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Trade Union Publications: The Official Journals,
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International Unions and Federations,
1850-1941, by Lloyd G. Reynolds and Charles C.
Killingsworth

Kheel Center for Labor-Management
Documentation & Archives

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Chapter 11 - Food, Beverage, and Tobacco, pp. 300-308

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Chapter 11 - Food, Beverage, and Tobacco, pp. 300-308

Abstract

The Catherwood Library and ILR School at Cornell are pleased to again make available an extremely important index of major labor union publications, long out of print. It is Lloyd G. Reynolds and Charles C. Killingsworth's *Trade Union Publications: The Official Journals, Convention Proceedings and Constitutions of International Unions and Federations, 1850-1941*. Baltimore, The John Hopkins Press, 1944.

Keywords

trade unions, journals, proceedings, publications, constitutions

Comments

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CHAPTER 11

Food, Beverages, and Tobacco

BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA

Address: 2719 N. Wilton Ave., Chicago

I. CHRONOLOGY

- 1886 Organized as The Journeymen Bakers' National Union of the United States.
- 1887 Affiliated with AFL.
- 1889? Changed name to Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union of America.
- 1903 Adopted present name.
- 1921 Seceding faction organized International Workers in the Amalgamated Food Industry, which later became Amalgamated Food Workers of America (*q. v.*).
- 1935 Absorbed Amalgamated Food Workers of America.

II. PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Proceedings.
 - [1st-3rd ann., 1886-1888]; 4th, 1889; [5th, 1890]; 6th, 1891; 7th, 1892; 8th, 1894; 9th, 1897; 10th, 1899; 12th-16th trien., 1905-1917; 17th, 1921; 18th-20th trien., 1923-1929; 21st, 1936; 22nd, 1941 (4th, 6th-10th, 12th-17th *with* journal)
- 2. Constitutions.
 - 1886; 1887; ann. 1890-1892; 1894; bien. 1897-1903; 1906; 1909; trien. 1912-1930; ann. 1931-1933; 1936
- 3. Journal.
 - Published as: (Chicago)
 - 1885-Aug 1895: *Deutsch-Amerikanische Bäcker-Zeitung*
 - Jun 1887-Apr 1890: *John Swinton's Paper*
 - May 1890-Oct 25, 1941: *Bakers' Journal*
 - Nov 1, 1941+: *Bakers' and Confectioners' Journal* - (From 1885 to Apr 1890 the *Bäcker-Zeitung* was the official German-language organ of the union. From Jun 1887 to Apr 1890 *John Swinton's Paper* was the official English-language organ. In May 1890 it was superseded by *Bakers' Journal* which in Aug 1895 absorbed the *Bäcker-Zeitung*. V. 25 of *Bakers' Journal* repeated in numbering.)

**BREWERY, FLOUR, CEREAL AND SOFT DRINK WORKERS
OF AMERICA, INTERNATIONAL UNION OF UNITED**

Address: 2345-2351 Vine St., Cincinnati

I. CHRONOLOGY

- 1886 Organized as National Union of Brewers of the United States.
- 1887 Affiliated with AFL as Brewers National Union. Later in year changed name to National Union of the United Brewery Workmen of the United States.
- 1903 Changed name to International Union of the United Brewery Workmen of America.
- 1907 Expelled from AFL.
- 1908 Reaffiliated with AFL.
- 1917 Changed name to International Union of United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers of America.
- 1918 Adopted present name.

II. PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Proceedings.
 - 1st-4th ann., 1886-1889; 5th, 1891; 1893; 1894; 9th, 1896; 10th, 1897; 11th-13th ann., 1899-1901; 14th, 1903; 15th-20th bien., 1904-1914; 21st-24th trien., 1917-1926; 25th-27th trien., 1933-1939 (1893, 1894, 10th, 11th in German)
- 2. Reports.
 - Officers: 1914; 1917
- 3. Constitutions.
 - 1886; 1888; 1892; 1896; 1897; 1899; ann. 1901-1904; bien. 1906-1914; trien. 1917-1926; trien. 1933-1939 (1886, 1888 in German, *with* proceedings)
- 4. Journal.
 - Published as: (Cincinnati)
 - Oct 1886-Oct 1910: *Brauer Zeitung*
 - Nov 1910-1917: *Brauerei Arbeiter Zeitung*
 - Jan-Nov 1918: *Brewery and Soft Drink Workers Journal*
 - Dec 1918-Mar 3, 1934: *Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers Journal*
 - Mar 10, 1934-1941+ : *The Brewery Worker*

CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA, UNITED

Address: 1505 Race St., Philadelphia

I. CHRONOLOGY

1937 Organized. Affiliated with CIO.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Proceedings.
1st, 1937; 3rd, 1940
2. Constitutions.
1937; 1940
3. Journal.
Published as: (Chicago; New York; Washington)
Jul 1939-1941+ : *UCAPAWA News*
(Suspended Oct 1940-Jul 1941.)

CIGAR MAKERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA

Address: 1003 K St., N. W., Washington

I. CHRONOLOGY

- 1864 Organized as Cigar Makers' National Union of the United States.
- 1867 Adopted present name.
- 1881 Participated in formation of AFL.
- 1882 Seceding locals of New York and vicinity organized Cigar Makers' Progressive Union of America (*q. v.*).
- 1885 Absorbed Cigar Makers' Progressive Union of America.

II. PUBLICATIONS (Code Number: C1)

1. Proceedings.
1st-4th ann., 1864-1867; spec., 1870; 11th, 1877; 12th, 1879; 13th, 1880; 14th-20th bien., 1881-1893; 21st, 1896; 22nd, 1912; 23rd, 1920; 24th-26th bien., 1923-1927; 27th, 1931
(2nd-4th MS.; 11th-27th *with* journal)

2. Constitutions.

1864; 1865; 1867; 1880; 1881; 1882 (2 edns.); 1883†; 1885 (2 edns.); 1887; 1890; 1891; 1893 (2 edns.); 1896 (22 edns.); 1909 (20 edns.); 1912 (4 edns.); 1920; bien. 1923-1927; 1931; 1937

3. Journal.

Published as: (New York; Buffalo; Chicago; Washington)
1875-1941+ : *Cigar Makers' Official Journal*
(Vs. 27 and 28 duplicated in several issues.)

Editors:

Nov 1875-Sep 1877: George Hurst

Oct 1877-1891: A. Strasser

1892-1926: George W. Perkins

1927-1935: J. M. Ornburn

1936-1941+ : R. E. Van Horn

III. CRITIQUE OF PUBLICATIONS

The first issue of the *Cigar Makers' Official Journal* appeared eleven years after the Cigar Makers' International Union was organized. The early journal did little more than record assessments, suspensions, union finances, and business conditions in various localities. It depended on other periodicals for most of its articles. At least one page of the usual weekly four was written in German and Bohemian, and this feature was continued until the twenties. Letters from members provided practically all the news of union affairs and comment on current events.

In 1880 the correspondence section was expanded, and until 1912 it dominated the journal. Since the Cigar Makers made extensive use of the initiative and referendum until 1927, many members took the opportunity of threshing out proposals in the columns of the journal. The letters debated such union issues as the merit of the referendum system, the qualifications of candidates for union office, and the provisions of benefit plans, and wrestled with such economic ideas as methods of eliminating business cycles, the single tax, socialism, and producers' cooperation. The opinions expressed often differed from those of Editors Adolph Strasser and George Perkins or challenged the policy of the union.

The editorials paralleled in general the subject matter of the correspondence. After a decision concerning a particular question had been made by the membership, it was supported as union policy by Strasser and Perkins, whether or not they had opposed such a decision when the question was pending.

After 1912 the amount of correspondence decreased and the letters became shorter; after 1925 letters disappeared altogether. Editorials continued to pay attention to a variety of subjects, but emphasized union problems. The falling off of letters and the pre-occupation with union matters coincided with a great decline in membership after 1916. After 1937 the journal, published quarterly, included a few editorials, news items, notices of union business, and trade agreements.

A major concern of the union from the beginning was promotion of the union label. Its blue label, adopted in 1880, was the first national union label in the United States. Before taking this step, the union had used a local label to fight Chinese labor on the Pacific Coast. Almost every issue of the journal after 1880 referred to the label or suggested methods of spreading its use.

Another early development was the Cigar Makers' "chain of benefit plans." Strike and traveling benefits were the first provided. A few years later a death benefit plan was adopted and in its wake came retirement benefits, sick benefits, unemployment compensation, and a home for tuberculars. Before the World War, the Cigar Makers prided itself on having the oldest, strongest, and most comprehensive union benefit system in the country. Letters and editorials in the journal often discussed the advisability of various plans and the status of the benefit funds; and the union's comprehensive financial reports, itemized by locals, furnished voluminous information on the administration of these plans. The decline of the union's fortunes in the twenties led to the abandonment in 1927 of all except death benefits.

An obstacle to the early drive of the Cigar Makers for improved working conditions was the competition of tenement house workers in New York, prison labor, and Chinese labor on the Pacific Coast. Its attempt to abolish tenement house work was one of the rare instances in which the international resorted to politics.

The *Cigar Makers' Journal* pictured the transformation of the Trades and Labor Congress into the American Federation of Labor. The Cigar Makers was one of the chief defenders of craft unions and of a federation with craft autonomy. Its fight with the Socialists in New York, who were supported by the Knights of Labor, resulted in the suspension of the Cigar Makers' New York local and its affiliation with the Knights, severe jurisdictional conflict between the national trade unions, and the formation of the AFL to fight the Knights. Trouble with the Socialists persisted

and was intensified by De Leon's organization of the Socialist Labor party in 1898.

The development of the bunch breaker and the automatic cigar making machine flooded the industry with unskilled workers and made it imperative for the Cigar Makers to revise its membership requirements. The officers' advice that the unskilled be admitted was rejected, however, by many locals. The percentage of union members in the industry dropped rapidly. At the peak of its strength in 1916, the union had 53,000 members. In 1923 it could claim less than 23,000 and in 1934 only 7,000. As the results of its restrictive membership policy became clear to the Cigar Makers, it initiated a campaign to organize the unskilled, and by 1941 had mustered some 9,000 new members.

Convention proceedings were printed in the journal, beginning in 1877, usually without discussion. Since the power of the convention was limited by the requirement that all its decisions be ratified by referendum vote, the proceedings contained little that was not discussed more fully in the journal.

The reports of the international president, however, which were printed in the proceedings, provided much information on the Cigar Makers' problems and policies. In addition to a statement itemizing receipts and expenditures and analyzing the union's financial system, the president's report included topical discussions of business activity; prices and wages in the cigar industry; the conduct and financing of strikes and organizing campaigns; the use of the union label; union death, sickness, and unemployment benefit plans; sanitary, safety, and social legislation; child labor; and union and state hour regulations. From 1912 on, increasing attention was given to changing production methods in the cigar industry, and to relations between raw material costs, labor costs, wages, and prices. The union's benefit plans were discussed at greater length, and more detailed financial statements were given.

The vice-presidents also submitted reports through 1893. These dealt mainly with activities of the vice-presidents in settling disputes within or between locals, and in reorganizing or disciplining locals. For most convention years, minutes of executive board meetings were published either in the president's or vice-presidents' reports. The minutes summarized very briefly the cases coming before the board for decision, and the action taken on them.

CIGAR MAKERS' PROGRESSIVE UNION OF AMERICA

I. CHRONOLOGY

- 1882 Organized by seceding faction of New York and vicinity locals of Cigar Makers' International Union of America (*q. v.*).
- 1885 Absorbed by Cigar Makers' International Union of America.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Constitutions.
1883; 1885
 2. Journal.
Published as: (New York)
Aug 1882-Dec 16, 1885: *Progress* (Ceased publication)
-

**FLOUR AND CEREAL MILL EMPLOYEES,
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF**

I. CHRONOLOGY

- 1902 Organized. Affiliated with AFL.
- 1911 Expelled from AFL. Disbanded.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Proceedings.
[1st, 1902; 2nd, 1903]
 2. Constitutions.
1902; 1904; 1907
 3. Journal.
Published as: (Minneapolis)
1903-1904?: *The Eight Hour Miller*
1909?-May 1910: *The Hour Miller*
-

FOOD WORKERS OF AMERICA, AMALGAMATED

I. CHRONOLOGY

- 1921 Organized by seceding faction of Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America (*q. v.*); and Hotel, Restaurant and Caterer Workers' Federation, an independent organization, under name of International Workers in the Amalgamated Food Industry.

1923? Changed name to Amalgamated Food Workers of America.

1935 Absorbed by Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Constitutions.
1923

2. Journal.

Published as: (New York)

1920-1935: *Free Voice of the Amalgamated Food Workers*
(Ceased publication)

MEAT CUTTERS AND BUTCHER WORKMEN OF NORTH AMERICA, AMALGAMATED

Address: 160 LaSalle St., Chicago

I. CHRONOLOGY

1897 Organized by group of AFL federal locals. Affiliated with AFL.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Proceedings.

[1st, 1897]; 2nd, 1899; 3rd, 1900; 4th-6th bien., 1902-1906;
[7th, 1910]; 8th-10th trien., 1914-1920; 12th-15th quad.,
1926-1940

2. Constitutions.

1897; 1899; 1900; bien. 1902-1906; 1910; 1914; 1917; 1920;
1922; 1926; 1930; 1936; 1940

3. Journal.

Published as: (Syracuse; Chicago)

Jul 1899-Sep 1908: *Official Journal* (Ceased publication)

Jun 1911-1941+: *The Butcher Workman*

PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS OF AMERICA, UNITED

Address: 205 W. Wacker Drive, Chicago

I. CHRONOLOGY

1937 Organized as Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee.

1943 Affiliated with CIO as international union under present name.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Journal.

Published as: (Chicago)

1938-1941: *CIO News. Packinghouse Workers' Edition*
(succeeded by *Packinghouse Worker*)

STOGIE MAKERS' LEAGUE, NATIONAL

I. CHRONOLOGY

1896 Organized.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Proceedings.

1st, 1909

2. Constitutions.

1901; 1906; 1909; 1914

TOBACCO WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Address: 806-809 Realty Bldg., Louisville, Ky.

I. CHRONOLOGY

1895 Organized as the National Tobacco Workers' Union of
America. Affiliated with AFL.

1898? Adopted present name.

II. PUBLICATIONS

1. Proceedings.

3rd, 1897; 4th, 1898; 5th, 1900; 6th, 1939; 7th, 1940

2. Constitutions.

ann. 1896-1898; 1900; 1905; 1919; 1932; 1940?

3. Journal.

Published as: (Louisville, Ky.)

1897-Mar 1924: *The Tobacco Worker* (Ceased publication)