

## The Central Executive Committee Meeting

THE Central Executive Committee of the party met in Chicago on Nov. 15 to 18th. Resolutions on the unity campaign of C. L. P., on the party policy in reference to the present industrial crisis in the United States and a proclamation to the membership and appeal to the members of the Finnish and Scandinavian Federations, adopted by the committee, have already been published in "The Communist".

The following is a summary of the other business transacted by the committee:

### International Relations

The first session of the committee was devoted to the question of the International Relations of the party. It was decided to take such action as would bring the facts about the Communist Party, which have been grossly misrepresented in Europe, to the attention of the comrades there and insure representation of the party at any congress of the Communist International which may be held in the near future.

### Organization Details

A member of the Executive Council was designated to be acting Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Executive Council, at any time that Comrade Ruthenberg was unable to act.

Comrade Ferguson was elected acting editor of "The Communist", with the understanding that in case he was unable to act that Comrade Ruthenberg have the editorial responsibility for the paper. Further provision was made in case these comrades could not act.

A telegram was received from Marion Sproule advising that she had refused to speak from same platform with C. L. P. speaker prior to receipt of instructions to that effect from the Executive Council.

The Executive Secretary was directed to secure the services of some competent Finnish comrade to take up work among the Finnish organizations.

The Executive Council was directed to proceed with the work of organizing Young Peoples Communist League as decided upon by the party convention.

The committee received the resignation of Comrade Petras and secretary was instructed to notify the first alternate elected by the convention, now to be a member of the committee.

### Mexico

The Executive Council was instructed to draw up a declaration regarding the Mexican crisis and to secure the co-operation of the Mexican Communist Party in issuing this statement as a joint declaration.

### Soviet Bureau

The Central Executive Committee adopted a declaration placing the party on record as supporting the Soviet Government of Russia with all its power and defining its attitude toward the Soviet Bureau. While stating its support in principle of the position taken by the Russian Federations the Committee declared that it would not press the demands made, pending action by the Russian Soviet Government.

### Party Discipline

A resolution adopted and sent out by the German Liebknecht Branch of Detroit, specifically repudiating the party program and manifesto was brought before the committee. Since, in applying for charter the branch had endorsed the program and constitution of the party, which it now repudiated, the committee considered that the charter had been obtained under false pretenses and voted to expel the branch from the party. (Since then it has developed that the resolution was the work of a committee and did not come before the branch under form sent out. The matter is now under investigation by the branch.)

"In view of the fact that Proletarian University and Clubs are engaged in propaganda contrary to the Communist Program, principles and organization, no party member shall teach, be a member of, or in any way promote the activities of the Proletarian University and Clubs."

The Executive Secretary was also instructed to enforce Section 9 of Article 3 in relation to the magazine "The Proletarian."

### Party Policy

The International Secretary and International Delegates were authorized to revise the "Report to the International" and after such revision the report was ordered transmitted and also printed

in the "Communist International" as an official document of the party.

The International Delegates were instructed to present to the Congress of the International a resolution on the question of the relation of Industrial Unionism to Communism in accordance with the program of the Communist Party of America.

A committee of three was appointed to study the relation of the party to the Industrial Workers of the World and the general question of the industrial organization which party members are to be urged to support and join, which will report its recommendations at the next Central Executive Committee meeting.

A protest was lodged with Comrade Martens of the Soviet Bureau against officials of the bureau using the prestige of their position in the interest of the Communist Labor Party and against the Communist Party.

The question of establishing a school for party workers was referred to the Executive Council with the instructions to collect information on the subject.

Editors of all party papers were requested to send translations of articles of general interest to the "Communist", which will distribute these articles for general publication.

The action of the Executive Council to the effect that the publications of all newly created Language Federations should be owned by the party was rescinded and the Council instructed to turn over any papers which it starts to the Federation of the language group when such a Federation is organized.

The German State Organization of Ohio was requested to turn their paper "The Echo" over to the Central Executive Committee to become the official organ of the German Federation.

It was decided that Federations may add to the duties of their translator-secretaries the work of organizers and require other services of them, but that the work of the translator-secretaries should at all time be primarily under the control of the Executive Council and Executive Secretary.

The sum of \$100.00 was appropriated as a contribution to the Minnesota State Organization to assist in its work.

C. E. RUTHENBERG,  
Executive Secretary

## United Mine Workers of America

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are a very large number of workers there in many districts, as in Pennsylvania, where there are six. The subdistrict exists in order that special regulation may be secured in particular cases for the widely varying conditions which prevail in every district. The local union has jurisdiction within the subdistrict as over a colliery. Each union has its own officers and constitution, and legislates for its particular territory.

The U. M. W. is managed in a fairly democratic way. Ultimately all power is vested in the local union. The president, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and convention delegates are all elected by the convention delegates choose members of the National Executive Committee. Great power is vested in the local union, in order that there should be no division during strikes. He may suspend any national officer, or suspend a local union in one district to aid another. However, no general suspension can be made without a favorable popular vote. The National Executive Board, made up of local representatives, has power to collect taxes, acts as a court of appeal in case of a special convention, and may call a special convention, and may call a special convention, usually in Indianapolis, on Monday in January. It is very difficult to change the constitution,

and abrogate contracts made at the Interstate Joint Conference of Operators and employees. One delegate is elected for every 100 members and an additional one for every majority fraction thereof.

### CONCLUSION

The U. M. W. is not only the biggest union in the A. F. L. in numbers, but also in power and wealth. Its colossal fights are a constant drain upon its finances. In the 17 years ending December 1, 1915, the total expenditures of this single union were \$21,774,790.92. Of this the staggering sum of \$16,451,832.44 was spent for strike aid. This does not include the millions expended by the district and the local bodies. No other labor union on earth can show an equal expenditure for strikes, and all of this in spite of the fact that very few organizations have made more strenuous efforts to avoid such trials of strength. The U. M. W. not only conducts the biggest strikes, but its affairs affect all industry. The management of a miners' strike is comparable only to the strategy of a great military campaign. For them to supply relief is to manage the commissary of an army. No funds are paid in cash as is done in city strikes, for to pay cash in a mining camp would mean to play into the hands of the company stores. The union therefore buys its supplies in train-load lots and establishes a distributing center in each camp. An elaborate system of rationing is put into effect. This "war"

demand has led them to establish similar stores in peace times. They are the leaders in the American co-operative movement. In Illinois there are 40 prosperous miners' co-operative stores. As to a general benefit system, the national union has as yet done nothing, although districts are taking it up. Unionism to miners is more than a religion. Mr. Frank Julius Warne who has studied them closely calls this union "the maker of men and democracy in America." It has performed the functions of school, government, church and university and has done it better than institutions bearing these names.

The U. M. W. know no "foreigner", though 62% of its membership is foreign-born. It has met the problem of the "melting pot" and has welded over 25 nationalities into one highly social group. In 1914 ended one of the most wonderful strikes in the history of all Labor. For 14 months 17,000 miners of over 25 nationalities were striking and yet there was never the least suspicion of violence—not a window was cracked!

Like the miners the world over the rank and file of the American Miners are in the front of radical thought.

A consciously revolutionary miners organization means a proletarian dagger at the heart of American capitalism. Hence the yelping and frantic antics of that mad dog—American bourgeoisie. On with the Communist task!