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EDITORIAL

I.W.W.

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AMONG the criticisms that are well meant and that are directed against the industrial organization launched last month in Chicago, the most plausible is that concerning the name—Industrial Workers of the World. It is, by some, considered a presumptuous name; the name, they claim savors of arrogation of jurisdiction, if not of authority, over the workers inhabiting other lands, and not represented at the Chicago Convention. The reasons advanced by the Committee on Constitution, which reported the name, and the action and utterances of the Convention, which deliberately voted down proposed amendments to the name, and as deliberately concurred with the Committee's recommendation, disposes of these objections. The stenographic report will make the point clear when that particular episode in the debates of the Convention is reached. In the meantime, the address with which the Convention was called to order by its permanent chairman, William D. Haywood, and which already has been stenographically reported in the *Daily People*, sounds the key-note of the sentiments and thoughts that guided the Convention in the matter.

Chairman Haywood said in the course of his address: "There are organizations that are affiliated, but loosely affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which in their constitutions and bylaws prohibit the initiation of or conferring of the obligation on a colored man; that prohibit the conferring of the obligation on foreigners"; and he correctly concluded that such an organization, all its pretenses to the contrary notwithstanding, "is not a working class movement", and "does not represent the Working Class."

The attitude of the American Federation of Labor on the economic field—faithfully reflected on the political field by the employees of the New Yorker Volkszeitung Corporation who appeared as delegates of the Social Democratic or

Socialist party at the Amsterdam Congress and there proposed anti-immigration resolutions against “backward races”—that attitude flies in the face of the dearest interests of the Labor Movement; it is the mischievous-stupid and stupid-mischievous pretension of superiority towards others in the same breath that it admits by implication the identity of the level occupied by both the “superior” and the “backward” wage slave, in that the alleged “superior” realizes that the alleged “backward” may displace him; it is the cur’s spirit that fawns at the capitalist master, and glories in the flunkey’s role of officiating in the capacity of the master’s lackey; to sum up, it is the denial of that cardinal bond that makes of the international Proletariat ONE NATION as against the international Capitalist Class, which de facto constitutes to-day THE OTHER NATION.

Chairman Haywood voiced the sense and sentiment of indignation that animated the men and women who gathered at the Chicago Convention with the determination to wipe off the American Federation of Labor smudge from the escutcheon of the Proletariat that inhabits America. That sense and sentiment of indignation reappeared in the adoption of a name. “Industrial Workers of the World” is a pronouncement of the fact that the new organization—located in this terrestrial basin of America, whither flow from all other parts of the earth the floods of other proletarian streams—welcomes them all as fellow-wage slaves, as fellow combatants, as fellow carriers of that new civilization that will put a snuffer to the World Nation of the Exploiter, and found the World Nation of Free Labor.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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