AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AMALGAMATED WOOD-WORKERS

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA

GENERAL OFFICE
602-603 GARDEN CITY BLOCK
56 FIFTH AVENUE

THOS. I. KIDD
GENERAL SECRETARY

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Chicago Nov. 30, 1898.

Mr. Frank Morrison,

423-425 G St. N. W.,

Washington, D.C.

Recd. DEC - 2 1898

Ans'd DEC 3

Dear Sir and Brother:-

Your three favors dated respectively 21, 26, and 28th inst. reached me this morning.

I read the decision of the Supreme Court of Michigan sometime ago and it is just as Mr. Darrow stated in his address to the Chicago Federation of Labor. The courts make nine tenths of the law and while the Judges may be honest and do what they think best, yet their environments are such that they do not understand that they are encroaching upon the rights of the masses. If, for instance, a judge is elected by the aid of corporations and by that class of people that associates with the officials of corporations, his sympathies must naturally be antagonistic to the wage workers. Darrow would like to speak before the American Federation of Labor on "The wage workers and the Courts". I return clipping herewith.

Our organization went somewhat below the six thousand mark and as we have got four more big firms in Chicago this last week and have succeeded in bursting the bossess' association, we will soon get all the others, and that will raise our membership considerably. I expect next Wednesday to organize a good union in Racine, Wis., and after the holidays intend to stay on the road considerable, and I am going to push our organization ahead and if possible try and have our membership reach the

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ten thousand mark before the close of the coming year. That is a big thing to do, but I think we can do it. We succeeded in winning a very important strike last week in Minneapolis. The men were out only two or three days.

Relative to my criticism of your letter regarding the decision of the Executive Council will say that I am much surprised at your surprise. This national charter that the boxmakers' ask for is simply a subterfuge. The National Union of Boxmakers or Internation Union, or whatever they call it, consists of a union in St.Louis that seceded from our organization and the Chicago union. The General President, Payne, and the General Secretary and General Treasurer are all members of the Chicago local. I think that Braunschweig and myself will be perfectly justified in making a motion that the whole matter be laid upon the table. I cannot see why we should be bothered with Payne at every Convention of the A. F. of L. and we are not going to be bothered with him either. If it was wrong for the Federation to grant a charter to a local union of boxmakers, it ~~was~~ is likewise wrong to grant it to the National Union. I told the Federation at Cincinnati that all Payne wanted was to be a national officer, now he is that national officer and I'll promise you that if the matter is not laid upon the table, that Payne will get the damnedest roasting he ever got in his life at Kansas City.

I am very glad that my article on "Jingoism" pleased you. The whole Cuban matter was a holy farce and Uncle Sam is going to get in his Imperialist policy a white elephant on his hands that will cause him more trouble than he ever had before, besides an expense of millions of dollars, which the independent (?) American citizen will have to pay.

We have a number of orders for large ledgers from our big local unions and as soon as I get the price from you for the thirty ledgers

I shall tell you whether to order them or not. If Ic ould get the ledgers by the first of January at the latest, I would order them from you right away.

Hoping to meet you in Chicago on your way to Kansas City, I am,

Fraternally yours,

Thos. D. Lidd
H.M.