

The Trade Union Conference of the Countries of the Pacific Ocean.

By A. Losovski.

More than once we have had reason to call attention to the growth of the international consciousness in the labour movement in new countries and new continents. The inflexible laws of capitalist development and the intensification of imperialist conflicts, compel even those who, up to quite recently, have stood aloof from the international movement, to enter the international arena. In this respect, the Trade Union Conference of the countries on the Pacific Ocean, which is to be held in Sydney at the end of July 1926, is of great significance.

The idea of calling a conference of the labour organisations of the countries on the Pacific Ocean, first arose at the Second Congress of the Red International of Labour Unions in November 1922. The first step towards carrying out the resolution of the 2nd Congress of the R. I. L. U., was the Conference of Transport Workers of the countries on the Pacific Ocean held in Canton in June 1924. The Trades Council of New South Wales has now taken upon itself to call a trade union conference of the countries on the Pacific Ocean; it realises that in the next few years, the Pacific Ocean will be the arena of serious encounters not only of a diplomatic, but also of a military nature. This accounts for its taking the initiative which we must heartily welcome. In his invitation to the Trade Union Conference of the countries on the Pacific Ocean, D. S. Garden, the General Secretary of the Trade Union Council of New South Wales, writes as follows:

"The workers of Australia are absolutely convinced that it is of extreme importance in the interest of the working class of the countries on the Pacific, that a trade union conference of these countries should be called as soon as possible.

All are convinced that the Pacific Ocean will in the future be the apple of discord of the world, thus creating a serious danger for the labour movement in the countries on the Pacific Ocean and for the international labour movement as a whole.

Invitations to the Conference have been sent to China, Japan, Russia, India, South Africa, Java, the South Sea Islands, South America, Canada, North America and England.

The conference should be a labour conference and should be attended by representatives of the various organisations of the countries on the Pacific Ocean.

We should be glad for the trade unions of your country to be represented at the Conference. We request you to support the workers in Australia by passing on this invitation to all the other labour organisations in your country.

This invitation is evidence that the workers of Australia, in spite of their remoteness from European and American affairs,

quite understand in what direction imperialism is developing. The fight for the Pacific Ocean means above all the fight for the countries on the Pacific Ocean and the subjugation of all these countries to the most powerful imperialism of the present day, to the **United States**.

The Trade Union Conference of the countries on the Pacific Ocean should unite the trade union organisations of all these countries for the purpose of firstly, working out a uniform policy for those countries, and secondly of uniting new sections of workers in the international trade union movement. This Conference is meeting, not with the object of isolating the labour movement of the countries on the Pacific Ocean, but with the idea of their forming one unified and organised body to deal with all questions which concern the international trade union movement. The significance of this Conference for the whole international trade union movement can hardly be exaggerated. It will undoubtedly be a powerful instrument in the transformation of the international trade union movement which is at present scattered, into an actual world organisation which will embrace the labour organisations of every country and every continent. The initiative of the Trades Council of New South Wales deserves every support.

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Postscript. The resolution to call a trade union conference of the countries on the Pacific Ocean has caused alarm in the **Australian Labour party**, whose leaders are at present carrying on a violent campaign against the Left trade unions in general and against the Trades Council of New South Wales in particular. In order not to be beaten by the trade unions, the Executive Committee of the Labour party of Australia is calling a **Conference of the Labour organisations of the countries on the Pacific Ocean at Honolulu for November 1926**. This imitation shows firstly that the question of collective action on the part of the labour organisations of the countries on the Pacific Ocean has matured, and secondly that MacDonal's Australian colleagues are prepared to sabotage any enterprise which is directed against world imperialism.

Australia is a chip of the old British block.