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# The League in Chicago

## [events of Feb. 27 to March 16, 1922]

by J.W. Johnstone

Secretary

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Chicago held its first general Trade Union Educational league meeting on Monday, February 27th [1922]. It was not a large meeting, some 400 being present. That it was a different kind of a gathering than that generally held when a group of radicals and progressives get together was soon apparent. From the outset, it was made clear that they did not come to listen to speeches, but came to discuss the best ways and means to inject a real fighting spirit into the trade union movement, and to put across the program of the League.

Enthusiasm was rampant. That is a good thing, and a necessary thing. However, it is results that count, and the Chicago group went to work to get them. Our League went off to a running start; permanent officers were elected, and now we are concentrating all our energies on four proposition that we consider of prime importance in the order named: (1) the circulation of *The Labor Herald*; (2) the organization of a militant group of railroad workers; (3) the formation of groups in each industry, for handling of industrial problems; (4) to stay closely to the program as laid down by the National Office.

The results so far accomplished by our group are very encouraging; and we are justly proud of the record. We have taken 125 yearly subscriptions and 210 half-year subscriptions for *The Labor Herald*. We have placed *The Herald* on sale in 14 book-

stores. Twenty volunteer literature agents have sold 1,000 copies of the first issue [March 1922], and we have ordered 1,500 of the April issue. This is not written in a boastful way, but simply to encourage groups in other localities, who are undoubtedly up against a tougher proposition than we in Chicago are.

We have organized a real live militant railroad group, that started with a bang on March 16th [1922]. They will certainly be heard from in the near future. In the needle trades, the metal trades, the building trades, and the printing trades, we have organized strong minority groups whose influence is already being felt. A large number of our members are delegates to the various central bodies, and some of the strongest men in this locality are working for and with us. But our success depends upon our membership gaining the confidence of the rank and file; and that means we must understand the industrial situation, we must know the program of the League, and we must have an unquenchable thirst for work.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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