

Show Growth in Convention of Italians

By ABRAM JAKIRA

It was the First National Convention of the Italian Federation that was held last Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3. Delegates of 13 branches representing about 600 members were present, thus showing a considerable growth of the federation for the year.

Three fraternal delegates representing the Italian Chamber of Labor, the Anti-Fascist Alliance, and Local Rochester of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers were seated with the unanimous approval of the Convention. One had to look thru a magnifying glass of high power to find among the delegation one who was not closely connected with the labor movement and who was not actively engaged in the class struggle in this "Land of the Free."

Many of the delegates hold important positions in Trade Unions and various other Italian labor organizations. About a half dozen of the delegates were coal diggers representing about a dozen Miners' Branches of the Workers Party in various parts of the country.

The report on the Labor Party campaign ably made by Comrade Camarda was the cause of a heated battle. This question necessitated an extension of time for discussion to more than twice that originally decided upon by the convention. While it was understood that the question was already settled by the Party and that every unit and member of the Party was bound to follow the party decision, the convention considered it necessary to have the matter thoroly discussed for the purpose of clarifying the issue.

The opponents of the Labor Party idea showed a lack of understanding of the question due to the unfortunate fact that they were unable to follow the party press and literature in the English language, while the Italian press failed to sufficiently clarify the issue.

In the discussion every phase of the question was brought to the surface. The resolution in favor of active participation in the campaign for the formation of a Labor Party at the July 3rd Conference was then accepted by practically unanimous vote.

Considerable time was devoted to the struggle against the menace of fascism both here and in Europe. This question was combined with the question of Protection of the Foreign Born Workers. A heated discussion followed the report made on the subject by Comrade Capraro. The representative of the Anti-Fascist Alliance reported on the progress already made by that organization and on the plans contemplated. The reports were unanimously accepted together with the adoption of the resolution appearing in an adjoining column.

The question of the establishment of an Italian Daily was the cause of a skirmish between the delegates. All agreed that an Italian Labor Daily is urgently needed at the present time. The only divergence of opinion arose as to the best way of bringing such a Daily into life.

The industrial problem attracted special attention of the convention. H. M. Wicks made a lengthy report for the Industrial Department of the party and Comrade Frizina reported for the Federation Bureau. The importance of paying special attention to the distribution of the Labor Herald, rendering all possible assistance to the TUEL, and of enlisting the Italian workers into the Trade Unions was well emphasized both in the reports and during the discussion. During the discussion some of the delegates waged a bitter attack against some of the members of the federation for their insufficient loyalty to the Party. Most of the delegates expressed their hearty approval of this, rather severe criticism. Some of the delegates, however, took exception to the accusations and pointed out a number of reasons why the comrades at issue could not give more attention to the Party activities.

The Convention adjourned with the delegates united and determined to redouble their efforts in the work for Communism in this country.