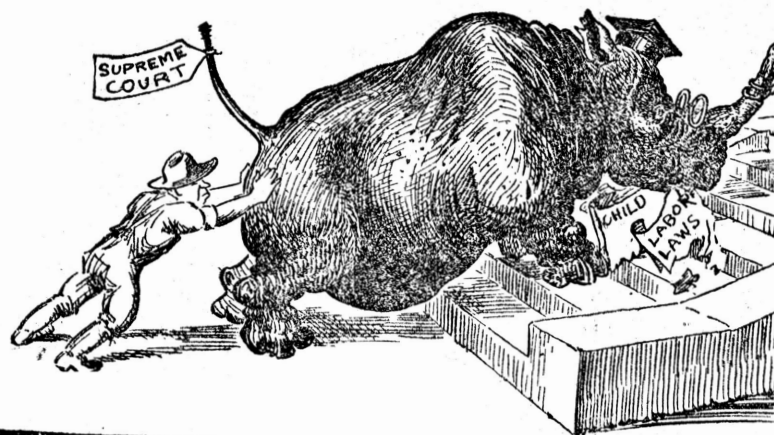
DETROIT—(FP)—The Eddy-Green controversy on the Y. M. C. A. man's address on Russia delivered before the American Federation of Labor convention Oct. 7 continues to stir the delegates. Green, in a statement to the press, charges that Eddy broke his promise not to talk about Russia.

Delegates, however, are speculating on what Green had in mind when he sentimentally welcomed Eddy to the platform as "a concrete evidence that the American Federation of Labor believes in the right of free speech." Certain delegates also have a different version of the conditions agreed to between Green and Eddy. According to these delegates, Eddy said to Green a few hours beforehand: "Let us be frank, Mr. Green, I intend to emphasize Russia." "Very well," Green was overheard to reply, "but do not mention recognition." To this Eddy agreed and kept his agreement. The accidental witness was a member of the United Mine Workers.

Sherwood Eddy, whose address caused the controversy, is secretary for Asia of the Y. M. C. A. He recently headed a disinterested mission of educators, social workers, preachers and lawyers from America to Russia. He was greeted by the delegates with wholehearted applause, both at the start and finish of his talk. No addresses to the convention was followed more closely. He said in part: "There are three major evils, as I see it, in Russia. These evils are, first, a severe a bridgement of liberty of speech and press; second, the dogmatic atheism of the Communist Party, whose million members rule that vast country, and, third, the Communist philosophy of force and advocacy of world revolution.

"But in fairness we must also mention the remarkably admirable things there.

"Russia has the most advanced labor legislation in the world. It puts America, the richest nation, to shame, though Russia after years of war, revolution, blockade and famine is the poorest. Finally, with all its own glaring evils, which I have mentioned, it may be a good thing to have a nation that stands as a challenge to all the rest of the world wherever capitalism is ruthless, wherever imperialism exploits the weak, the poor and



WHEN WE'LL GET A REAL CHILD

MANY PROBLEMS FACE THE YOUTH IN THE NOVEMBER

Statement of the National Executive Committee

THE approach of the November elections gives the young worker the opportunity to raise such issues as will better his conditions.

America is no longer the "Land of Opportunity." The opportunities for the young people fifty and a hundred years ago when land was abundant and the professions were not overcrowded no longer exist.

Today an ever larger number of young people are thrown into the world at a very early age because of the poor economic condition of the country. 42 million workers in this country 11 million are young workers in the factories, farms, and mines under very bad conditions and unskilled and professional workers has been largely satisfied and young workers of native birth do not get the opportunities to learn to get skilled work or enter the professions.

In this situation we find five basic problems facing the whole of the working youth that must be solved if his condition of life is to be bettered. These are:

THE RIGHT TO ENTER SKILLED WORK.

1. Before the war because of the need for skilled workers in industry through the influence of the industrial barons of this country some vocational courses were set up in the schools so as to train young workers for skilled work. This was in favor of the economic condition of the native young worker. But this condition lasted only while immigrants were yet flowing into this country

supply of skilled workers on the other hand the courses that have been set up in schools for vocational training do not any longer find themselves supplying so great a need and the local governments are cutting expenses by reducing their size for eliminating them. This makes the skilled workers those now who hold the jobs an ever more exclusive group and splits the interests of the working class as a whole. It cuts down the earning power of the young worker and tends to give them the most menial and least paying tasks.

The practice of introducing vocational courses has become quite general when the needs were such and today that industry must look to the