

Convention of Technical Aid Sees New Era

By ABRAM JAKIRA

The Second National Convention of the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia just held in New York City, marks the beginning of a new era in the history of that organization. Most of the 32 delegates representing various parts of the United States and Canada showed a clear understanding of the problems confronting them.

It was pointed out that the Russian Government is anxious to get back the hundreds of thousands of workers who were compelled to leave their country under the Czarist regime, only to find themselves completely enslaved by the Morgans and Garys of America. The existing economic conditions, as a result of the bloody world war, the blockade, the numerous destructive campaigns of the various counter-revolutionists aided by the various capitalist governments of the world, supplemented by the most horrible famine,—do not, however, permit Russia to widely open its gates to all the workers desiring to return to their native country. Russia is compelled for the time being to limit immigration to agricultural communes well organized, with sufficient funds and machinery necessary for the successful operation of the land, assigned to them by the Government. The newly elected Bureau of the Society was, therefore, instructed to be guided in its activities by the needs of Russia and organize its communes accordingly.

At the same time the Convention fully realized that emigration of workers from America has in the past in many cases led to the undermining of many organizations sympathetic to Soviet Russia, thus weakening the struggle against the enemies of Russia here in America. This has in the past resulted in conflicts between the Society and the affected organizations. The Convention therefore decided to attempt to regulate the emigration in such a way as to best serve the interests of Soviet Russia and at the same time not to undermine completely the various organizations fighting Russia's cause in this country.

The Convention also went on record in favor of amalgamating the various organizations now engaged in work similar to that of the Technical Aid Society. With this in view the Convention decided to have its present name changed to that of "Society for Technical Aid to the Russian Soviet Republics."

Official communications from Soviet Russia read to the Convention showed the close co-operation existing between the Soviet Government and the Trade Unions of Russia. Whenever workers now outside of Russia apply for permission to be allowed to return the opinion of the Trade Unions is asked before any action on these applications is taken by the Soviet Government.