



Second Annual Conference of Traveling Auditors of United Mine Workers

Bottom row, left to right: L. E. Shelton, Jos. Bauer, A. T. Pace, Geo. Fenton, Noble Ault, Jas. H. Whalen, John Gallagher.

Second row: C. W. Zerby, Geo. Chiners, Ed. R. Smith, G. W. Savage, Wm. Green, Walter Nesbit, Tony Radalj, Roy Hirschfeld.

Third row: Benj. F. Davis, John Ghizzoni, John R. Schaefer, John Stephenson, Thos. Cunningham, A. J. Carter, John Ramsay, Enoch Martin.

Top row: Jos. Richards, Henry Meyer, Chas. Kalbach, Tom Stephenson, John G. Atkinson, H. N. Conner, Wm. Roberts.

At the meeting of the traveling auditors the following matters were considered and action taken thereon.

First, the standardized books and records were examined with a view to ascertaining as to whether or not experience demanded a change in their makeup and composition. As a tribute to the work of the meeting of the traveling auditors held one year ago, the books were continued as they are without change. The experience of all showed that the books and records were very simple and thoroughly adapted to the needs of the officers of our local unions.

Second, a uniform report blank was drawn up and adopted by which all traveling auditors will report the audits of local unions upon this uniform report blank. This will wonderfully improve the service and will enable each traveling auditor to submit information to the international organization regarding the financial status of local unions which will be most valuable indeed.

Third, the question of the fluctuating membership was thoroughly considered in a special manner towards bringing about a more uniform report of paid-up membership.

Fourth, the question of the issuing of transfer cards was given consideration and a concerted policy agreed upon by which traveling auditors would instruct local union secretaries in a special manner regarding the section of the international constitution which requires the return of all transfer card stubs promptly.

Fifth, the settlement of bills for back assessment owed by various local unions under

the jurisdiction of the United Mine Workers was taken up. Special efforts will be made to bring about settlements with all local unions who owe back assessment before the end of the present fiscal year. Many other matters of importance to the organization were considered and discussed. As a result of this meeting, greater efficiency and better service will be given by the traveling auditors, all of which will be helpful to the membership of the organization.

At the opening session of the conference International Secretary-Treasurer Green delivered the opening address before the assembled auditors. He said, in part:

"I called a meeting of traveling auditors on July 12, 1916. Many of you who were in attendance at that meeting are here today. It was productive of such splendid results and accomplished so much that I deemed it advisable to call a similar meeting this year, hence the reason why you are here today.

"I doubt very much whether the importance of the work of traveling auditors is fully appreciated by the membership of the United Mine Workers of America. Many local unions no doubt regard traveling auditors as mere tax collectors. They do not understand that the real purpose is being helpful not only to the membership in each local union, but especially to the officers of local unions. It is of the utmost importance that the funds of local unions be protected, that local union officers be bonded so that the funds of each local union may be made secure and that those who have charge of the finances

of the local union may be instructed in the keeping of their accounts and in the proper discharge of their respective duties.

"The work of traveling auditors, therefore, is educational. The collection of assessment due, or tax which local unions have failed to pay is not the primary purpose in the discharge of your duties as traveling auditors. I am sure I voice your sentiments when I say that we would much rather find local unions had paid their tax and assessment in full, than to find them either overpaid, or a balance due. The collection of back tax and assessment or the return of amounts which local unions may have overpaid is of secondary importance. An up-to-date method of bookkeeping, a businesslike discharge of the duties of the financial officers of local unions, and the proper protection of the funds of local unions are of far greater importance.

"In many districts great improvement has been brought about in keeping the accounts and records of local unions. It is indeed surprising to find—in many local unions in well-organized districts—that the accounts and records of the local unions are kept in a neat, businesslike and most perfect manner. I express the hope that this condition will ultimately prevail throughout the entire jurisdiction of the United Mine Workers of America.

"One important matter which requires our attention is uniform methods in auditing the accounts of local unions and a standardized report blank so that each traveling auditor will report his audit of the accounts of local unions on uniform blanks prepared for that