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FIRST AFL CONVENTION IN OVER 28 YEARS WITHOUT GREEN IN CHAIR
 (Continued from Page 1)
 which the companies cheated the miners out of pay of coal that went through the screen, even though this coal was sold. One of Green's first acts when he became a state senator some years later was to introduce and nurse to passage a bill outlawing the hated mine screen.

By the time Green was 18, he was secretary of his local and for the next 17 years he served his union in one capacity or another while working in the mines. In 1900, he was elected UMW sub-district head and in 1906 Ohio district president. He ran unsuccessfully for UMW president in 1908, but was appointed statistician.

That same year he was elected to the state senate where he served two years. In addition to the mine screen law, he won passage of a model workmen's compensation law to protect families of workers from the starvation that followed industrial accidents. As unions in other states pressed for similar laws, Green traveled throughout the nation leading the campaign.

Returning to his union work, Green in 1912 was elected UMW secretary-treasurer, a post he was to fill for 12 years, and in 1913 he also became a UMW vice president. When Samuel Gompers died in December, 1924, he was elected AFL president by the federation executive council. Only a few weeks previously, he had been elected third vice president after being nominated by his UMW chief, John L. Lewis.

Green for many years had been a firm believer in social progress through legislation and he now turned the AFL's path in that direction. The Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt finally brought the passage of laws Green had urged for many years.

But the depression years were difficult ones for the labor movement. By 1933, AFL membership had sunk to pre-war levels and its leadership was split between proponents of craft and industrial unionism. Green himself favored the latter, but, voted down at the

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PRESIDENT MEANY'S LABOR DAY ADDRESS
 (Continued from Page 1)
 recovered partially from their fright and surprise and ordered mass arrests and executions, the uprisings continued. The spirit of free workers cannot be stamped out. It is the great weakness of the Soviet armor.

Historically, working men have always earned their freedom and their progress by struggle and by sacrifice. That is the tradition we honor on Labor Day. We are proud but not surprised that the workers of eastern Europe are marching in the front ranks of this battle today.

AFL SALUTES FIGHTERS
 We of the American Federation of Labor salute the fighters for freedom overseas. Let me assure them that they do not fight alone. Food has gone forward. Relief for the families of martyred workers is being provided. The American trade union movement has contributed the relief fund being raised by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to assist refugees and to provide whatever further aid circumstances permit.

We are committed with all our resources to the cause of free trade unionism, which is the only practical road to peace, democracy and higher standards for the underprivileged. We believe that the most effective way to combat dictatorship of any stripe is to make democracy work and to improve the economic, social and political conditions of men and women everywhere.

Let me assure you on this Labor Day of the constant friendship and the fraternal co-operation of the American Federation of Labor in seeking our common goals of peace, freedom and prosperity.

convention, he followed the mandate. That same year, eight unions, led by Lewis, left the AFL and later formed the CIO. Green regarded this as the greatest blow to the labor movement in his lifetime and never gave up attempts to bring the two groups together. He was overjoyed when the International Ladies' Garment Worker's returned to the AFL in 1940. The UMW also returned later, only to leave again.

Green's years in office saw the AFL give unstinting support to the World War II effort in spite of severe restriction on labor, branch out into strong political action after passage of Taft-Hartley, extend its contacts with and help to free labor throughout the world and destroy communist attempts to infiltrate the federation.

Green himself served on numerous federal boards both in war and peace and found time to give his support to numerous humanitarian causes. The honors and awards he received for those services were numerous.

Green continued to handle his AFL duties almost until the very end, even though it was obvious at the AFL convention two months before his death that he was working under great strain.

Summarizing Green's years in the labor movement in a biography distributed at that convention, Max Danish said: "Above all else, even a casual examination of the career of William Green helps to reveal the refreshingly dominant fact that he has never envisaged the top spot in America's labor movement, which he occupies, as a mandate for personal power but as an opportunity for service to the millions of his fellow trade unionists and to his country—a task to which he has been happy to give his all."

BIRTH OF LABOR DAY
 (Continued on Page 7)
 should get as many tickets as it desired to sell; the more sold the greater would be the profits to the society selling them. Each society should be allowed to keep all the money realized by sale of tickets through its members. In the end each of the bodies participating should contribute to the expenses in proportion to its membership.

It was further argued Labor Day should be observed as one festival day in the year for public tribute to the genius of American industry. There were other worthy holidays representative of the religious, civil and military spirit. But none representative of the industrial spirit—the great vital force of every nation. He suggested the first Monday in September of every year for such a holiday, as it would come at the most pleasant season of the year, nearly midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving, and would fill a wide gap in the chronology of legal holidays. Many were the cogent reasons he advanced, and at once the idea was enthusiastically embraced.

The first Labor Day parade and festival of the Central Labor Union of New York City on September 5, 1882, was simply an imposing success. From that day on, it became a fixed institution in the United States, observed today in every city of the land. The plan was next endorsed by the Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor and the General Assembly of the Knights of Labor. It spread rapidly from city to city, and from town to town. City councils and State legislatures took it up and made it a legal holiday, until finally on June 28, 1894, it became a National holiday, by act of Congress.

There was a time, and it is not many years ago, when the trade union and the labor movement of America were too insignificant for Presidents, Governors, Mayors, City Councilmen or public men to consider, much less honor. Trade unions were of no consequence; trade unionists were harmless fanatics. Now, they are of more weight, more influential, more powerful. No longer can they be sneered down or cajoled; they must be met, they must be recognized. What mighty portent is in their movement! In their hands rest the weal of the worker, his welfare and improvement.

With hands and hearts together, with united funds and united interests, to stand for one another, day after day, year in and year out, in good times and in bad, who dare say what can they not accomplish: In the work-shop and on the forum, at the ballot box and in every field of endeavor, they can right every wrong, and eradicate every evil oppressive to the working people.

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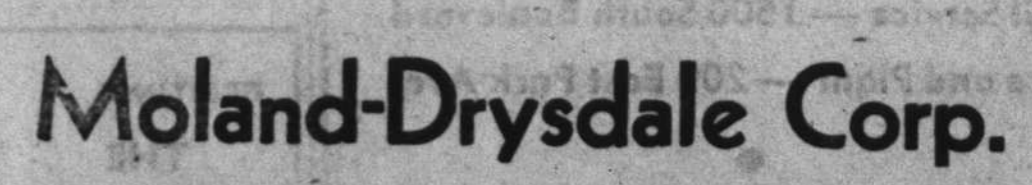
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