

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF GENERAL FACTORY WORKERS

THIRD YEAR BOOK

PART I



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

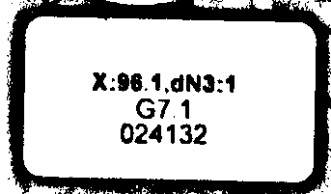
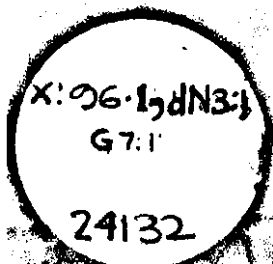
FOR THE YEARS

1933

1934

1935

1936



AMSTERDAM, APRIL, 1937

GENERAL CONTENTS

This Third Year Book, for the period 1933-1936, consists of four parts, viz.:

- Part I : Report on Activities.
- Part II : Financial Report.
- Part III: Reports of the Affiliated Organizations.
- Part IV : Statistical Survey of the Development of the Affiliated Organizations.

CONTENTS OF PART I

	<u>Page</u>
Abbreviations used	5
IN MEMORIAM	6
INTRODUCTION	7
 <u>THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL</u>	
THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS	11
The decisions of the Fifth International Congress (Prague 1933).	11
Postponement of the Sixth International Congress until 1937	11
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : Its Composition and Meetings	12
PROVISIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF TRADE GROUPS	13
THE AUDITING COMMITTEE	13
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT	14
 <u>RELATIONS</u>	
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS	15
Affiliations	15
Disaffiliations and expulsions	15
Delegations	16
Promotion of connections between affiliated organizations	17
The question of international aid in big strikes and lock-outs	17
Financial assistance for affiliated organizations Belgium, Finland, Norway, Spain	21

The strike in the match works of the Swedish Trust in Belgium in the autumn of 1933 (see "Belgium" in next section).

	<u>Page</u>
<u>General comments on relations with, and the situation of, affiliated organizations</u>	21
Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia	22
Dantzig, Denmark	23
France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Norway	24
Palestine, Poland, Saar District	25
Spain	26
Yugoslavia	26-27
 KINDRED NON-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS	 28
Estonia, Finland,	28
Great Britain, Ireland, Latvia, Roumania	29
Switzerland, Cuba, United States	30
 THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS	 32
Congresses, Conferences, and other meetings	33
The meetings of the IFTU General Council	33
Reorganization of the IFTU and ITS.	33
Co-ordination Committee IFTU - ITS	34
The relationship between the ITS and the IFTU	35
 THE QUESTION OF THE AMALGAMATION OF THE POTTERY, GLASS, AND FACTORY WORKERS'S INTERNATIONALS.	 35
Pottery Workers' International	35
The affiliation of Glass Workers in a number of countries with the Factory Workers' International	36
 THE QUESTION OF SENDING A DELEGATION TO SOVIET RUSSIA	 40
 THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION AT GENEVA	 44
 <u>GENERAL ACTIVITIES</u>	
 PUBLICATIONS	 45
The Bulletin	45
Other publications	46
 MISCELLANEOUS	 46
Negotiations between the Dutch Factory Workers' Unions and the British Federation of Building Trade Operatives	46
The scope of affiliated Factory Workers' and Chemical Workers' Unions	46
Occupational diseases	47
Sundry information supplied	48
 THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF TRADE DEPRESSION	 49
 THE QUESTION OF THE REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK	 52
Hours of work in a number of chemical and kindred industries	53
Decisions, etc., of the International Labour Movement and of the International Labour Organization at Geneva regarding the question of the reduction of hours of work	57

	<u>Page</u>
<u>ACTIVITIES AND OUTSTANDING EVENTS IN PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES</u>	
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY	61
Movement for the reduction of hours of work	61
Preparatory Tripartite Technical Conference for the Chemical Industry	62
First Report on the Chemical Industry	64
Second Report on the Chemical Industry	64
Third Report on the Chemical Industry	65
THE GLASS INDUSTRY	65
WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE ARTIFICIAL SILK INDUSTRY	66
MARGARINE, OIL & SOAP INDUSTRY	67
Movement for the reduction of hours of work	67
Wages and working conditions in the margarine and oil industry	68
THE PAPER MAKING INDUSTRY	68
The Dutch Strawboard Industry	69
WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE MATCH INDUSTRY	69

ABBREVIATIONS USED

- ILO : International Labour Office
- ILC : International Labour Conference
- ITS : International Trade Secretariat(s)
- IFTU: International Federation of Trade Unions
- ITF : International Transportworkers' Federation
- LSI : Labour and Socialist International.

I N M E M O R I A M

In the period from 1933 to 1936 countless unknown comrades lost their lives, some, in Austria and in Spain, in the street fights or on the battlefields, others, in Germany, Austria, Italy, and Latvia, in the dangerous work of the clandestine Labour organizations. We also mourn the loss of some comrades who had for years occupied leading positions in our International and its affiliated organizations.

EMIL GIRBIG

President of the International Federation of Glass Workers; former President of the German Glass Workers' Union (died on 6 February 1933).

GUSTAV STUEHLER

Trade Group Secretary for the Paper-Making Industry in the Executive Committee of the former German Factory Workers' Union; for many years a contributor to the International's "Bulletin" (died on 10 May 1933).

C.J.SÖDER

President of the Swedish Union of Factory and General Workers (died on 16 August 1934).

JAMES O'GRADY

Formerly General Secretary of the British Federation of General Workers; in the early post-war years President of the Factory Workers' International (died in December 1934).

WILLY SCHEINHARDT

Until the seizure of power by the National Socialists in Germany, District Secretary of the German Union of Factory Workers; arrested by the Gestapo early in 1936 and "quietly" cremated in October. The authorities reported that he had "hanged himself" while in prison.

They will live on in our hearts and in the history of the Labour Movement.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In the years from 1933 to 1936 nearly all the organizations affiliated to our International were able to increase their membership, and the great majority of them are also financially in a good position. In spite of this we are not able to write these first pages of the Year Book in an optimistic vein. The general situation in Europe does not allow of it.

During the period covered by the previous Year Book (1929-1932) the dominant feature in world economy was the crisis; and for the period here reviewed the same applies even though to a lessening degree in some countries. In addition the political horizon was clouded by the rise of Fascist and similar dictatorships in some countries - the chief among which were Germany and Austria - and the peril of war, often very imminent and still existent.

The trend of political development is indicated by the fact that the General Council of the International Federation of Trade Unions, which usually holds ordinary meetings only once a year, has since September 1935 had to call no fewer than five extraordinary meetings, jointly with the Labour and Socialist International.

We shall have to confine ourselves here to a bare enumeration of the outstanding political events of the period reviewed.

In Germany the seizure of power by the National Socialists in 1933 led to the total destruction of the free trade unions. For the effects of these events on our International we can refer readers to the Introduction to our Second Year Book.

A year later, in February 1934, Fascism made its entry into Austria. In this country the bravest and staunchest of the workers took up arms against the Clerico-Fascist Reaction which was robbing them of all democratic rights, and fought, though ineffectually, with great heroism for their civil liberties.

In Africa many thousands of Abyssinians, struggling heroically against the modern armaments and the poison gas of

Mussolini, sacrificed their possessions and their lives on the altar of national independence.

In Spain there has raged for the last nine months a "civil war" of a barbarity difficult to parallel in the annals of history. Strictly the term civil war does not apply to this struggle in which Germans and Italians, driven to the slaughter in consort with Moors and the gangs of Franco and his accomplices, are attacking the entirely legitimate and democratically constituted Spanish Government.

Whatever may be the end of the struggle in Spain, it will always make one of the blackest pages in the history of Europe, owing to the fact that the combined democratic States of Europe have proved incapable of calling a halt to Germany and Italy, or even to Franco and his foreign legionaries and Moroccan troops.

But to that part of the Spanish people which - at first barely armed - is exhibiting indomitable courage in fighting for the democratic Republic; and equally to those thousands of men of various nationalities who, urged by their passionate love of liberty, hastened to Spain of their own free will and are fighting there in the International Brigade for the Spanish Republic and thus also for European Democracy, to these are due our greatest respect and admiration.

In Germany and Austria many thousands of our comrades are engaged in the thankless, seemingly ineffectual work of the illegal struggle to regain what has been lost; threatened in this by repressive measures, penal servitude, and, particularly in Germany, maltreatment and even death. But when in these countries the day of deliverance dawns it will be found that the seed of martyrdom thus being sown has yielded a rich harvest.

In consequence of the aggressive attitude of Germany and Italy the democratic States are being drawn into an armaments race which will take milliards upon milliards to finance, and it is the workers who will have to bear the brunt of this expenditure.

It need hardly be mentioned in this connection that the Disarmament Conference which - if only for the loyal perseverance of its deceased President, Arthur Henderson - deserved a better fate, though not yet buried is as dead as a doornail. Even in regard to chemical warfare, that most fiendish of all methods of waging war (in the preparations for which many

thousands of the members of our affiliated unions have to work the Disarmament Conference failed owing to the unsurmountable mutual distrust of the participants, to secure the slightest result.

Our statement at the beginning of this Introduction that the dominant feature of world economy was also from 1933 to 1936 the crisis, needs some explanatory comments, especially in regard to those countries where unemployment has been more or less reduced. These comments have taken up more space than is at our disposal here; they therefore appear in a separate section of the Report on Activities under the heading: The unemployment situation after seven years of crisis. The steady progress of rationalization together with the increase of population in most countries have had the effect that, in spite of the economic revival since 1933, the reduction of unemployment has not been proportionate.

Bearing in mind the fact that the International Labour Movement including our International has had during recent years to do its work under extremely unfavourable conditions, it may be said that it has not played a passive part in the developments that have taken place. By taking part in some countries, alone or with other groups, in the government, and by carrying on in others a constructive opposition, taking the form, among others, of "Plans of Labour", it has made its influence felt in political and economic development.

Our own International, as already stated, has stood its ground excellently during the period under review. At the time of writing the figures for 1936 have not yet been received from all affiliated organizations and it is therefore not possible to give a final verdict; the trend of development as regards membership since the end of 1932, however, can already be indicated. Leaving out of consideration the German and Austrian unions, the two Spanish unions, and also some more or less fortuitous factors (the amazing growth of the two French organizations and the affiliation of 14,000 and 16,000 Glass Workers in various countries to the International) there still remains a clear increase of many thousands of members.

In view of the unemployment which is till very rife among many of the organizations affiliated, this result is extremely satisfactory.

Financially the International - be it at a very modest level - is in a state of equilibrium.

Owing to the events in Germany we founded in 1933 an International Relief Fund to which in the four years covered by this review many of the affiliated organizations contributed considerable sums of money. These organizations are cordially thanked for the solidarity shown - also on behalf of the comrades assisted in various countries.

The International Congress of 1933 added some provisions to the Rules, enabling Trade Group Committees to be set up for the various Trade Groups. The purpose of these supplementary provisions was to provide the Glass and Pottery Workers, in case of the fusion aimed at taking place, with a guarantee for the safeguarding of their craft interests. The situation in regard to fusion is fully reported on in Part I of this Year Book.

After a period of some years during which our affiliated organizations had expended relatively small sums on relief in strikes and lock-outs, the as yet uncompleted financial statistics of the affiliated organizations for 1936 show that during that year in some countries more numerous or more extended strikes took place.

The big strike movements in Belgium and France during 1936 resulted in considerable gains in wages and other conditions of work for members of our affiliated organizations.

In many other countries, also, wages are on an average again on the up grade. Since in the autumn of 1936 France, Holland, and Switzerland, then the last survivors of the Gold Block, were forced to devaluate, the position of the trade unions on the wage front has become more favourable in these countries also. Although we are still at the beginning of the new phase of development, it may be said that, on the whole, trade unions in nearly all countries are for the present on the offensive.

-11-

GOVERNING BODIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

THE DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS (PRAGUE 1933)

The activities of the Secretariat in relation to the decisions of this Congress are dealt with in the following sections:

Executive Committee.

Provisions for the information of Trade-Groups.

The question of international aid in big strikes and lock-outs.

Relations with kindred, non-affiliated organizations.

Bulletin.

The scope of affiliated factory and chemical workers' unions.

Activities and important events in particular industries.

Paper making industry

Match industry.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS TILL 1937.

At its meeting in 1935 the Executive Committee decided that, subject to the approval of affiliated unions, the Sixth International Congress, which was to have been held in 1936, should be postponed for one year.

In coming to this decision the Executive was prompted by the consideration that since the Fifth International Congress at Prague in 1933 the economic situation in Europe had not changed to any considerable extent. Another reason for this decision was the unlikelihood of the reduction of hours of work in the Chemical Industry being dealt with by the International Labour Conference of 1936, in which case an International Congress in 1937 might be arranged in conjunction with an International Trade Group Conference for the Chemical Industry, to be held at Geneva just before the International Labour Conference.

None of the affiliated unions has raised any objection to this decision.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Its Composition and Meetings).

Since the International Congress of 1933 some changes have taken place in the composition of the Executive Committee.

Charles Dukes (Great Britain) resigned his membership of our Executive Committee by the decision of his Union Executive in January 1934, owing to his election some time previously to the presidency of the International Federation of Employees in Public Services, and the vacancy was filled by J. McKenzie, also a member of the Executive of the British Union of General and Municipal Workers.

W. Jones (Substitute Member for Great Britain), of the British Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, was pensioned on account of disability in the course of 1933. His successor is J. Jagger, the President of the union mentioned.

Janne Jönsson (Scandinavian States), having retired from the presidency of his union during the period last reviewed owing to advanced age, accordingly resigned his membership of our Executive Committee at the Prague Congress. The Congress decided to assign two places on the Executive to the Scandinavian States instead of one as formerly; these have since been filled by Robert Nielsen (Denmark), and G.O. Strand (Sweden). The Congress elected Robert Nielsen as President of the International.

As a result of the abovementioned changes the composition of the Executive Committee during the greater part of this period was as follows:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Substitute Members</u>
Belgium	P. Fassin	L. Goblet
Danubian States	---	F. Nadvornik
Great Britain	J. McKenzie	J. Jagger
Holland	F.J. Jurgens	V. van den Berg
Scandinavian States	R. Nielsen	Carl F. Lindahl
	G.O. Strand	A. Bratvold
-----	K. de Jonge (Secretary)	

There were four meetings of the Executive Committee during the period under review. These were held

at Prague on 14 September 1933,
at Amsterdam on 27 and 28 August 1934,
at Brussels on 12 and 13 September 1935, and
at Oslo from 23 to 25 August 1936.

The main business of these meetings, apart from the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, was the following:

- (a) Proposals and Resolutions submitted for the Agenda of the International Congress. (1933)
- (b) Formation of an International Relief Fund for the victims of terrorism in countries under dictatorship. (1933)
- (c) The situation in countries under dictatorship. (1933-1936)
- (d) The question of the amalgamation of the Glass, Pottery, and Factory Workers' Internationals. (1934 and 1936)
- (e) The strike in the Belgian match factories of the Swedish Trust in 1933. (1934)
- (f) The movement for a reduction of working hours in Margarine, Oil, and Soap Works. (1934)

- (g) The movement for a reduction of working hours in the Chemical Industry. (1935 and 1936)
- (h) The situation of the affiliated unions in Finland (1935) and France. (1935 and 1936)
- (j) The sending of a delegation to the Soviet Union for the purpose of studying the situation of factory workers in this country. (1935 and 1936)
- (k) The question of international aid in big strikes and lock-outs. (1936)
- (l) The Sixth International Factory Workers' Congress. (1936)

For the information of the Executive Committee at its annual meetings the Secretariat supplied detailed reports on activities and finances, and also a statistical report on the development of affiliated unions, subsequently published in the Bulletin. Since 1933 a report on the situation in countries under dictatorship and a report on the administration of the International Relief Fund have been added to the above. In the years 1934, 1935, and 1936 the reports provided for the Executive comprised in all 37, 52, and 60 cyclostyled folio pages respectively.

Brief reports on the four meetings of the Executive Committee were forwarded to all affiliated unions and published in the Bulletin in October 1933, November 1934, November 1935, and September 1936.

On the occasion of the Executive Meeting at Oslo in August 1936 the members of the Executive Committee paid a visit to two glass works in the neighbourhood of Oslo, one for hollow glass and the other for sheet glass.

PROVISIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF TRADE GROUPS

The Fifth International Congress (Prague, 1933) added to the Rules of the International some articles enabling Trade Groups for industries or industrial groupings to be formed. All unions have been supplied with cyclostyled copies of the supplemented Rules in the appropriate languages.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Auditing Committee continues to be composed of V. van den Berg, L. Ebeling, and J.W. de Vries, all of whom are members of the National Executive of the Netherlands Factory Workers' Union.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The Report on the Activities of the International is at the same time a report on the activities of the Secretariat. We do not consider it needful to give here a review of the relatively large amount of daily routine work that has to be done at our Secretariat (correspondence in several languages, reading of about a hundred weekly, fortnightly, monthly, bi-monthly, and quarterly papers and periodicals, etc.).

If it be desired to obtain fuller information regarding the activities of the Secretariat, such information will be found in the sections on the Executive Committee and the Bulletin, the sections dealing with the reports on the Match Industry, the Margarine and Oil Industry and the Chemical Industry, and those on the movements for reduction of hours of work in the Margarine and Oil Industry and in the Chemical Industry.

RELATIONS

with

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

AFFILIATIONS.

During the period under review three new organizations joined the International, these being:

- (1) Splošna Delavska Strokovna Zveza Jugoslavije (Slovene Union of Factory Workers), Laibach, in the autumn of 1933.
- (2) The General Federation of Jewish Labour in Eretz - Israel, Tel-Aviv, in the autumn of 1935.
- (3) The National Federation of Glass Workers, Castleford, in the summer of 1936.

On 1 January, 1937 the International was joined by:

- (4) Suomen Lasiteollisuus Työväen Liitto r.y. (Finnish Union of Glass Workers), Helsingfors.

All affiliated unions in which glass workers were organized and which were not yet affiliated to us in respect of this section of their membership carried out this affiliation during the course of 1936. (Cf. the section on: "The affiliation of Glass Workers in a number of countries to the Factory Workers' International").

DISAFFILIATIONS AND EXPULSIONS.

During the period of this review the following unions were lost to the International owing to political causes:

- (1) The German Factory Workers' Union, Hanover.
- (2) The Austrian Chemical Workers' Union, Vienna.

For other reasons (see relevant section of this Report) we also lost

- (3) The General Labour Union of Yugoslavia, Zagreb.

General Labour Unions in the Saar District and in Dantzig were temporarily affiliated to the International, but these unions have now ceased to exist.

On 1 January 1937 the International comprised 26 organizations in 14 countries.

DELEGATIONS.

-16-

During the period reported on the International was represented at the following general meetings or congresses of affiliated organizations:

General meeting or congress	Time & Place	Representative
<u>1933</u>		
Union of Factory Workers in the Czechoslovakian Republic	July Aussig	K.de Jonge
Swedish Paper Workers' Union	August Stockholm	J.Jønsson
<u>1934</u>		
British Union of General and Municipal Workers	May Harrogate	F.J.Jurgens
Norwegian Chemical Workers' Union	June Oslo	K.de Jonge
Chemical Workers' Union with Headquarters at Prague	July Prague	R.Nielsen
Union of Building and Wood Workers and Workers in Various Industries, Belgium	July Brussels	F.J.Jurgens
Netherlands Factory Workers' Union (Extraordinary Congress)	September Arnhem	The entire Executive
<u>1935</u>		
Finnish Paper Workers' Union	April Tammerfors	K.de Jonge
Norwegian Paper Workers' Union	May Oslo	G.O.Strand
Union of the Factory Workers of Yugoslavia	June Ljubljana	K.de Jonge
Danish Paper Workers' Union Danish Female Workers' Union	August Copenhagen	P.Fassin
Swedish General and Factory Workers' Union	August Stockholm	F.J.Jurgens
Danish Transport and General Workers' Union	September Copenhagen	K.de Jonge
Norwegian General Workers' Union	October Oslo	K.de Jonge
<u>1936</u>		
Union of Building and Wood Workers and Workers in Various Industries, Belgium. (25th anniversary of the President, E.Gryson)	March Brussels	F.J.Jurgens

General meeting or congress	Time & Place	Representative
British General and Municipal Workers' Union	June Swansea	K.de Jonge
Polish Chemical Workers' Union	June Cracow	F.J.Jurgens
Union of Building and Wood Workers and Workers in Various Industries, Belgium	June Brussels	K.de Jonge

On celebrating its thirtieth anniversary in May 1936 the Finnish Paper Workers' Union, Tammerfors, invited the International to send a delegation to the festival. In this case, however, we only sent a letter of congratulation.

PROMOTION OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Since 1934 we have every year in January or February requested all affiliated organizations to inform us of any general meetings or congresses they might be holding in the course of the year, and, for the sake of strengthening international ties, to invite fraternal delegates to such meetings not only from kindred unions in neighbouring countries, but from as many as possible of the organizations affiliated to the International.

Several of the affiliated organizations have followed our suggestion.

THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL AID IN BIG STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS

The proposals on this question submitted by the Norwegian Chemical and Paper Workers' Unions to the Prague Congress (1933) were referred to the Executive with instruction

"to make a new enquiry, in which there would not be in advance any question of a contribution payable by the affiliated organizations to an international strike fund".

The International Secretariat carried out these instructions and the result was embodied in a letter sent to the said Norwegian unions, on 21 September 1936, running as follows:

"Dear Comrades,

The Norwegian Chemical Workers' Union and the Norwegian Paper Workers' Union submitted to the fourth International Congress (Hanover, July 1929) and to the fifth International Congress (Prague, September 1933) a proposal aiming at the foundation of an

International Strike Fund.

The proposal presented to the fifth International Congress, apart from a brief introduction, contained the following suggestions:

- (1) An International Strike Fund be founded, to be administered by the Executive Committee.
- (2) The affiliated organizations to pay a contribution of half a guilder per member per year to this Strike Fund.
- (3) The Executive Committee to compile regulations, to be submitted for criticism to the affiliated organizations, for the granting of aid from this Fund in cases of big conflicts exceeding the capacity of the affiliated organizations.

The Norwegian Paper Workers' Union, in addition, had submitted the following proposal to the Prague Congress:

"The Congress decides that the Reciprocity Committee of the Paper Workers' Unions of the Scandinavian countries and Finland shall be extended by the nomination of representatives of the other affiliated organizations catering for paper workers. A meeting of this enlarged Committee shall be convened as soon as possible in order to compile regulations for more effective international aid for paper workers involved in conflict."

The Hanover Congress (1929), when rejecting the proposal for the foundation of an international strike fund, had instructed the Executive Committee:

"to organize an enquiry into the best way of raising funds for such financial aid, and to report to next congress on the results of this enquiry."

In execution of these instructions, the Executive Committee submitted to the Prague Congress (1933) a report giving a full description of the arrangements existing in the other International Trade Secretariats with regard to the rendering of international assistance in case of big strikes or lockouts. We accompany the present letter with a further copy of the said report, and observe that the principle of an international strike fund has only been given effect to, in a very limited degree, in the case of the Textile Workers' International.

The Prague Congress referred the proposals quoted at the beginning of this letter to the Executive Committee with instructions

"to make a new enquiry, in which there would not be in advance any question of a contribution payable by the affiliated organizations to an international strike fund."

In carrying out these new instructions, we requested the Reciprocity Committee of the Scandinavian and Finnish Paper Workers' Unions - with reference to the aforementioned proposal of the Norwegian Paper Workers' Unions and to the conclusions formulated by the Executive Committee in its report to the Prague Congress - to send us the regulations governing the granting of assistance.

The Reciprocity Agreement of the Scandinavian Factory Workers' Unions.

The secretary of the Scandinavian Factory Workers' Committee sent us, in addition to the present Reciprocity Agreement, which has been in force since September 1918, the agreement which governed the rendering of mutual support in case of big conflicts during the period 1907 to 1918. Under the old agreement there was a claim to support.

"If a union as a result of an attack by the employers was involved in a conflict of such a scale that an extra levy of 75 öre a week on the members of the union concerned was insufficient for supporting the members affected by the conflict.

"The other unions in such an event had to furnish the deficient sum, with the limitation, however, that the assistance granted did not need to exceed 50 öre per member and per week including expenditure of the unions concerned on conflicts within their own countries.

"The assistance was payable as from the third week after the commencement of the conflict."

The new agreement, effective since September 1918, contains the following provision:

"If as a result of an attack of the employers one of the unions is involved in a conflict of such a scale that the union is unable, alone, to raise the benefits provided by its rules, the union affected shall call the Reciprocity Committee mentioned in Article for a meeting in the country which is the scene of the conflict. The committee shall on this occasion be furnished with the fullest possible information about the conflict, after which same will make a proposal to the unions as to whether and to what extent assistance shall be granted. The final decision rests with the Executive of the unions."

It will be perceived that the Scandinavian Factory Workers' Unions have abandoned the old agreement, which was somewhat binding in character, in favour of one which reverts to the principle of the autonomy of the Executives of the unions.

The Reciprocity Agreement of the Scandinavian Paper Workers' Unions.

This agreement provides as follows with regard to the granting of mutual financial assistance in case of big conflicts:

"In case of conflicts of considerable duration the affiliated organizations are under an obligation to grant mutual financial assistance. The financial support shall preferably be given in the form of loans free of interest. If circumstances should render it absolutely necessary funds may (translator's underlining) be given as a donation."

On the basis of the texts cited we may observe, therefore, that even in the case of the Scandinavian Factory and Paper Workers' Unions - notwithstanding the otherwise extremely close cooperation - there is no formal obligation as regards the amount of financial assistance to be granted in case of big conflicts.

At the present time only the Textile Workers' International has an international strike fund. The affiliated unions pay an annual contribution, in Dutch currency, of about 75 guilders per thousand members. One half of this, 37.50 guilders, is for the strike fund. On a membership of 360,000 paying members this would yield, for our International, a total income of 13,500 guilders per year. If it is taken into account, further, that the Norwegian Paper Workers' Union in 1931 needed about 110,000 guilders per week for the support of its 11,000 members involved in the lockout of that year, it becomes obvious that such a strike fund would have no significance whatsoever for conflicts justifying recourse to international assistance.

Bearing the foregoing in mind, we have once more considered whether the Executive Committee might undertake anything in the direction you desire.

You will remember that at the Prague Congress it was decided to raise the rate of affiliation fees to the International from 30 to 35 guilders per thousand members. This measure did not meet with the full approval of all the affiliated organizations. The minority, however, in democratic fashion yielded to the majority.

If the Prague Congress had wished to accept the proposal you put forward, this would have involved an increase in affiliation fees, not of five, but of five hundred guilders per thousand members. As to the impossibility of such an increase there is hardly likely to be any difference of opinion today.

Even an increase of affiliation fees to, say, 75 guilders (if we wished to follow the example of the Textile Workers' International) would in the present circumstances undoubtedly be rejected by our International Congress.

We therefore deem it best, for the time being, to continue to rely upon the voluntary solidarity of the affiliated organizations, although of course we shall always be only too pleased to give consideration to practicable proposals for solving this difficult problem.

The report presented to the Prague Congress of September 1933 contained a draft of rules for the rendering of international support in case of big strikes or lockouts. We are of opinion that every affiliated union which desires to raise a claim to international support should comply with the conditions laid down in those draft rules. If one or more of the affiliated organizations were to submit a proposal to that effect, the next International Congress might consider whether these draft rules can be incorporated in the Constitution of the International.

Yours fraternally,
(signed) K.de Jonge,

Secretary. ♪

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Projected relief movement on behalf of the Belgian Union of Building and Wood Workers and Workers in Various Industries, Brussels.

The strike wave which swept over Belgium in the months of June and July 1936 also spread to the field of the above union. As it was not possible to foresee how long the movement would last, the Belgian union made timely application to the International Secretariat for assistance in case of need, asking that the affiliated organizations in Holland and in the three Scandinavian countries should be requested to grant them, in such a case, loans free of interest. In compliance with this request we communicated with eligible organizations, suggesting the sum of one Dutch guilder or three Scandinavian Kronen per member of each union as an optional basis for the calculation of the amounts of the loans.

We are pleased to be able to report that nearly all the organizations applied to were prepared to participate in the relief movement on the said basis, and to hold corresponding sums at the disposal of the Belgian union, ready to be made over immediately a telegraphic request to that effect might be received. Fortunately the strike wave began to subside shortly afterwards, so that the Belgian union was not under the necessity of availing itself of these loans, which had already been granted to it.

Finnish Paper Workers' Union, Tammerfors.

In the first half-year of 1933 we made over to this union the final instalment of a subvention granted to it during the period last-reviewed. At its meeting at Brussels in September 1935 the Executive decided to grant another subvention to the Finnish Paper Workers, and this was made over to them in two instalments, one in the last quarter of 1935 and the other in the first quarter of 1936.

Norwegian Paper Workers' Union, Oslo.

The interest-free loans made to this union by some of the affiliated organizations during the big lock-out in Norway in 1931, amounting in all to 112,000.-- Norwegian Kronen, were repaid partly in 1933 and partly in 1934.

Spanish Chemical Workers' Union, Madrid.

Spanish Paper Workers' Union, Madrid.

See under Spain in the next section.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH, AND THE SITUATION OF, AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

Our relations with affiliated organizations continue to be satisfactory. Some of the smaller unions do not yet reply to our letters and circulars as regularly or as fully as we should wish; these are, however, mainly organizations in countries where the languages in which our correspondence is conducted (English, German, French, Spanish, Danish and Swedish) are not understood or are imperfectly understood. The number of such organizations is smaller, however, than in the period from 1929 to 1932.

The Executive was also in personal touch with nearly all the affiliated organizations during the period under review. The only exceptions were the French Paper Workers' Union, the Trade Union Centre in Palestine, which has been affiliated to us in respect of its Factory Workers since 1 January, 1936, the two affiliated organizations in Spain, and that in Hungary.

Several of the affiliated organizations are not mentioned in this section. It should not be imagined for this reason that our relations with these organizations are any the less close or satisfactory. This is by no means the case. In this section we are only reporting on affiliated unions if there is some particular occasion to do so. (Cf Part III of this Year Book)

Austrian Chemical Workers' Union, Vienna.

In February 1934 the Austrian Labour organizations, including the abovementioned union of ours, also fell victims to Fascism. General considerations on the events in question do not come within the scope of this Report; we will therefore content ourselves with expressing our satisfaction at the fact that the Austrian Labour organizations did not go down unresisting. The heroism with which thousands of workers in Vienna and its surroundings fought for their freedom has kindled a flame of fervid solidarity among the workers of all countries and has neutralized the depressing influence caused by the way the German Labour Movement succumbed. All of us felt that something great was happening in Austria when these men engaged in an unequal struggle, preferring to stake their freedom, their blood, and their lives, rather than passively let themselves be robbed of their rights. The revolt of the Austrian proletariat has brutally crushed, but in spite of everything the workers of Vienna know to-day --and we with them-- that their sacrifices have not been in vain. The day is coming when our Austrian comrades will again choose their own political and economic representatives, as free men.

Belgian Union of Building and Wood Workers and Workers in Various Industries, Brussels.

During the strike in the match works of the Swedish Trust in Belgium in the autumn of 1933 part of the Belgian match production was transferred to Sweden and Czechoslovakia. Owing to economic and other conditions in the match industry it was not possible to prevent this transference of production.

Union of Chemical Workers in the Czechoslovakian Republic, Prague. Union of Factory Workers in the Czechoslovakian Republic, Aussig.

In August 1935 the Chemical Workers' Union at Prague requested the Executive to make another attempt to secure the amalgamation of the two unions in Czechoslovakia. (Cf. Second Year Book)

The Executive thereupon authorized the Secretary, at its meeting at Brussels in September 1935, to discuss the matter with representatives of the two union Executives when an opportunity arose.

A discussion accordingly took place at Prague on 9 November 1935. Besides the delegates of the two union Executives, representatives of the national Trade Union Centres at Prague (Czech-speaking district) and Reichenberg (German-speaking district) were present.

From the debates that took place we learned the following: The two national Trade Union Centres are entirely in agreement on the line to be taken in regard to amalgamations of Czech and German unions. Their representatives pointed out that the political conditions in the new Czechoslovakian State have always

exerted a big influence on the structure of the Trade Union Movement. They gave information on the developments that had taken place and on the circumstances standing in the way of a more rapid unification of the Trade Union Movement in Czechoslovakia. In this Year Book we cannot go any deeper into the various problems involved; a detailed report on the Prague negotiations was submitted by the Secretariat to the Executive on the occasion of its meeting at Oslo in 1936.

The Aussig union shares the views of the two national centres, so that the amalgamation desired by the Prague union is for the time being impracticable.

Under the prevailing circumstances we had to confine ourselves largely to listening to the arguments from the standpoints of the two unions and the national centres. As on former occasions we stressed the fact that in principle only a single organization from each country should be affiliated to an International Trade Secretariat, but we had to admit that in the case in question the existing difficulties could evidently not yet be overcome.

General Labour Union, Dantzig.

With the Factory Workers at Dantzig, who --like their fellow-workers in the Saar district -- had belonged to the German Factory Workers' Union, we maintained connections from the summer of 1933 to the Autumn of 1936. We repeatedly gave them financial assistance for both relief and agitation purposes.

In November 1935 the General Labour Union affiliated to us in respect of its Factory Workers' Group, but in December 1935 this organization with all its trade and industrial groups was suppressed, on the grounds of its having acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the State of Dantzig and to public safety. Although the Executive of the union entered an action in the Primary Court, it did not succeed in getting the dissolution nullified. An appeal lodged with the Supreme Court was also ineffectual. The workers of Dantzig were accordingly put under the necessity thenceforward of carrying on their activities illegally.

It is well known from the daily press what infamous means were employed by the National Socialists in Dantzig against the General Labour Union and its members. A great deal of pluck and self-sacrifice is needed to continue to stand up for free trade union principles under such circumstances. The workers of Dantzig showed that they had the pluck and the self-sacrificing spirit, and we feel sure they will also remain true to their convictions in the state of illegality.

Danish Union of Transport and General Workers, Copenhagen.

This union occupied in July 1935 a new, spacious, and very fine office building. In celebration of this event the Executive, together with the General Council of the International Federation of Transport Workers, to which the union is also affiliated, presented it at its general meeting in autumn 1935 with three decorative mural plates of Delft porcelain. One of these plates bears the portrait of M.C.Lyngsie, who died in 1931 after many years as President of the union, and was among the founders of our International in 1907. Of the other two plates one bears the emblems of the I.T.F. and the other those of our International.

Danish Paper Workers' Union, Copenhagen.

This union has a claim to special mention in our Year Book, as embracing 100% of the workers eligible to join it.

French National Organization of Chemical Workers, Paris.

The tremendous growth of this organization during 1936 as a result of the big strike wave in France and the successes obtained is dealt with in Part III of this Year Book. On Sunday, 13 December 1936, Paul Fassin, Member of our Executive, and K. de Jonge, profiting by the opportunity offered by the return journey from Geneva, had a discussion with the five secretaries of this organization. This discussion has strengthened us in the conviction that the French chemical workers will not relapse again into the chaos of non-organization.

French National Organization of Paper Workers, Paris.

This organization, too, as appears in the report in Part III of this Year Book, experienced an enormous development in 1936. It removed its headquarters from Limoges to Paris. We hope soon to have an opportunity of establishing personal relations with the Executive of this organization.

German Factory Workers' Union, Hanover.

The union of our German comrades was lost to the International owing to the events of the first half-year of 1933. The significance of this loss was already pointed out in the Introduction to the previous Year Book. As recalled by our reports in the Bulletin at the time, things happened at a headlong pace.

As late as February the "Proletarier", the union paper of the German Factory Workers, was able to publish trenchant criticism of the already inaugurated Hitler Regime in articles headed: "A Government against the Republic, against Democracy, and against the Workers", and "We are well on the way to becoming a Convict State of the first rank". (The numbers of the "Proletarier" in question were, however, confiscated, and the paper was banned for a few weeks). Early in April followed the temporary occupation and putting under seal of the union offices. On 18 April, on the restitution of the premises, a Nazi commission entered the offices together with the staff of the union. On 2 May 1933 came the final incorporation, without resistance, of all the German trade unions.

Union of General Factory Workers of Holland, Amsterdam.

In 1919 this union substituted a "Union Council", meeting twice a year, for its Congress. When in 1934 it held an Extraordinary Congress the annual meeting of the Executive was held at Amsterdam in the same period, so that members of the Executive were able, at the invitation of the Dutch union, to attend its Congress.

Hungarian General Workers' Union, Budapest.

Connections with this Union are unsatisfactory. As stated in the previous Year Book it organizes unskilled office, distributive and shop workers, municipal workers, and domestic servants. It is prohibited from organizing general Factory Worker by a demarcation decision of the national centre.

Norwegian Union of General Workers, Oslo.

This union was founded in 1895 and was thus able in 1935 to look back on forty years' activity. The anniversary was celebrated at the general meeting in October 1935. On this occasion the International Secretary presented the union with a Banner of the International, similar to that presented to the German Factory Workers' Union in 1930, also on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

The General Federation of Jewish Labour in Eretz-Israel,
Tel-Aviv.

This organization is the national centre affiliated to the IFTU. It comprises numerous groups of workers for whom no special trade or industrial union exists, including those in the Cement, Potash, Oil, Soap, Glass and Paper industries. The lack of a special union prevented for some years the affiliation of these groups to our International, but in the autumn of 1935 the International Secretariat succeeded in getting the organization in Palestine to join the International in respect of 2,000 of its members. In its letter of application the "General Federation" acknowledges having several times availed itself of the services of our International Secretariat in the interests of the groups concerned and says that in this way it has found out the usefulness to them of a connection with our International.

In accordance with the decision of the Prague Congress in September 1933 a reduced rate of contribution has been fixed for our comrades in Palestine as extra-European members. We would add that with this affiliation we are able to welcome our first extra-European members.

Polish Chemical Workers' Union, Cracow.

For some years connections with this union left much to be desired. After the International Congress at Prague in September 1933 we paid a visit to the union Executive at Cracow, and in April on the way back from Finland we had a talk with the President of the union, J.Jarek.

Gradually connections have improved. In 1936 a representative of our Executive and also delegates from some affiliated organizations attended the general meeting at Cracow.

General Labour Union in the Saar District, Saarbrücken.

The members of the former German Factory Workers' Union in the Saar District remained true to their free trade union principles after the crash in Germany and in the course of 1933 they notified our Secretariat of their desire to continue affiliation to the International. As it was not considered expedient to form a number of separate unions for this small district, the Factory Workers joined with some other groups to form a unified organization under the above name.

In common with the IFTU and the other international trade secretariats we gave the General Labour Union moral and financial support to the best of our ability in its campaign in connection with the referendum of 13 January 1935. We made over a sum of money to the IFTU for the Saar Fund and also remitted a subvention to the General Labour Union at Saarbrücken.

By the request of the IFTU we also used our influence, through our affiliated organizations, with the national centres affiliated to the IFTU, in order to get as much money as possible put at the disposal of the IFTU for the Saar Fund.

The Norwegian Chemical Workers' Union sent to us - as the Norwegian national centre did not then belong to the IFTU - a generous special contribution, which we forwarded on to the IFTU.

Unfortunately the result striven for could not be obtained. When on 13 January 1935 only a small percentage of the inhabitants of the Saar District voted for the status quo, while an overwhelming majority declared for reincorporation with Germany, free trade unionism became a thing of the past in the Saar District.

Slovene General Labour Union, Ljubljana.

This union, newly founded in June 1933, joined our International in the autumn of the same year. Our connections with it are satisfactory. K. de Jonge attended its general meeting in June 1935, and brought back with him from Ljubljana a very favourable impression.

Spanish Federation of Paper Workers' Organizations, Madrid (formerly Tolosa).

While under the new Republic which arose in 1931 the Spanish unions showed a rapid growth, political and economic reaction gradually became stronger and, especially in the autumn of 1933, more audacious as well. When, in October 1934, the workers' organizations answered the formation of a new, reactionary Cabinet with a General Strike (and in the province of Asturia with armed rebellion), these movements were bloodily put down -with the help of Foreign Legionaries and Moroccan troops- and trade union activity was for a time crippled by measures against the organized workers and in particular the trade union officers.

On the occasion of the death sentences passed at that time on a number of arrested revolutionary fighters the International Secretariat sent on 3 November 1934 a telegram of protest to the President of the Spanish Republic (cf Bulletin, November 1934). There was no reply to this telegram.

Within a relatively short time the trade unions recovered their activity. They gradually regained their freedom of movement. There followed a concentration of proletarian forces and organizations, which expanded by the end of 1935 into a "People's Front" comprising all progressive and democratic parties.

Meanwhile the Reaction prepared for another struggle, and when at the parliamentary elections in February 1936 the People's Front gained a great victory, it intensified these preparations and in July 1936 plunged the country, with the active assistance of Germany and Italy, into the civil war which still rages.

After the revolutionary events of October 1934 we naturally applied at once to our two Spanish organizations for information as to their situation.

This led to a correspondence with the General Secretary of the Paper Workers' Federation at Tolosa, who had to hide from the police in other towns, and was not able to resume his activities at Tolosa until December 1935.

It appeared from the reports of the abovementioned comrade that in October 1934 some of the leading officers of the Federation were sentenced to imprisonment. In July 1935 we received the news that a large number of local organizations of Paper Workers and also the Federation itself were functioning again as usual.

On behalf of his family, which was in a state of great need we remitted our correspondent some small sums of money.

Early in July 1935 the Paper Workers' Federation removed its headquarters from Tolosa to Madrid (Valencia No.5) where the Chemical Workers also had their offices.

Since the outbreak of the civil war we have twice remitted a small subvention to the two Federations. The first time the money was taken to Madrid by a comrade of our acquaintance; the second remittance took place through a bank.

At its meeting at Oslo in August 1936 our Executive went thoroughly into the question of support for the Spanish organizations. The members agreed that generally speaking relief movements of this nature should be carried out through the central bodies of the International Labour Movement, but considered it desirable also to give direct financial assistance to the affiliated organizations in Spain as far as the very limited means

of the International permitted. In our covering letters to the remittances in question we pointed out that our members through their national unions or national centres are participating in the general relief movement instituted by the International Federation of Trade Unions.

The Executive decided at the abovementioned meeting to continue to give moral and financial support to the Spanish organizations. Shortly afterwards the second remittance as already mentioned took place. We have also attempted to send a third remittance through a public personage but we did not succeed in this.

Spanish Chemical Workers' Federation, Madrid.

(Cf. the above report on the Spanish Paper Workers' Federation).

Detailed reports on the fate of this Federation and the persecution of its officers and members have appeared in the Bulletin for March and for November 1935. From these reports it was seen that even in the summer of 1935 nearly all employers in the Chemical Industry kept black lists and that practically everywhere the most militant trade unionists and trade union officers had been unemployed for more than a year. Our report in the November Bulletin mentions some particulars of the effects of the indescribable atrocities perpetrated in Spain at that time, and of the merciless terrorism used by the employers in alliance with servile local authorities. Little could we guess that all this was but a prelude to the bestial brutality which characterizes the present civil war.

In the winter of 1935/36 we also sent the Chemical Workers' Federation small sums of money for the relief of those members who were in great distress.

General Labour Union in Yugoslavia, Zagreb.

This union has for years not been affiliated to the Yugoslavian Trade Union Centre and has carried on a stubborn opposition to this national centre. In addition it has not paid its fees to our International since 1929.

The International Federation of Trade unions repeatedly endeavoured to bring about concord between the General Labour Union and the national centre at Belgrade. After all these attempts had failed the IFTU, acting in agreement with the national centre at Belgrade, requested all International Trade Secretariats concerned to expel the General Labour Union from their Internationals. Our Executive, after careful consideration of the subject at its meeting at Prague in September 1933, decided to act on the request on the IFTU.

KINDRED UNAFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

The International Congress of 1933 authorized the Executive to arrange for extra-European organizations desiring to affiliate to the International to pay a lower fee than that fixed as normal by the Congress. (See in this section under Cuba, and in the previous section under Palestine).

Esthonia .

In Esthonia there was a small union of Factory Workers with a membership of about 100. We tried several times to get into touch with this union through the national centre at Reval. In June 1936 the national centre informed us that since the middle of 1935 the trade unions had been steadily growing.

The Factory Workers' Union had also been able to add to its membership considerably. The national centre promised to do all it could to induce the Factory Workers' Union to affiliate to our International in the near future.

Nothing came of this. Since the middle of September 1936 the Esthonian authorities have been employing Fascist methods against the trade unions. The elected Council of the national centre was dismissed, temporarily put under arrest, and replaced by a new Council pliant to the Government. At a national trade union meeting summoned shortly afterwards the government representatives declared among other things that international relations are superfluous and detrimental to the country.

In vain did the workers draw attention to the international relations of the employers.

If in the near future, as appears not unlikely, conditions in Esthonia undergo another change, we shall resume our endeavours to establish relations with the Esthonian Factory Workers.

Finnish Glass Workers' Union, Helsingfors.

This union has affiliated to our International as from 1 January 1937. See the section on: "The affiliation of the Glass Workers of a number of countries to the Factory Workers' International".

General Labour Union of Finland, Helsingfors.

Workers in the Chemical Industry come within the scope of this union. When the International Secretary attended the general meeting of the Finnish Paper Workers' Union in April 1935 he was informed by the representatives of the national centre, whom he met on this occasion, that only a small number of workers is employed in the Chemical Industry in Finland and that of these workers only a small percentage belong to the above union. Under these circumstances he did not yet desire to attempt to bring about its affiliation with our International.

British Transport and General Workers' Union, London.

In the spring of 1934 we made fresh enquiries by letter on the subject of affiliation to our International with this union. In reply we were informed that the General Council had decided not to affiliate to any more international organizations; the union adopted the standpoint that there should only be a single International Secretariat with sections for the various industries or trades, and had submitted proposals to this effect to the British T.U.C.

British National Federation of Glass Workers, Castleford.

This "Federation", composed of Glass Workers' groups belonging to various unions, affiliated to our International in August 1936. See the section on: "The affiliation of Glass Workers in a number of countries to the Factory Workers' International".

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, Dublin.

On the occasion of the meeting of the Executive of the IFTU at Weymouth in 1934 we had a discussion with the Vice-President of this union on the establishment of connections with our Secretariat. The conversation was confirmed by letter, but no success has yet been obtained.

Latvia.

We persevered in our efforts to secure the affiliation of this union until the Fascist coup in 1934.

On the occasion of the meeting of the IFTU Executive in 1933 we requested the representatives of the Latvian national centre to get us into touch with the workers' groups in Latvia which came within the scope of our International. The conversation was confirmed by letter; we also sent the Latvian trade union centre a fresh set of our publications with the request that they should be passed on to the organizations concerned. There was no result.

At the end of 1934 the Latvian authorities suppressed all the existing unions and confiscated their funds and property. Nine organizations (including one of Glass Workers and one of Match Workers) were authorized to continue their work on condition that they submitted to the supervision of a government commissioner. At the same time a violent persecution of the leaders and officers of the former free trade unions was begun, accompanied by savagery and acts of terrorism. This has continued until the time of writing.

Roumanian Union of Metal and Chemical Workers, Bucharest.

This union, in addition to chemical workers, also caters for glass workers. During the meeting of the IFTU Executive in 1934 we had an interview with Petru Bernau, the President of this union. Subsequently we sent the union Executive a detailed canvassing letter. We received no reply. In view of the fact that our International is now competent to organize workers in the Glass Industry we have lately requested the union to supply us with an account, if necessary in the Roumanian language, of the wage and working conditions of the Chemical and Glass Workers for publication in the Bulletin.

Swiss Textile and Factory Workers' Union, Zürich.

This union, which up to the end of 1936 was designated The Swiss Textile Workers' Union (Factory Workers' Union), has not yet affiliated to our International, although we have continued both personally and in writing during the period under review in our endeavours to secure their affiliation.

On 12 March 1936 we had an interview with Ernst Moser, the Vice-President of the union, on the subject of affiliation. Comrade Moser promised to include the question in the agenda of the next meeting of the "Paper" and "Chemical" trade groups.

A meeting of the "Paper" group took place, according to the union paper of 7 May 1936, on 26 April 1936. The report in this paper includes the following passage:

The subject of the affiliation of the Paper Workers' groups to the International Federation of Factory Workers could not be conclusively dealt with and was adjourned for a subsequent meeting.

We have not yet heard anything more of the matter.

As to the designation of the union, the union paper of 2 January 1937 states that "Owing to the marked increase in Factory Workers accompanied by a considerable decrease in Textile Workers proper, the name of the union ought to be altered." It is to be hoped that this is a good sign for the speedy affiliation of the Swiss Factory Workers to our International. We have asked the union Executive to inform us of the attitude of the "Paper" and "Chemical" groups towards affiliation.

Federation of the Sugar Workers of Cuba, Havana.

In December 1932 this union, with which we had already carried on a correspondence in 1929, intimated its desire to affiliate to our International. At its request we again sent it some copies of our publications and of the Rules. At the close of the International Congress at Prague in September 1933 we informed the union that our Executive had been authorized by the Congress to fix a low affiliation fee for the Cuban Sugar Workers. Neither of the letters was replied to.

The United States.

Since 1935 we have resumed our attempts to establish connections with kindred unions in the United States.

We have arranged for an exchange of publications with The International Brotherhood of Paper Makers at Albany, whose scope is mainly confined to skilled Paper Workers, and with the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers at Fort Edward, N.Y.

A similar arrangement was proposed to The International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America, Washington, The United Rubber Workers of America, Akron, and The United Brick and Clay Workers of America, Chicago. Only the Rubber Workers' Union, however, agreed to our proposal.

Since the affiliation during the course of 1936 of the majority of European trade unions comprising Glass Workers to our International, we have sent canvassing letters to some unions of Glass Workers in the United States, viz., to the following:

American Flint Glass Workers' Union, Toledo (affiliated for a time to the former Glass Workers' International.)
Federation of Sheet Glass Workers of America, Columbus (Ohio).
Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada, Philadelphia.

The two unions last mentioned promised, in letters of a comradely tone, to bring the subject of affiliation to our International before the next meeting of their Executives.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Owing to the political situation in Europe and to various events necessitating meetings at short notice, our intercourse with the IFTU during the period reviewed was particularly brisk.

At the fifth International Factory workers' Congress at Prague in September 1933 the IFTU was represented by R. Tayerle of Prague, Member of its Executive Committee.

Representatives of our International have taken part in the undermentioned meetings called by the IFTU:

1933

- IFTU General Council, Zürich, 9 - 11 April 1933.
- Conference of the IFTU Executive Committee with the ITS, Paris, 6 July, 1933.
- VI International Trade Union Congress, Brussels, 30 July - 3 August, 1933.
- Extraordinary Meeting of IFTU General Council, Vienna, 6 and 7 October 1933.

1934

- IFTU General Council and Conference of IFTU Executive Committee with ITS, Weymouth, 27 - 29 August, 1934.
- Co-ordination Committee IFTU - ITS (+), Paris, 3 October, 1934.

1935

- Co-ordination Committee IFTU-ITS, Paris, 15 March, 1935.
- Co-ordination Committee IFTU-ITS, London, 27 and 28 March, 1935.
- IFTU General Council, Copenhagen, 21 - 24 May, 1935.
- Co-ordination Committee IFTU-ITS, Paris, 4 July, 1935.
- Extraordinary Meeting of IFTU General Council (x), Geneva, 6 September, 1935.
- Extraordinary Meeting of IFTU General Council (x), Brussels, 11 and 12 October, 1935.
- Co-ordination Committee IFTU-ITS, Paris, 29 November, 1935.

1936

- Extraordinary Meeting of IFTU General Council (x), London, 19 and 20 March, 1936.
- Co-ordination Committee IFTU-ITS, Brussels, 28 May, and Egmond, 29 and 30 May 1936.
- IFTU General Council, Conference of IFTU Executive Committee with ITS, and VII International Trade Union Congress, London, 6 - 11 July, 1936.
- Extraordinary Meeting of IFTU General Council (x), Paris, 28 September, 1936.
- Extraordinary Meeting of IFTU General Council (x), Paris, 4 and 5 December, 1936.

(+) Cf. section under this heading.

(x) Together with the Executive of the LSI.

At the extraordinary General Council meetings at Brussels (October, 1935) and London (March 1936) F.J.Jurgens and P.Fassin, respectively, acted as substitutes for the International Secretary, who was prevented from attending. All the other meetings mentioned above were attended by the International Secretary. At the VI International Trade Union Congress (1933) P.Fassin also attended, and at the extraordinary General Council meeting (Vienna, October, 1933) J.Weiss was present. The President, R.Nielsen, took part in the General Council meeting at Copenhagen (1935) and at all the meetings in London from 6 to 11 July 1936.

THE MEETINGS OF THE IFTU GENERAL COUNCIL

In the period reported on the IFTU General Council held three ordinary meetings not immediately connected with International Trade Union Congresses. These took place at Zürich (1933), Weymouth (1934), and Copenhagen (1935). Among the main points dealt with at these meetings, in addition to the reports on activities and the financial reports of the IFTU, were the following:

- (1) Removal of the Headquarters of the IFTU from Berlin to Paris (1933).
- (2) IFTU Memorandum to the then approaching World Economic Conference (1933).
- (3) The struggle against Fascism (1933, 1934 and 1935).
- (4) Relief Funds for German refugees and for Austria (1933 and 1934).
- (5) Movement for the reduction of hours of work (1933 and 1935)
- (6) Reconstruction of the IFTU and the ITS (1934).
- (7) The question of the United Front (1934 and 1935).
- (8) The struggle against War (1934 and 1935).
- (9) The co-ordination of the movements of the IFTU and the ITS (1935)
- (10) Workers' Education (1935).

The six extraordinary meetings of the IFTU General Council were occupied with the discussion of the following subjects:

Vienna, October 1933: The political situation in Austria.

Geneva, September, 1935: } Italy's invasion of
Brussels, October, 1935: } Abyssinia.

London, March 1936: The occupation of the Rhineland by
German troops.

Paris, September 1936: } The Spanish Civil War.
Paris, December 1936: }

REORGANIZATION OF THE IFTU AND THE ITS

This question was discussed at the IFTU Congress in 1930, and at the Conference of the Executive of the IFTU with the ITS in 1932. The latter meeting answered the question as to whether structural alterations in the IFTU were desirable in the negative by 16 votes to 7.

The withdrawal of the German unions caused the subject to crop up again in the debates at the IFTU Congress of 1933. Pursuant to the instructions given by this Congress the

Executive of the IFTU sent round to the affiliated national centres and the ITS, in December 1933, a draft scheme for a reorganization of the IFTU, under which the IFTU was to be composed of the national centres and the ITS. To this end the draft contained provisions by which the ITS were to pay the IFTU an annual fee of 3 French francs per member (a quarter of the fee for the national centres) and to obtain in return a certain say in the governing bodies of the IFTU (Congress, General Council and Executive).

The draft scheme also contained two plans for regrouping the ITS. Under Plan "A" the existing 29 ITS were to be comprehended in 12 and the Factory, Glass, Pottery, and Leather Workers' Internationals to be united into a single Secretariat. Plan "B" provided for a reduction of the number of ITS to 6 and the union of the abovementioned four groups with the Clothing, Hat and Textile Workers' Internationals.

At the meeting of the General Council of the IFTU at Weymouth in 1934 these plans were discussed. Nearly all the representatives of the ITS held on firmly to the independence of the separate Trade Secretariats (the Executive of the Factory Workers' International would have had no objection to the carrying out of Plan "A" if it had not been associated with the payment of fees to the IFTU), and the draft scheme was accordingly withdrawn.

As it was also admitted by the representatives of the ITS that a closer and more systematic collaboration between the IFTU and the ITS was both desirable and needful, it was decided to set up the "Co-ordination Committee IFTU-ITS".

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE IFTU-ITS

On this Committee, set up by the meeting of the IFTU General Council at Weymouth in 1934, the IFTU is represented by Sir Walter Citrine, L. Jouhaux, and W. Schevenels, and the Trade Secretariats by Tom Shaw (Textile Workers), Edo Fimmen (Transport Workers), W.G. Spiekman (Clerical Workers), T. van der Heeg (Clothing Workers) and K. de Jonge (Factory Workers). At the inauguratory meeting of the Committee at Paris in October 1934 it was agreed that its activities should for the time being be confined to the - by all means difficult and complicated enough - problem of the co-ordination of action against Fascism.

Meanwhile the Committee has met several times, but the results give no cause for enthusiasm. Consequently at the meeting on 29 November 1935 Tom Shaw proposed that the Committee should be dissolved, as it had not met the expectations entertained of it at the start. In reply to some of the criticism a majority of the Committee affirmed that, granted the Committee had not come up to expectations, it had nevertheless contributed to maintaining the resistance against Fascism in the various countries.

De Jonge, although he is of opinion that Tom Shaw's proposal is in part justified, proposed that the Committee should be given the opportunity of showing proof of its usefulness by the next IFTU Congress (1936). The Committee accordingly decided not to proceed to a dissolution.

The International Secretary intends to give a more detailed report on the activities of the Committee in his comments on the Report on Activities for the forthcoming International Congress of the Factory Workers.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

In the Year Book for the years 1929 - 1932 we gave an extract from the Rules of the IFTU governing this relationship; it contained among others the following provision:

Art.36, Par.g.:

Unions forming part of the International Secretariats and belonging to national centres unaffiliated with the IFTU shall use their influence with these national bodies with a view to their joining the International Federation of Trade Unions.

In view of the fact that in this provision a onesided obligation is imposed on the ITS, we proposed at the IFTU Congress in London (July 1936) the following addition to the article of the Rules in question:

Likewise the national trade union centres affiliated with the IFTU shall use their influence with those of their affiliated unions which are not affiliated with the appropriate International Trade Secretariat to secure such affiliation.

Both the General Council of the IFTU and the International Trade Union Congress adopted this proposal.

THE QUESTION OF THE AMALGAMATION
of the

POTTERY, GLASS, AND FACTORY WORKERS' INTERNATIONALS

POTTERY WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL

There is unfortunately not yet much likelihood of amalgamation with this International. In connection with this question the International Congresses of Pottery Workers held at Copenhagen in 1929 and at Paris in 1934 gave the following instructions to their Executive:

1929

to discuss thoroughly and as soon as possible the advisability and the requisite conditions for amalgamation with the International Federations of Glass Workers and Factory Workers or with one or other of these federations, and if occasion arises to arrange for negotiations with the executive bodies of these international federations with a view to preparing the way for fusion

Again, in 1934

to discuss as soon as possible the advisability and the requisite conditions for amalgamation with the International Federation of Glass Workers and Factory Workers or with one or other of these federations, and to investigate

with the executive bodies of these international federations the groundwork for the preparation of a fusion.

On 7 and 8 July 1936 a meeting was held at Copenhagen of the Executive of the Pottery Workers' International which decided to adopt in regard to the question of amalgamation with these two Internationals (Factory and Glass Workers), for the time being, a waiting attitude. In July 1937 the IX International Congress of Pottery Workers is to be held at Hanley (Great Britain). This Congress will also occupy itself with the amalgamation question, among other things.

THE AFFILIATION OF GLASS WORKERS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH THE FACTORY WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL

The question of the amalgamation of the Pottery, Glass, and Factory Workers' Internationals entered a new stage when owing to the events in Germany in the early months of 1933 the Glass Workers' International practically ceased to exist. In the absence of any governing body competent to call an international meeting of Glass Workers this was finally done by the IFTU.

On 9 May 1935, at the invitation and under the chairmanship of W. Schevenels, the General Secretary of the IFTU, delegates from the organized Glass Workers of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Holland, Norway, and Sweden met in conference at Paris and, as the result of their deliberations, unanimously adopted the following decision:

"The delegates of the organized glass workers of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Holland, Norway and Sweden, meeting in Paris on the 9th May, decided that:

1. International contact and regular relations should be resumed between the glassworkers of the different countries who formerly belonged to the International Federation of Glassworkers.

2. This contact will be assured provisionally and for a limited period by the IFTU Secretariat, which can consult three technical advisers to be appointed from Belgium, Czechoslovakia and France.

3. The national Unions of Glassworkers shall be consulted by the IFTU on all questions of an occupational or international nature which require a decision.

4. The IFTU will take the initiative in negotiating with the three Internationals of Factory Workers, Pottery Workers and Glassworkers for the speediest possible amalgamation. The first draft of conditions for the fusion shall be submitted by the IFTU to the national Unions of Glassworkers.

5. The national Unions of Glassworkers promise to pay to the IFTU Secretariat a contribution to cover the costs incurred by the work done in the interests of the Glassworkers.

6. Within one year at the most a report will be laid before a properly convened international meeting on the results obtained, the international activities of the glassworkers under the auspices of the IFTU and in any case on the results of the IFTU's efforts for the ultimate amalgamation with the International Trade Secretariats mentioned in 4."

In accordance with Point 4 of this decision preliminary discussions with representatives of the three Internationals on the amalgamation were held at Paris on 19 December 1935, also under the chairmanship of the General Secretary of the IFTU.

The three Internationals were represented as follows:
Factory Workers: F.J.Jurgens, P.Fassin, and K.de Jonge.
Glass Workers: J.Stokes (Great Britain), K.Viktora (Czechoslovakia), E.Gryson and H.Caprasse (Belgium).
Pottery Workers: E.Roll (Czechoslovakia) and F.Rippen (Holland).

The IFTU submitted to the meeting as material for its deliberations some proposals which might serve as a basis on which the amalgamation could be carried out.

After the general debate the three Glass Workers' delegates had a separate meeting as a result of which the proposal quoted below was afterwards submitted to the main meeting and unanimously adopted by the delegates of the three Internationals:

P r o p o s a l

of the Glassworkers' Delegates to the Conference of the 19th December, 1935, regarding Fusion of the Glass Workers' International with the Factory Workers' International. (Unanimously adopted by the Conference)

During the Conference of the Factory, Glass and Pottery Workers' Internationals, the three Glassworkers' Delegates having heard the statements made during the general debate by representatives of the three Internationals, agreed among themselves in a separate meeting on the following proposals:

(1) The three delegates noted first of all that the decisions of the International Glassworkers' Conference in Paris on the 9th May, 1935, empowered them to go into proposals for amalgamation with the Factory Workers' International, to agree to such proposals and submit them as a definite motion to the different National Unions.

(2) It was again noted that there was unanimity in favour of the fusion.

(3) It was decided to put the following conditions before the National Unions, asking them to give their views before the end of February 1936.

Affiliation shall take place from the 1st June, 1936. Should important objections to the proposals be raised by the National Unions, an International Glass Workers' Conference will be called for April to take a final decision on these proposals.

This Conference would be held in Prague.

Affiliation fees of 35 French centimes per member per annum were decided on.

Supplementary to the general rules of the Factory Workers' International, it was agreed that until the next Congress, the Glassworkers' Technical Committee shall be composed provisionally as follows: President: Stokes (Great Britain), three other members to be appointed by Belgium, Sweden and Czechoslovakia, and the last-named member to be a member of the Factory Workers' International Executive. The Secretary of the Factory Workers' International will act as Secretary to the Technical Committee.

Expenses: The question of expenses was decided as follows: The Factory Workers' International bears the full expenses of the President of the Technical Committee. For the three other members of the Technical Committee, fares and travelling expenses are to be borne by their own organizations, while the allowances for the days of meeting will be borne by the Factory

Workers' International. The Factory Workers' International also bears the full expenses of the Executive Member representing the Glassworkers for attendance at Executive Meetings.

In view of this result the IFTU continued its efforts to bring about the amalgamation of the Factory and Glass Workers' Internationals. As a result of these efforts only the two Czechoslovakian Glass Workers' unions declared themselves against an immediate amalgamation with our International. The unions in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Holland, Norway, and Sweden declared for an immediate fusion with the Factory Workers, considering further meetings on the amalgamation question to be superfluous. The French union of Glass Workers did not reply to the letters of the IFTU. The Swiss Glass Workers intimated that they did not intend to take part in the negotiations as they were affiliated with the Building and Wood Workers' International and intended to remain so.

On examining the situation as it then stood, the IFTU General Council came to the conclusion that it was not in a position to make any definite decision, but that from then onwards it would have to leave it entirely to the discretion of the Glass Workers' unions whether they were to affiliate with the Factory Workers' International or not, i.e., therefore, that a past membership on the part of these unions of the former Glass Workers' International need no longer constitute an objection to such affiliation.

This decision of the General Council of the IFTU served us as an opportunity to get into touch immediately with all Glass Workers' unions in Europe. On 5 May 1936 we invited all these unions by letter - referring them to the ruling of the IFTU General Council - to affiliate to our International.

Since then, up to the end of 1936, the following unions have sent written confirmation of the affiliation of the Glass Workers to the Factory Workers' International:

- (1) The Union of Building and Wood Workers and Workers in Various Industries in Belgium, Brussels.
- (2) The Netherlands Factory Workers' Union, Amsterdam.
- (3) The General Labour Union of Slovenia, Ljubljana.
- (4) The Norwegian Chemical Workers' Union, Oslo,
- (5) The Swedish Union of Factory and General Workers, Stockholm.

Besides these the British Federation of Glass Workers (whose members belong to various unions) and, on 1 January 1937 the Finnish Glass Workers' Union have joined our International.

The workers in automatic glass works in Denmark, organized with the Danish General Workers' Union, and the organizations in Palestine and Poland, which include Glass Workers, were already -- in respect of their Glass Workers as well -- affiliate to our International.

Glass Workers' unions or unions of Factory Workers containing Glass Workers in ten countries in all now belong to our International.

In its letter of application for affiliation, the British Federation of Glass Workers recalled the provision contained in the fusion proposal relating to the Trade Group of the Glass Workers and the representation of Glass Workers on the Executive of the Factory Workers' International, and enquired whether this provision was to be applied.

On the occasion of its meeting at Oslo in August 1936 the Executive went into this question and came to the following conclusions:

- (1) In formulating the provision relating to safeguarding the trade interests of Glass Workers the representatives of the Glass Workers at the Conference of December 1935 acted on the assumption that all Glass Workers' unions were going to affiliate.
- (2) Instead of 32,000 Glass Workers, a far smaller number has joined.
- (3) Owing to the non-affiliation of the two Czechoslovakian unions it is not possible to include a Czech representative in the Executive.
- (4) The basis for fusion agreed on in Paris on 19 December 1935 has to be submitted to the International Congress of Factory Workers to be held in 1937. It will be for this Congress to investigate as to how, in spite of the smaller number of Glass Workers affiliated, the trade interests of this group can be provided for notwithstanding.

The provisional standpoint of the Executive has been communicated by letter to the British Federation of Glass Workers for their information.

Meanwhile we are continuing our efforts to gain the Glass Workers' organizations which have not yet joined the International for affiliation. R. Tayerle, Member of the General Council of the IFTU, has, at our request, had another discussion with the two Czechoslovakian Glass Workers' unions, but it did not yield any result.

THE QUESTION OF SENDING A DELEGATION TO SOVIET RUSSIA.

During the last two years, until the opening of the trial of Kameneff, Zinovieff, and those accused with them, a slight rapprochement indubitably began to be noticeable between the Soviet Union and Western Europe. The Soviet Union had become a member of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Office, and the projected new Constitution made the impression of being something more than a mere consolidation of the dominant positions of the Russian Communist Party and its General Secretary.

In view of these facts the question of a study visit to the Soviet Union was raised at the Executive Meeting at Brussels in September 1935. Its aim would be to investigate the situation of workers in the Chemical and Paper-Making Industries. An exchange of views took place which, in spite of objections expressed or admitted by more than one of the members, led to the conclusion that it would be of great value to the Executive Committee and to the affiliated organizations if they could get an opportunity of studying the situation of the Russian Factory Workers on the spot.

The International Secretariat was instructed to ascertain whether a free investigation was possible and to report its findings to the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in 1936.

It was further agreed that - in case the visit materialized - the delegation should consist of one representative of each affiliated organization prepared to undertake to meet travelling and hotel expenses for a delegate, and that the President and the International Secretary should accompany the delegation as representatives of the Executive Committee, together with the clerk of the International Secretariat as reporter.

Taking the opportunity presented by a correspondence then in progress with the International Chemical Workers' Committee at Moscow on the subject of an exchange of literature, the International Secretary subsequently broached the question of a study visit in a letter dated 30 April 1936, which ran as follows:

"At the meeting of our Executive Committee, held in Brussels in September last, a discussion took place on the industrial and social developments in Russia. The majority of the members agreed that tremendous progress has been made in Russia during the past seven or eight years in the sphere of industrialization. From various of the most recent publications about Soviet Russia we have further gained the conviction that the standard of welfare of the Russian people has also been considerably raised within recent years.

In view of these two circumstances the Executive Committee was of the opinion that it would be of the highest importance to the unions affiliated to our International if they could have an opportunity of studying the position of the workers in the various branches of the chemical and paper-making industries in Russia on the spot.

We realize that such an investigation requires thorough preparations and that a number of points need to be cleared up before it could be carried into effect. The first question is to whom are we to address ourselves for the purpose of organizing such a study visit. If you are able to answer this enquiry we should be very much obliged if you would let us hear from you on the matter."

In reply we received a letter from Moscow dated 4 July 1936 in the following terms:

"Dear Comrades,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of 30 April last to the International Committee of Chemical Workers and apologize for the delay in answering.

We welcome the decision of your Executive regarding the visit of a delegation to our country and shall be glad to receive you as our guests.

We share your view that such a visit should be carefully organized and prepared and on this side shall do our utmost to ensure its success.

As to the date of the arrival of your delegation, we should like to suggest, without obligation on your part, the Anniversary of the Great Proletarian Revolution, the days of the October festivities, in the belief that these days will be of interest to you.

We are sure that the proposed visit will strengthen your conviction as to the results and achievements of the working people of the Soviet Union and that an oral exchange of views cannot but meet the wishes of the members alike of your and our organization and redound to the benefit of the trade-union movement of all countries.

We hope to have an early answer to this letter, and remain,

Yours fraternally,

(sgd) Shanaev
Egorova
Ivanov
Tshekandin."

The signatories are the Presidents of the Central Committee of the Glass, Rubber, Paper, Artificial Fertilizer, and Soda Industries.

The international Secretary laid this correspondence before the Executive Committee at its meeting at Oslo in August 1936, pointing out that all the preparations for a successful visit had yet to be made. He also drew attention to the fact that a delegation of ten persons sent by the Norwegian Chemical Workers' Union, which is affiliated to our International had visited Russia in the spring of 1936.

The Executive Meeting at Oslo happened to take place during the trial of Zinovieff, Kameneff, and the others. All the members of the Executive Committee expressed horror at the result of this trial and the immediate execution of the sixteen accused, and took up the standpoint that it would be necessary to await further developments before the question of sending a delegation to Soviet Russia could be proceeded further with.

The decision of the Executive Committee was communicated to the Russian Workers' Unions in a letter dated 8 September 1936.

Since then there has been another exchange of letters between the Russian unions and our International Secretariat. These letters are reproduced in full below:

"Amsterdam, 8 September 1936.

To: The Central Committee of the Union of Workers
in the Glass Industry,
MOSCOW, Soljanka 12, Room 212.

THE SENDING OF AN DELEGATION TO RUSSIA TO STUDY THE SITUATION
OF CHEMICAL AND PAPER WORKERS.

Your letter of 4 July 1936, in which you replied to ours of 30 April 1936 jointly on behalf of the Unions of Workers in the Glass Industry, the Rubber Industry, the Paper-Making Industry and the Artificial Fertilizer and Soda Products Industry, came duly to hand, and we thank you for the invitation it contained.

The question of sending a delegation to Russia, after having been discussed, as you are aware, as early as September 1935 at a meeting of our Executive Committee in Brussels, was to have been gone further into at the Executive Meeting held at Oslo from 23 to 25 August. The matter appeared as a separate item on the agenda of the abovementioned meeting, but the debate on it took an unexpected course. This was due to the fact that just at that time the trial at Moscow of Kameneff and Zinovieff and those accused with them had come to an end, and the accused had been sentenced and executed.

This trial of Kameneff, Zinovieff, and the others, though it confronts us with great enigmas, has deeply shocked our democratic feelings and those of the workers of Western Europe, and our Executive has therefore deemed it desirable to adjourn indefinitely the deliberations on the question as to whether a delegation should be sent to the U.S.S.R. for the purpose of studying the situation of Chemical and Paper Workers there.

We communicate the above decision to you for your information, and for the present can only assure you that we shall continue to follow developments in the Soviet Union with great attention and without prejudice.

With Trade Unionist greetings,
On behalf of the Executive,
(Signed) K.de Jonge,
Secretary.

"Moscow, 10 December 1936.

To: The International Federation of Factory Workers' Unions,
AMSTERDAM
for the attention of the Secretary, K.de Jonge.

Dear Comrades,

We hereby acknowledge receipt of your valued letter of 8 September 1936 and duly note that the question of your sending a delegation to the Soviet Union has been adjourned.

As you have mentioned the reasons for your decision we also feel obliged to inform you of our opinion on your motivation thereof. You write: "This trial of Kameneff, Zinovieff, and the others, though it confronts us with an enigma, has deeply shocked our democratic feelings and those of the workers of Western Europe." Here there is an obvious contradiction, for if the trial is an enigma to you, the very first thing to do would be to obtain a thorough knowledge of the facts, and not until then to draw conclusions from them. Without entering into any argument on the real nature of the

case we are sending you by the same post a detailed official report on the trial in the German language.

To enable yourselves to form an accurate judgement of our Law Courts - the Courts of the Proletarian State - we would advise you to acquaint yourselves with the article of the distinguished English jurist, D.N.Pritt, who attended the trial of the Trotskyist - Zinovieffist Terrorist Centre; this report was published in the "Daily Worker" newspaper of 3 September; the issue in question has been forwarded to you by the same post.

We feel sure that a study of the literature sent will enable you to form a correct opinion on the trial and on the Soviet Court, whose verdict gives expression to the will and the attitude of all the workers of the U.S.S.R.

With Trade Unionist greetings,
(Signed by the Presidents of the Unions of
the Glass, Rubber, and Dye Industries)."

"Amsterdam, 29 January 1937.

To: The Central Committee of the Union of Workers in the Glass
Industry,

Soljanka 12, Room 212, MOSCOW.

We thank you for your letter of 10 December 1936, contents of which we have carefully noted.

It is natural and understandable that you should criticize the sentence: "This trial of Kameneff, Zinovieff, and the others, although it confronts us with great enigmas, has deeply shocked our democratic feelings and those of the workers of Western Europe..."; but it is only natural and understandable in view of the fact that countless misunderstandings caused by a variety of circumstances exist between the workers of West European countries and those of Soviet Russia; these misunderstandings are beyond the scope of a letter. For their proper examination it would be needful, not only for delegations of Western European workers to make journeys from time to time to Russia, but equally for delegations of Russian workers to have the opportunity of gaining a thorough insight into conditions in Western Europe, and of getting better acquainted with the mentality of the Western European worker.

The accused in the trial which resulted in the sentencing and execution of sixteen persons at the end of August were, after all, as are those in the trial at present in progress, old revolutionaries, who were among the closer - some of them the closest - collaborators of Lenin.

Is it so surprising, then, that we in Western Europe are asking ourselves: What does all this really mean? Can these people really have done all they have been accused of, and have a large number of those who were formerly among the closest collaborators of Lenin thus turned bandits and traitors? Or, if this is not the case, were and are such a large number of the former close collaborators of Lenin such cowards as to confess to crimes they never committed?

As we already wrote once before, we have a very great admiration for many aspects of the very rapid economic progress in your country. We also believe that in many respects cultural work of an exemplary nature is being done in Russia, but things like the political trials as they are conducted in your country are quite beyond our comprehension, and these trials will (much to our regret) certainly lead to further delay in the attainment of a better understanding between the workers of Russia and those of Western Europe.

Meanwhile we remain, with Socialist greetings,
(Signed) K.de Jonge,

Secretary."

In Russia the respective figures for employed and organized workers in industries coming within the scope of our Factory Workers' unions were in 1936 as follows:

	Number of workers	
	Employed	Organized
Sugar Industry	150,000	(1) 120,000
Artificial Fertilizer and Soda Industry	51,000	46,000
Cement Industry	?	61,000
Rubber and Rubber Goods Industry	102,000	100,000
Nitrogen Industry	?	(2)
Dye and Pharmaceutical Industry	?	80,000
Mineral Oil Industry	?	75,000
Glass Industry	123,000	100,000
China Industry	44,000	43,000

(1) Permanently employed 93,000.

(2) 94% of all the workers employed.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

AT GENEVA

Our relations with the International Labour Office and the International Labour Organization in general have of recent years become considerably closer. This has been due above all to the movement for the international reduction of hours of work, which is also of great importance to industries within our field of activity (see sections on the reduction of hours of work in the Chemical Industry and in the Margarine, Oil, and Soap Industry); but the transaction of this business does not exhaust our intercourse with "Geneva". On repeated occasions there have been mutual exchanges of information between the International Labour Office and ourselves.

In his capacity of member of the Committee of Experts on Questions relating to Female Labour set up by the International Labour Office in 1932, the International Secretary instituted in 1933, at the request of the International Labour Office, an investigation on the substitution of women for men and vice versa in industrial establishments. The data on this subject compiled by affiliated organizations were passed on to the International Labour Office and published in the Bulletin for May and June 1933 (of the section on: "Sundry information supplied" in this Year Book).

On the other hand the International Labour Office renders us service by sending us its various and frequently to us extremely interesting periodical publications, as well as its no less important studies and reports.

In our movements for the reduction of hours of work in the Chemical Industry and in the Margarine, Oil, and Soap Industry the Workers' Group in the Governing Body of the ILO has always supported and furthered our endeavours in every respect. Intercourse with Geneva would certainly not proceed so smoothly if there were not, attached to the International Labour Office, a Workers' Organizations Service, whose chief A. Staal, is also at our service in word and deed at every opportunity. Our best thanks are due both to the Workers' Group in the Governing Body and to Comrade Staal.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

THE BULLETIN

Like our International itself the Bulletin has been made to feel during the period under review the consequences of the political events in certain countries.

After a reduction in the size of the Bulletin to eight pages per number decided on by the Executive, as one of a number of economy measures, as early as the end of November 1932, it began from January 1934 onwards, owing to the decreased income caused by the loss of the German union, to be issued bi-monthly instead of monthly, although the number of pages was then again increased.

In 1933, moreover, on account of pressure of work in connection with the preparations for the Fifth International Congress, the publication of three numbers was interfered with, so that in that year only nine numbers were issued.

The editions of the Bulletin in 1936 were: German 165, Danish 165, English 100, and French 70 copies. The German edition was reduced owing to the loss of the unions in Germany and Austria. The English edition was somewhat increased, while the number of copies supplied in exchange for other papers from other continents is slowly growing.

The numbers of pages contained by the German edition in the four years under review were respectively 75, 61, 61, and 65; the numbers of pages for the three other languages were about the same.

Besides in the countries affiliated, the Bulletin was read in Luxemburg, Roumania, and Russia, and further in the United States, Canada, Palestine, British India, China, South Africa, and New Zealand.

When in 1933 the German Union of Factory Workers dropped out, the Bulletin thereby lost some faithful contributors. Since then we have had to do much more writing for the Bulletin ourselves.

In the last three years less attention has been paid in the Bulletin to the Paper Making Industry than before. This is due to the fact that the various sections of the Chemical Industry have required more space since 1935, not to mention the reduced size of the Bulletin itself. It is intended shortly, however, to publish again in the Bulletin from time to time a review of the situation in the Paper-Making Industry.

There are but few unions that reproduce a Bulletin article now and again in their own trade union papers. We consider this very regrettable, for if the international consciousness and the international feelings of the General Factory Workers are to be preserved and strengthened it is needful not only for members of the Executive Committee and some other union officers but also for the rank and file membership of all affiliated organizations to be informed as fully and as often as possible on the more important happenings among their fellow workers in other countries.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Since the closing of the previous Year Book reports have been published on wages and conditions of work in the Match Industry and in the Margarine and Oil Industry, and three reports on the Chemical Industry (cf. the sections relating to these industries).

MISCELLANEOUS

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DUTCH FACTORY WORKERS' UNIONS AND THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES

Holland exports to England certain quantities of some of its best sorts of facing-bricks. Owing to the unfavourable economic conditions in Holland the Brickmaking Industry in particular has been going through very difficult times, and this led in 1934 and 1935 to a number of Dutch brick fields cutting each others' prices in the English market. The employers in the Brickmaking Industry were obviously not capable of taking any measures themselves to prevent this abuse, and there were signs that the wage standard of the Brick Workers, which had already fallen a good deal during the previous years, might become seriously jeopardized. The Dutch unions concerned, viz.

our affiliated Dutch Factory Workers' Union,
The Protestant Christian Factory Workers' Union, and the
Roman Catholic Brick Workers' Union
therefore sent in July 1935 a delegation to Great Britain to discuss with the British Federation of Building Trade Operatives the possibility of coming to an agreement under which the British Building Operatives would only handle Dutch bricks bearing a certain symbol. The delegation had also instructions to ascertain whether a central depot could be set up in England via which all shipments of bricks exported from Holland might be distributed, so that in this way price-cutting might be prevented.

The clerk of our Secretariat made the necessary preparations for the journey of the delegation and (at the expense of the three Dutch unions co-operating in this matter) accompanied it to England as interpreter.

At first it seemed as if the agreement proposed by the British Federation of Building Trade Operatives would be more difficult to carry out than the establishment of central depots in Holland and England to co-ordinate and supervise the traffic in bricks between the two countries. As the more optimistic expectations of this possibility were not realized, our Dutch Factory Workers' Union got into touch again with the British Federation of Building Trade Operatives in the autumn of 1936 to discuss the conclusion of an agreement aiming to prevent as far as possible the importation of bricks coming from brick field firms which are no longer parties to the collective contract that has been in existence for some years, and which have forced unfavourable conditions of labour upon their workers.

THE SCOPE OF AFFILIATED FACTORY WORKERS' AND CHEMICAL WORKERS' UNIONS

The International Congress at Prague (September 1933) instructed the Executive Committee to investigate as to how the scope of unions affiliated to the International is determined, taking into consideration the question of those Chemical Industries in which certain groups of workers, e.g. the Metal Workers in repair shops, power stations, etc., are organized in other unions.

Owing to much work of another sort there was great delay in carrying out this investigation. The results were communicated, however, to all affiliated organizations in the course of January, 1937.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

It is known that the International Labour Conference of 1935 adopted a Convention on Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases, which was confined for the time, as far as concerned the Chemical Industry, to diseases caused by lead and mercury.

The International Labour Conference of 1934 extended this Convention to cover the following occupational diseases:

- (1) Silicosis.
- (2) Phosphorus poisoning by phosphorus or its compounds, and its sequelae.
- (3) Arsenic poisoning by arsenic or its compounds, and its sequelae.
- (4) Poisoning by benzene or its homologues, their nitro- and amido-derivatives, and its sequelae.
- (5) Poisoning by the halogen derivatives of hydrocarbons of the aliphatic series.
- (6) Pathological manifestations due to:
 - (a) Radium and other radio-active substances.
 - (b) X-rays.
- (7) Primary epitheliomatous cancer of the skin.

Meanwhile the Correspondence Committee on Industrial Hygiene has proposed further extensions of the Convention in question.

At its meeting in October 1935 it proposed the inclusion of asbestosis; skin diseases caused by cement, mineral oils, turpentine, lacquers and varnishes, alkalis, poisonous varieties of wood, etc.; poisoning by carbonic disulphide and manganese,

and inflammations caused by chromium, compounds of arsenic, etc.

At its meeting in September 1936 it also proposed the inclusion of diseased conditions of the skin caused by chlorine and its compounds.

The Committee further recommended at the latter meeting that acute poisoning by nitrous exhalations should be compensated for as an accident. The question of chronic poisoning by nitrous exhalations and injuries to the mucous membranes was adjourned to another meeting.

Presumably the Governing Body of the I.L.O. will put these recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Hygiene before one of the next meetings of the ILC.

SUNDRY INFORMATION SUPPLIED

The International Secretariat was not called upon during the period under review to supply information on various points so frequently as in the years from 1929 to 1932.

Data were supplied to the IFTU, for the use of the British TUC, on the alterations that had occurred since the end of 1931 in wages and conditions of work in the Jute Sack Industry in Belgium.

To the national centre of the Jewish workers in Palestine we sent, in the autumn of 1934, some collective agreements for bottle works in Holland and Germany.

The Chemical Workers' Union with headquarters at Prague was provided at its request with a detailed account of wages and conditions of work for workers in the Artificial Silk Industry in Holland.

The Dutch Factory Workers' Union, Amsterdam, was in the autumn of 1936 given information on the cost of living, rents, etc., in London.

In the course of 1936 the ILO asked for information on the extent to which, in two of the industries within the scope of our International, men and women doing similar work under the same conditions were not receiving the same wages. It also enquired regarding the home conditions and home burdens of women employed in two of our industries.

We sent out a detailed circular to all affiliated organizations on this subject. The number of cases of men and women performing similar work under the same conditions and not receiving the same wages seems, however, to be very small. The replies to our circular contained mention of only one such a case. In some laundries in Palestine employing in all 22 men and 25 women, the ironing of shirts and underclothing, etc., is performed by both men and women; for this work the men are paid 300 mils a day, while the women receive only from 200 to 275 mils.

The question of the family conditions and family burdens of women in employment is one which has not up to now, apparently, been thoroughly examined into by any of the affiliated organizations. We freely admit that a study of this problem would occupy a great deal of time, particularly as it would be necessary for this purpose to get a special questionnaire filled in by every woman member.

The ILO was informed of the results of our investigations.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION
AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF TRADE DEPRESSION

It is often asserted nowadays in employers' circles that unemployment has greatly decreased during the last few years, and that in view of this the question of a reduction of working hours has lost its significance.

To show how erroneous this assertion is, we have included in this section a table under the heading of: The Development of Unemployment since 1929. In this table the latest unemployment figures are compared with those of the worst crisis years and also with those of 1929.

The figures appearing in the table are mainly derived from ILO publications, which in turn are based on the most reliable sources, generally of an official character. In spite of this they only give an approximate idea of the extent and development of unemployment. Statistics in this connection are in their infancy in many countries. The basis of calculation has in several countries undergone alterations during these years. The extent to which they vary from one country to another will be seen from the supplementary comments on this point. In all countries there exists not only visible but also invisible unemployment; consequently most of the figures fall short of the actual facts.

In cases in which two widely differing sets of figures calculated on a different basis were available, figures obtained from the two series have been given.

The countries for which statistics are available have been grouped as follows:

- (A) The four great industrial States of Europe (excluding Russia).
- (B) A number of smaller but relatively highly industrialized countries.
- (C) The three Scandinavian States.
- (D) The Baltic States, Poland, Hungary, the Balkan States (all more or less agricultural).
- (E) A few extra-European States.

Comments (01) to (14) on the table on page

- (01) Unemployed registered at the Labour Exchanges.
- (02) Unemployed maintained by public funds.
- (03) Persons seeking employment registered at the Labour Exchanges.
- (04) "Totally unemployed" and "temporarily unemployed."
- (05) Totally unemployed.
- (06) Totally unemployed including short time workers converted to terms of totally unemployed.
- (07) Number of unemployed according to Unemployment Insurance statistics.
- (08) Unemployed receiving benefit according to Unemployment Insurance statistics.
- (09) Percentage of unemployed according to Unemployment Insurance statistics.
- (10) Number of unemployed according to trade union statistics.
- (11) Persons seeking employment registered by the "Unemployment Committees".
- (12) Official estimate of number of unemployed.
- (13) Estimates of the American Federation of Labor.
- (14) Unemployed men on the registers of the Labour Exchanges.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE 1929

Country	Basis of calculation (cf. comment (1-14) on page 49)	Average for the year	Average for the worst crisis year		Last known yearly average		Lowest Monthly average		Last known in the year 1936	
			1929	Year	Number	Year	Number	Month	Number	Month
A Germany	(01)	1,678,825	1932	5,575,491	-	-	-	-	-	-
" France	(02)	928	1936	432,120	-	(15)	-	-	-	-
" "	(03)	10,052	1936	475,224	-	(15)	-	-	-	-
" Great Britain	(04)	1,262,491	1932	2,845,395	-	1,748,966	-	-	-	-
" Italy	(05)	300,786	1933	1,018,955	(17)	609,094	-	-	-	-
B Belgium	(06)	12,636	1934	234,730	1936	154,531	-	-	-	-
" Holland	(01)	-	1936	414,400	-	(15)	-	-	-	-
" "	(07)	24,300	1935	173,673	1936	168,668	-	-	-	-
" Austria	(08)	164,509	1933	328,844	"	259,185	-	-	-	-
" Switzerland	(09)	3 1/2%	1932	21.3%	1935	17.7%	June	15.6%	Nov.	15.9%
" "	(03)	8,131	1936	93,009	-	(15)	-	-	-	-
" Czechoslovakia	(03)	41,330	1933	738,310	1936	622,687	-	-	-	-
C Denmark	(07)	42,817	1932	99,508	"	79,148	-	-	-	-
" Norway	(01)	19,089	1935	36,103	"	32,643	-	-	-	-
" Sweden	(10)	32,621	1933	97,316	1935	81,385	July	47,812	Nov.	67,869
" "	(11)	10,212	"	164,773	"	61,581	"	21,510	"	28,742
D Estonia	(01)	3,181	"	8,207	1936	1,276	-	-	-	-
" Finland	(01)	-	1932	63,972	1935	13,362	Aug.	996	Oct.	3,097
" Latvia	(03)	5,617	"	14,587	1936	3,845	-	-	-	-
" Poland	(03)	129,450	1935	381,935	-	(15)	Sept.	265,954	Nov.	339,395
" Hungary	(03)	15,173	1932	66,235	1935	52,048	July	46,713	"	50,371
" Bulgaria	(12)	-	1935	38,148	-	(15)	Nov.	(16)	"	17,586
" Jugoslavia	(01)	8,370	1936	19,436	-	(15)	-	-	-	-
" Rumania	(01)	7,288	1932	38,890	1935	13,852	Aug.	7,496	Sept.	8,852
E United States	(13)	1,864,000	1933	13,723,000	1935	12,208,000	Nov.	(16)	Nov.	9,004,000
" Japan	(12)	-	1932	485,681	1935	356,103	Sept.	(16)	Sept.	324,000
" Australia	(10)	47,359	"	120,454	1935	71,823	Aug.	(16)	Aug.	52,482
" New Zealand	(14)	2,895	"	51,549	"	38,234	Nov.	(16)	Nov.	42,341

(15) Cf. previous column.

(16) Cf. next column.

(17) September 1935

What is shown by this table?

In 1936 unprecedented unemployment was experienced by:

FRANCE The first three of these countries retained the
HOLLAND gold standard until the autumn of 1936. In Switzer-
SWITZERLAND land, according to unemployment insurance sta-
YUGOSLAVIA tistics, the percentage of unemployed in 1935 (the
figures for 1936 are not yet available) was some-
what lower than in 1932 and 1933, but the labour exchange
statistics show for 1936 a larger number of persons seeking
employment than ever before.

NORWAY In 1935 the average unemployment reached its
BULGARIA highest point. In Bulgaria it decreased very
POLAND greatly in 1936; in the other two countries the
decrease was not so great.

GREAT BRITAIN In various parts of the country great techno-
logical unemployment has prevailed since early post-war years.
The unemployment figure has never fallen below the million.
In 1936 the volume of production was greater than in 1929, but
in spite of this the number of unemployed was also greater by
no less than half a million.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA In 1936, in spite of a slight decrease since
1933, unemployment was incomparably greater than in 1929.

UNITED STATES Unemployment decreased considerably, particular-
ly in 1936; nevertheless the figure in November 1936 was five
times as great as that of the average for 1929.

JAPAN Since 1932 unemployment has decreased; comparison with
1929 is not possible as no figures are available for that year.

ITALY has published no unemployment statistics since the
autumn of 1935.

GERMANY Estimates independent of the Hitler-censorship vary
considerably.

"Fascism", the publication of the International
Transport Workers' Federation (23 January 1937) gives the
following estimate:

Registered unemployed	1,200,000
"Invisible" non-registered unemployed	2,600,000
"Hidden" " "	<u>1,600,000</u>

Total	<u>5,400,000</u>
-------	------------------

BELGIUM
DENMARK
AUSTRIA
SWEDEN
HUNGARY
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND

Unemployment is decreasing. In Belgium, however, it was still many times greater in 1936 than in 1929. The other countries in this group are also far from having regained the level of 1929.

ESTHONIA
FINLAND
LATVIA
ROUMANIA

It is only in these countries, which are of lesser industrial importance, and since 1935 in Bulgaria, that the unemployment situation shows a marked improvement.

THE QUESTION OF THE REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK

This section contains:

- (a) A survey of the hours of work in the Chemical Industry and in kindred industries in several countries.
- (b) A summary of the most important decisions of the International Labour Movement and of the International Labour Organization at Geneva regarding the question of the reduction of hours of work.
- (c) (Included in the abovementioned summary) a sketch of the events which have necessitated the movement for the reduction of hours of work at Geneva being carried on in recent years industry by industry; so that in the industries within the scope of the Factory Workers' unions the movement has also had to be carried on separately.

The endeavours of our International Secretariat to further the reduction of hours of work in Margarine, Oil, and Soap works and in the Chemical Industry in general are dealt with in the sections on these industries.

(Cf. also the reports of the affiliated organizations in Part III of this Year Book).

It is to be hoped that later generations will one day think that in Industry and in Commerce the transition from the 48-hour to the 40-hour working week came rapidly about. We who have seen around us for years the mental and physical distress attendant upon mass unemployment, and who know that - in spite of the industrial revival in some countries - there are even now in Europe and America alone many millions (probably a good deal more than 20 millions) of visible and invisible unemployed, can only say that progress towards the reduction of working hours is painfully slow.

Early in 1931 the International Labour Movement advanced its claim for the 40-hour week, and about the same time occurred the first cases of enlightened employers in Germany (1) and in

America (2) introducing the six-hour day, in conjunction, also, with the four-shift system, into their works. Since then more than six years have elapsed.

In the first years of the world trade depression it was probably Germany and the United States that accounted for most of the not very frequent cases of the introduction of the 40 or 42-hour working week, these being the very countries in which unemployment had assumed the most disastrous dimensions. Germany had an average in 1932 of over 5 1/2 million unemployed, while the average for the United States in 1933 was over 13 1/2 million.

At the end of 1931 the I.G.Farbenindustrie A.G. introduced the six-hour day with four shifts into those departments of its works at Leverkusen which worked continuously. During 1932 the hours of labour in nearly all the works of this Chemical Trust were reduced to what amounted to a working week of about forty hours, so that since the end of 1932 about 95% of the total staff of this Trust has been working reduced hours, chiefly in the shape of the five-day week.

In Great Britain the Transport and General Workers' Union, London, came to an agreement in September 1932 with Mander Bros. of Wolverhampton, manufacturers of paints, pigments, varnishes, and inks, for the reduction of the working week from 47 hours to 40 hours.

Two cases of much more recent date, which attracted more public notice, however, were the introduction in the well-known pharmaceutical works of Boot's Pure Drug Company, Nottingham (April 1934) and in the soap factories of the Uniliver Combine (January 1936) of a five-day week of 42 1/2 working hours.

In Great Britain, it may be added, the reduction of hours of work was carried out without any wage cuts.

- (1) Two large oil works at Harburg (cf. Bulletin for January 1931)
- (2) The well-known food factories of the Kellogg Company at Battlecreek (cf. Bulletin for February 1932).

HOURS OF WORK IN A NUMBER OF CHEMICAL AND KINDRED INDUSTRIES

We have endeavoured to collect from various sources - chiefly, however, from the "Year Book of Labour Statistics 1935-1936" published by the ILO - figures regarding the present hours of work in industries coming within the scope of the Factory or Chemical Workers' unions. But even the ILO does not possess really adequate data.

Figures are available from a number of important industrial States, viz., Germany, France, Italy, Poland, the United States, and Japan; there are also figures for Esthonia, Finland, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, and Hungary. Several reservations have to be made as to the reliability of these figures. In most cases they do not cover all the workers employed in the industries concerned. The delimitation of industries is by no means uniform in the various countries. The word "chemicals", for instance, is employed to cover entirely different products in different countries. Some countries apply it only to heavy chemical products, others use it to indicate all chemical products. The manner of compiling the data also varies from one country to

another. The surveys which follow, therefore, give only an approximate picture of the situation in the countries under consideration, and are not suitable for accurate international comparisons.

Firstly some data are given below from countries computing the average working hours per week.

AVERAGE WORKING HOURS PER WEEK IN A NUMBER
OF CHEMICAL AND KINDRED INDUSTRIES

Products	United States	Finland	Poland	Sweden			
	1934 April .	1936 July	1935(1)	1936 March	1933 November	1934	1935
Paper and Cardboard	37.1	40.-	46.8	44.9	45.8	47.2	47.7
Wood Pulp			(2)	(2)	46.5	47.2	47.6
Chemicals	39.1	39.7	46.-	44.3	45.2	46.7	46.9
Artificial Fertilizers	35.-	37.5	-	-	43.8	-	-
Paints & Var- nishes	39.5	41.5	-	-	-	--	-
Pigments, Oils & Perfumes					49.4	-	-
Rubber	-	37.2	-	-	47.6	-	-
Artificial Silk	37.7	38.7	-	-	-	-	-
Mineral Oil	35.8	35.4	(refining of mineral oils)			-	-
Explosives	36.1	38.1	-	-	46.5	-	-
Glass	34.7	35.4	-	-	45.3	46.6	47.6
Cement	35.3	39.3	-	-	-	-	-
Bricks & Tiles	32.8	42.1	(and terra cotta)			-	-

(1) Average for the year. (2) Presumably - though it is not stated in the materials available - the Wood Pulp Industry is included with the Paper Industry in Finland and Poland.

United States. Since the "codes" ceased to operate - though many firms have continued voluntarily to observe the working hours as regulated by them - most industries show an increase in working hours, as is seen from the above figures. Fuller data are given in our Report on the Question of Working Hours in the Chemical Industry, published in 1936.

Finland. The figures given represent half the average fortnightly working hours. In recent years there have been no great fluctuations, as appears from the following maximum and minimum figures:

AVERAGE FORTNIGHTLY WORKING HOURS

	1929	1933	1934	1935
Paper Making Industry	101.3	101.8	-	97.6
Chemical Industry	92.9	-	86.8	92.1

Poland. Here the fluctuations in working hours were somewhat greater, though we should not like to draw any conclusions from this fact:

AVERAGE DAILY WORKING HOURS

	1929	1932	1935	1936
	December			March
Paper Making Industry	46.1	40.7	44.6	44.9
Chemical Industry	48.5	44.-	45.-	44.3

Sweden. Comparative figures are only available in four cases. They indicate, however, that in Sweden also, probably on account of the decrease of short time, the average number of working hours has increased since 1933.

For Germany, Esthonia, Hungary, and Japan, figures are available regarding the

AVERAGE DAILY WORKING HOURS

	Esthonia		Hungary	
	Second Half-year		Average for the year	
	1928	1935	1928	1934
Paper	9.08	8.03	8.47	9.38
Chemicals	8.97	8.12	9.29	9.07

The figures for Esthonia refer only to men; those for women are somewhat lower.

In Hungary there are several industries in which longer hours were worked on an average in 1934 than in 1928. Conclusions can hardly be drawn, however, from the above figures.

AVERAGE DAILY WORKING HOURS

Products	Germany			Japan	
	1929	1933 June	1935	1932 December	1935
Paper	8.20	7.41	8.04	10.66	10.60
Chemicals	-	-	7.53	-	-
Chemical Products	-	-	-	9.07	9.10
Artificial Fertilizers	-	-	-	10.37	10.58
Paints and Pigments	-	-	-	9.40	9.82
Rubber	7.39	7.12	7.73	10.08	10.15
Pharmaceutical products	-	-	-	9.18	9.23
Glass	-	7.62	7.62	-	-
Ceramic products	-	-	6.98	-	-
Ceramic products, Glass and Building Materials	-	-	-	8.87	8.95

In Germany hours of work have increased a little since June 1933. The question as to how far these figures are reliable is left out of consideration here.

The well-known fact that hours of work are longer in Japan is also evident from the above figures.

PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS WITH A WORKING WEEK OF

- (A) less than 48 hours
 (B) 48 hours
 (C) over 48 hours

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
	<u>P e r c e n t a g e</u>		
<u>Austria, January 1936</u>			
Paper and Printing Trades	9.1	83.7	7.2
Chemical and Rubber Industries	13.8	78.4	7.8
<u>France, March 1936</u>			
Paper, Cardboard, and Rubber Industries	3.2	25.1	71.7
Chemical Industries	-9	21.5	77.6
Pottery Industry	7.2	28.6	64.2
<u>Italy, June 1934</u>			
Paper Making Industry	15.8	79.3	4.9
Rubber Industry	7.3	80.7	12.-
Artificial Silk Industry	21.-	73.7	5.3
Superphosphate Industry	5.4	90.2	4.4
<u>Italy, March 1935</u>			
Paper Making Industry	83.7	14.4	1.9
Rubber Industry	69.1	25.6	5.3
Artificial Silk Industry	81.-	16.9	2.1
Superphosphate Industry	89.2	7.3	3.5
<u>Switzerland, 3rd Quarter, 1934</u>			
Paper, Leather & Rubber Industries	31.3	68.7	-
Chemical Industries	25.9	73.5	-

This table shows at least a rather varied situation. Most noticeable from it is the fact that in France a movement for the reduction of working hours was urgently needed. It is to be hoped that the French trade unions will succeed in keeping the reductions in working hours obtained as a result of the great strike wave of 1936.

Italy. For this country the table shows the situation in the months of June 1934 and March 1935. In October 1934, in a number of industries, including the Chemical Industry, the hours of work were reduced to 40 a week, except for departments working continuously, in which the hours were reduced to 42 a week. As early as the summer of 1932 (when the Italian government representative in the Governing Body of the ILO at Geneva pressed for the speediest possible examination into the question of the reduction of hours of work) Italy was interested for reasons of internal policy in the reduction of working hours. In spite of this much longer hours are being worked, according to newspaper reports, in certain industries, especially in those concerned with armaments and war preparations.

DECISIONS, ETC., OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MOVEMENT AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION AT GENEVA REGARDING THE QUESTION OF THE REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK

After several unsuccessful efforts in this direction on the part of the Workers' Group in the Governing Body of the ILO and of other sections of the International Labour Movement, the Governing Body of the ILO was obliged, in the autumn of 1932, to put the question of the reduction of hours of work on the agenda of the ILC of 1933. It may be of use to record here the course of developments by setting down the various decisions, etc.

July 1930: The International Trade Union Congress at Stockholm declared for the 44-hour week as an intermediate stage on the way to further reduction of working hours.

September 1930. The IFTU requested the ILO to institute an enquiry into the practicability of the 44-hour week and the introduction of holidays for the workers.

January 1931. The Joint Unemployment Committee of the IFTU and the LSI raised the claim for the 40-hour (5-day) week.

April 1931. The General Council of the IFTU approved the decision of the Joint Unemployment Committee of the IFTU and the LSI and resolved that the 40-hour week should be claimed in principle by trade unions in all countries.

Autumn of 1931. A proposal by the Workers' Group in the Governing Body of the ILO that the question of the 40-hour week should be put on the agenda of the ILC for 1932 was rejected.

An alternative proposal by the Workers' Group to empower the Director of the ILO to convene a conference of delegates of the three Groups (Government, Employers', Workers'), for the purpose of securing a Convention on the reduction of working hours based on the 40-hour week, was also rejected.

January 1932. First step towards recognition of the necessity of the 40-hour week: The Governing Body of the ILO adopted a resolution on the problem of unemployment in which it was stated that in spite of the serious but apparently not insurmountable difficulties and with reservation as to its technical, commercial, and financial practicability, the principle of an immediate reduction of individual hours of work should be acted on in all establishments working under normal conditions, to enable in this way unemployed workers to be taken on again. If it were aimed to divide the employment available over the greatest possible number of workers, to give due consideration to the interests of efficient working, and to ensure an adequate wage for every worker, it would seem that under the conditions obtaining during the present trade depression the adoption of a working week of about 40 hours would give the best results.

The Governing Body communicated this resolution to the Member States.

Spring of 1932. The free trade union centres in Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, and Latvia called upon the Sixteenth International Labour Conference in a telegram to take urgent steps to convene an extraordinary international conference for the purpose of securing an international Convention on the 40-hour or 5-day week as the maximum working week.

June 1932. The International Labour Conference adopted a resolution on the problem of unemployment submitted by L. Jouhaux, stating, among other things, that "the prolongation of unemployment must no longer be regarded merely as an effect of the depression; it has become one of the causes which aggravate it." The resolution closed with an appeal to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office "to investigate the question of the legal institution of the 40-hour week in all industrial countries, with a view to the early adoption of international regulations on the subject."

This resolution and also the other resolutions quoted contain many considerations which might well be stressed again to-day; here we are only concerned, however, with enumerating as briefly as possible the various steps taken on the way to the 40-hour week.

July 1932. The Italian government representative De Michelis requested in a letter to the ILO that emergency measures should be taken to ascertain whether it was possible to solve the problem of unemployment by international proposals to be carried out without delay.

September 1932. At a special meeting of the Governing Body the Workers' Group asserted that the Italian Government (through its representative De Michelis) had taken over a proposal made a considerable time before by the Workers' Group and keenly advocated by them. Although the Italian Government had no moral right whatever to put this proposal forward as its own, the Workers' Group was in agreement with its substance and its reasoning. The Governing Body thereupon resolved by 16 votes to 6 to convene a Preliminary Tripartite Technical Conference for January 1933 to examine into the question of the reduction of hours of work.

October 1932. The Governing Body decided by 16 votes to 6 to place the question of the reduction of hours of work on the agenda of the International Labour Conference of 1933.

January 1933. The Preparatory Tripartite Technical Conference on the question of working hours adopted the following resolution:

"The Conference after reviewing the various arguments advanced for and against a reduction of working hours considers that it is one of the measures which would contribute to reducing unemployment.

The Conference therefore decides to examine its detailed aspects, taking the questions raised in Part II of the conclusion of the report of the Office as the basis of its examination, in order to reach an agreement of an international character, the methods of giving effect to which would be determined with a view to rendering possible the maintenance of the standard of life of the wage earners."

The Conference also decided that the regulations aimed at should take the form of a Convention to be drawn up by the International Labour Conference.

June 1933. The Seventeenth ILC held its first debate on the question of the reduction of hours of work, and resolved:

- (1) That this question was suitable to form the subject of a Convention or a Recommendation.
- (2) That it should be dealt with by the Eighteenth ILC in a second reading for the discussion of a Draft Convention.

July-August 1933. The International Trade Union Congress at Brussels resolved to intensify the propaganda in support of the 40-hour week.

January 1934. Within the framework of the IFTU's international propaganda campaign large demonstrations in support of the 40-hour week took place in all important industrial states where free trade union national centres existed.

June 1934. The second debate on the question of the reduction of hours of work was on the agenda of the Eighteenth ILC. Two Draft Conventions on the subject were placed before the Conference, one for industrial establishments and the other for commerce and offices. The debate on the separate articles of the Draft Convention for industrial establishments could proceed no further than Article I, as even at that stage the quorum could not be obtained, owing to systematic wrecking tactics on the part of practically the whole Employers' Group and the abstention of most of the government representatives from voting. The Workers' Group fought hard against the abstentions, but was only successful to the extent of getting the urgently needed reduction of working hours put on the agenda of the next ILC (1935).

September 1934. The Workers' Group in the Governing Body opposed the attempts to drop the plan of a general Convention on reduction of hours of work and to consider such reduction by industries. The proposal of the Workers' Group to place the question of the reduction of working hours on the agenda of the ILC for 1935 with the aim of securing the adoption of a generally applicable Convention was rejected.

The Governing Body thereupon resolved:

"To place the reduction of hours of work on the agenda of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference;

to instruct the Office to draw up a draft for a single Convention providing for the reduction of hours of work in all classes of establishments. The Conference shall determine at that session and at subsequent sessions the classes of establishment to which this reduction shall apply, and the methods of application for each of them;

to reserve until the next session of the Governing Body -- which will have before it reports to be prepared by the Office, including the information received in the meantime from the Governments -- the final selection of the industrial establishments or categories to which it is proposed that the Nineteenth Session of the Conference should apply the reduction of hours of work."

January 1935. The Governing Body resolved to submit to the ILC of 1935 Draft Conventions on the following questions:

- (A) The principle of the 40-hour week as an international limit.

- (B) The application of the 40-hour week in:
- (1) Public works undertaken or subsidized by Governments.
 - (2) Iron and Steel Industries.
 - (3) Building and Contracting Industry.
 - (4) Glass Bottle Manufacturing Industry.
 - (5) Coal Mining Industry.

June 1935. The Nineteenth ILC adopted the Draft Convention approving the principle of the forty hour week and also that for the application of the 40-hour week in the Glass Bottle Industry. Those concerning

- (1) Public works,
- (2) Iron and Steel Industries,
- (3) Building and Contracting Industry, and
- (4) Coal Mining Industry,

were adjourned for further consideration at the Twentieth ILC.

June 1936. The Twentieth ILC adopted the Draft Convention for the application of the 40-hour working week in public works undertaken or subsidized by Governments.

Those concerning the Iron and Steel Industries, the Building and Contracting Industry, and the Coal Mining Industry did not obtain the two-thirds majority required for their adoption. The International Labour Conference instructed the Governing Body of the ILO to consider the convening of Tripartite Technical Conferences for the three industries last named, with a view to reaching an understanding as to hours of work.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTSTANDING
EVENTS IN PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

MOVEMENT FOR THE REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK

It has been mentioned elsewhere what industries were considered by the ILC's of 1935 and 1936, on the recommendation of the ILO or of its Governing Body, with a view to the possibility of the 40-hour week being introduced.

In selecting these industries, the ILO or its Governing Body adopted the following points as criteria of the necessity and suitability for an international reduction of hours of work

- (a) Number of workers employed.
- (b) Extent of unemployment.
- (c) Degree of mechanization and rationalization of undertakings
- (d) Degree of concentration in the industry.
- (e) Characteristics and organization of work in the industry and its various subdivisions (continuous work, continuous work except on Sundays, two-shift system) etc.

Especially as regards points c, d, and e, the Chemical Industry is entitled to be among the first of the industries to be considered for a reduction of hours of work. In spite of this a proposal made by the Workers' Group at the meeting of the Governing Body to deal with the question of the reduction of working hours in the Chemical Industry in 1935 also, was rejected.

At the ILC of 1935 a fresh attempt was made to hasten the discussion of working hours in the Chemical Industry. This ILC adopted by 73 votes to 19 a resolution instructing the Governing Body:

"To consider the desirability of indicating (to indicate) the chemical industry in its largest sense as one of the industries for which an international reduction of working hours shall be primarily proposed at the 1936 International Labour Conference."

E. Kupers (Holland), member of the Workers' Group, had submitted this resolution without the words underlined by us above, but the Resolutions Committee of the ILC considered it desirable to make this addition. The resolution contains a number of arguments in support of the reduction of hours of work in the Chemical Industry; it appeared in our Bulletin for July 1935.

In October 1935 the Governing Body of the ILO had to draw up the final agenda of the ILC of 1936. In view of this we sent.

at the beginning of September, 1935, a detailed letter to the President of the Governing Body, again urging that the reduction of hours of work in the Chemical Industry should be speedily dealt with. To enable this to be done at a single reading, so that an International Convention might immediately be adopted, we also requested that a Preparatory Technical Conference of Government, Workers', and Employers' experts should be convened in due time before the ILC of 1936 for the purpose of coming to agreement on the most suitable manner of carrying out the reduction of hours of work in the Chemical Industry.

In spite of the efforts of the Workers' Group the Governing Body did not act on our request. On the other hand it resolved at its meetings in February and April 1936 to place the question of working hours in the Chemical Industry on the agenda of the ILC of 1937, and to convene, as requested by us for the ILC of 1936, a Preparatory Tripartite Technical Conference for the Chemical Industry at the end of 1936 or at the beginning of 1937.

The other industries which in addition to the Chemical Industry are to be considered at the ILC of 1937 for reduction of hours of work are the Printing Industry and the Textile Industry. It is to be hoped that for these three industries the results will be more favourable than they were for the Iron and Steel Industries and the Coal Mining Industry, for which, at the ILC of 1936, a Draft Convention on the reduction of hours of work was rejected.

The movement for the reduction of hours of work has made great demands on our International Secretariat during the past two years. Three reports on the Chemical Industry have been published. In view of the fact that, owing to the manifold ramifications of the Chemical Industry, questions affecting it are more complicated than is the case with other industries, the ILO has also drawn up various memoranda and reports on the subject for the use of its Governing Body. These we have had to study in order to keep well acquainted with the development of the conceptions of the ILO. Since the beginning of 1935 we have sent several detailed circulars on the subject to the affiliate organizations (which, however, have not always given them all the attention due).

PREPARATORY TRIPARTITE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE FOR THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

This Conference, which was held at Geneva from 7 to 11 December 1936, was attended by the International Secretary as Technical Workers' Adviser for the Netherlands (the Workers' Delegate for the Netherlands was put forward this time by the denominational unions, which are also relatively strong in the Netherlands).

The Secretariat published in the Bulletin for January 1937 a detailed report on this Conference, to which readers are referred.

The International Labour Office originally intended inviting only those Member States having more than 40,000 workers occupied in the Chemical Industry to participate in the Conference. As such it proposed inviting only Great Britain, France, the U.S.S.R., Italy, Belgium, and Poland, together with the United States and Japan. The other states did receive a communication to the effect and they might attend the Conference if desired, but they were not formally invited.

Being aware that Czechoslovakia also had over 40,000 workers occupied in the Chemical Industry, we sent a letter to the Director of the ILO, enclosing an extract from official statistics, and requesting him to issue a formal invitation to Czechoslovakia as well. At our instance two Workers' Members of the Governing Body also intervened at the ILC of 1936 on behalf of Czechoslovakia. To our satisfaction the ILO thereupon sent an invitation for participation in the Conference to Czechoslovakia also.

Later on, indeed, the ILO abandoned the criterion of 40,000 persons occupied and invited a few other countries (including Holland and Sweden) to take part in the Conference.

Unfortunately the Workers' Group did not exactly pull together at the Preparatory Technical Conference. The ILO had distributed among the delegates a list of the Chemical Industries to serve as material for the debates on the scope of the Draft Convention. All the Workers' delegates excepting the British would have liked to add to the list by including a number of other industries, as for instance the Sugar Industry, the Cellulose Industry, and the electro-chemical production of metals, and only for reasons of expediency confined themselves to proposing the inclusion of the Rubber, Artificial Fibres (e.g. artificial silk), and Starch Industries. The delegates of the British workers, on the other hand, opposed the inclusion of the manufacture of aluminium derivatives; matches; gases for heating and lighting; compressed, liquefied and dissolved gases; soaps and candles; dyestuffs; lacquers, varnishes, paints, and inks; rubber and rubber goods; and starch. After it had been emphatically stated during the debate that only the part of the Artificial Silk Industry concerned with the actual process of manufacturing the fibres, and not the subsequent textile processes, would be included, the British workers' delegation abandoned its opposition to the inclusion of artificial silk.

As usual the employers entirely and unanimously rejected at this Conference the reduction of working hours. The government representatives of France, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and the United States definitely advocated the reduction of working hours. Some of the other government representatives only took part in the debates as far as the demarcation of the Chemical Industry was affected. The British Government made it quite clear that no reduction of hours of work involving loss of weekly wages could be considered in Great Britain.

The President of the Conference gave us leave to distribute copies of our Third Report on the Chemical Industry among the delegates.

At this point it would be well to repeat that it was not the task of this Preparatory Technical Conference to make any decisions. Moreover it had to advise not the ILC of 1937 but only the ILO. The open debate that took place, in which not a single point was put to the vote, but which gave every delegate ample opportunities to argue for his views, is to provide the ILO with materials for study and consideration at its own discretion in drawing up its Report for the ILC of 1937 and the Draft Convention to be submitted to this Conference.

FIRST REPORT ON THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (Digest of Data showing the desirability and practicability of an international reduction of working hours in the Chemical Industry).

In the early months of 1935 we had to consider the possibility of the question of the reduction of working hours in the Chemical Industry being dealt with at the ILC of the same year.

The International Secretariat was at that time engaged in an enquiry into the questions involved in the problem of hours of work in this industry, but it was not possible to carry out this enquiry so quickly as to have the results ready for the opening of the ILC mentioned.

To enable a documented argumentation of our standpoint to be produced at the Conference if necessary, a collection of data taken from a series of other publications was drawn up under the above title. This Digest of Data was sent to the affiliated organizations during May and June 1935 in English, German, and Danish. It comprised mainly particulars on the following points:

- (a) Extent of the Chemical Industry.
- (b) Share of some specific chemical industries in the aggregate world output of chemical products.
- (c) Trusts whose activities extend over practically the entire field of the Chemical Industry.
- (d) Trusts in specific chemical industries.
- (e) Cartel and similar working agreements.
- (f) Price formation in the Chemical Industry.
- (g) Rationalization in the Chemical Industry.
- (h) Share of wages in the cost of production in the Chemical Industry.

Some of the data included, though coming from excellent sources, were not quite up-to-date.

SECOND REPORT ON THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (workers engaged, working hours, overtime, unemployment, rationalization).

The deliberations of the January 1935 meeting of the Governing Body of the ILO gave occasion to our Secretariat to open an enquiry into the question of hours of work in the Chemical Industry. In February we sent out to affiliated and fraternal organizations a number of questionnaires with the request that they should fill in one for each of the chemical industries existing on an important scale in their countries. In view of the large number of these branches of the industry the questions were confined to points immediately connected with working hours, i.e., no information was asked for about the level of wages, etc.

The results of this enquiry were unsatisfactory. Although on previous occasions numerous affiliated organizations had provided us, in answer to much more extensive questionnaires, with fairly satisfactory information, this was not the case this time.

In the introduction to our report on the results of the enquiry, published early in 1936, we had to state: that our report covered only a very few countries; that from these countries data had only been provided for some of the industries concerned; and that these data were frequently confined only to some of the establishments existing in the industries concerned, and even

for these establishments the data supplied were in many cases inadequate.

The report was only published in German and Danish (for the Scandinavian and German speaking countries), as we had received hardly any data from the French and English speaking countries. It was distributed only among the affiliated organizations.

Though as yet none of the affiliated organizations has asked for it, for years it has been our desire to institute at last an enquiry into wages and conditions of work covering the entire field of the Chemical Industry. We have entertained great expectations as to the propoganda effect of such an enquiry on organizations not yet affiliated to our International. From the enquiry reported on above, however, we have learned that it is perhaps too much to expect our affiliated unions to be in a position, as yet, to draw up complete statistics on wages and working conditions in all chemical industries represented in their countries.

THIRD REPORT ON THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (Memorandum on the practicability and desirability of an international reduction of working hours in chemical industries).

This report was drawn up for the purpose of distribution at the Preparatory Tripartite Technical Conference for the Chemical Industry held at Geneva in December 1936. It consists mainly of the material published in the First Report on the Chemical Industry, supplemented by some of the data supplied by affiliated organizations for the Second Report, together with much other matter culled from more recent sources.

Whereas the First Report was published in English, German, and Danish and the Second Report only in German and Danish, the Third Report appeared in English, German, and French.

It was not issued to the affiliated organizations until the early months of 1937.

THE GLASS INDUSTRY

Since July 1936 communications on the Glass Industry have also been appearing, on a modest scale, in the Bulletin. In the autumn of 1936 the Factory Workers' unions in Norway and Holland had a correspondence on trade union demarcation in glow-lamp and wireless valve factories. Out of this arose on the part of both unions a desire to obtain information on the demarcation problem in the Glow-lamp, Wireless, and Wireless Valve Industry from other countries as well. At the request of the Dutch union the International Secretariat sent out a questionnaire to the affiliated organizations. The results of this enquiry were communicated to all affiliated and fraternal organizations in March 1937.

Although the Glass Workers did not affiliate with our International until 1936 and our International Secretariat was therefore unable to take any part in the movement for the reduction of hours of work in this industry, we should like to put on record here the following events from the years 1934 and 1935.

Reduction of Hours of Work in the Sheet Glass Industry.

The Eighteenth ILC (1934) adopted by 87 votes to 28 an International Convention on the regulation of hours of work in automatic sheet glass works, reducing the hours of work for persons who work in successive shifts in necessarily continuous operations in sheet-glass works, which manufacture by automatic machines sheet glass or other glass of the same characteristics which only differs from sheet glass in thickness and other dimensions.

Reduction of Hours of Work in the Glass Bottle Industry.

The Nineteenth ILC (1935) adopted by 72 votes to 34 an International Convention on the reduction of hours of work in glass bottle works, applicable to persons who, in glass works where bottles are produced by automatic machinery, work in successive shifts and are employed in connection with generators, tank furnaces, automatic machinery, annealing furnaces and operations necessary to the working of the above.

Both the Sheet Glass Convention and the Glass Bottle Convention provide for a maximum average working week of 42 hours with at least four shifts to be calculated over a period not exceeding four weeks, with a maximum of eight hours per shift.

The Technical Committee on the Glass Industry of the International Labour Organization, at its meeting on 6 and 7 November 1936, communicated to the Governing Body of the ILO a resolution calling for a very considerable extension of the reduction of working hours in the Glass Industry (cf. Bulletin for November 1936).

WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE ARTIFICIAL SILK INDUSTRY

Questionnaires for the purpose of an investigation into wages and working conditions in the Artificial Silk Industry were sent out in 1932. Replies were only obtained, however, from Germany and Sweden, and, in the case of a single works, from Great Britain. The Secretary of the Textile Workers' International was thereupon approached with a view to a joint investigation. Our proposal was communicated by him to the Executive Committee, which however sent us word that co-operation with the General Factory Workers' International would amount to a recognition of their right to organize the Artificial Silk Workers, for which reason our proposal could not be gone into by the Textile Workers' International.

MARGARINE, OIL & SOAP INDUSTRY

MOVEMENT FOR THE REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK

At the beginning of 1932 we had a correspondence with organizations including in their membership workers in the Margarine Industry in Germany and Great Britain, to investigate the desirability of arranging a conference between the General Management of the Unilever Trust on the one hand and the unions concerned on the other, on the question of the reduction of hours of work.

It was agreed to carry out in the first place an investigation into the wages and labour conditions of workers in margarine and oil works (cf. the relevant section of this Year Book).

As some unions belonging to the Christian International of General Factory and Transport Workers at The Hague (Holland) have members in the Margarine and Oil Industry, it was considered desirable to co-operate with this International in the movement for the Margarine and Oil Industry.

After the matter had been dropped for a time pending the result of investigations into the possibility of a general reduction of hours of work, it assumed practical importance again on the failure of the efforts in this direction at the ILC of 1934.

The meeting of our Executive Committee held at Amsterdam on 27 and 28 September 1934 adopted a resolution - published in the Bulletin for November 1934 - emphasizing the practicability of a reduction of hours of work in margarine, oil, and soap works, and calling upon organizations affiliated to the International to put the necessity of introducing the 40-hour week well in the foreground in the future when negotiating with employers in the margarine, oil, and soap industry. Further the International Secretariat was instructed to take all necessary measures to promote the adoption of an International Convention for the introduction of the 40-hour week in margarine, oil, and soap works, and together with the other Trade Secretariats concerned to get into touch with the ILO for this purpose.

These instructions were carried out by our Secretariat when, in October 1934, it requested the Governing Body of the ILO to put the question of the reduction of hours of work in margarine, oil, and soap works on the agenda of the 1935 ILC. The International Secretariat accompanied its letter to the Governing Body with the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee and a survey of international concentration and technical development in the Margarine, Oil, and Soap Industry. (Cf. Bulletin for November 1934).

To dispose as far as possible in advance of any hindrances to a reduction of working hours being agreed upon at the 1935 ILC, the ILO was requested, with a view to obtaining an open debate on the question of a reduction of hours, to convene a round table conference of representatives of the undertakings and International Trade Secretariats concerned.

Unfortunately the Governing Body, at its meeting in January 1935, rejected by ten votes to eight the proposal of the Workers' Group that the question of hours of work in margarine, oil, and soap works should be dealt with by the ILC of 1935.