formed with membership reaching somewhere around the three hundred thousand mark, and with a large number of daily, weekly and monthly journals. In 1864 Congress passed an act authorising the making of foreign labour contracts for immigrant labour, in order to offset the drift of workers to the land under the Homestead Act and also to resist the growing power of the skilled worker to demand higher wages. The practice of securing skilled labour from Europe rapidly increased the flow of labour to the United States and aroused the opposition of native workers to the progressive lowering of their standard of living by submissive imported labour, prepared to work excessive hours for low wages. This was one of the inspirations to the formation of a national federation of the various city trade assemblies under the title of the Industrial Assembly of North America. In 1866 the Assembly formed the National Labour Union, and in 1869 this union sent a delegate to the conference of the International at Basle to see what could be done to limit the competition of European labour with American labour.

The above sketch will give some idea of the background of what really concerns us here — the growth of the labour movement in America up to the time it came into contact with the International Workingmen's Association.

GILMAS, S.P.G.B.

(This installment concludes the first four chapters. There still remain ten chapters. Let's hope the entire 14 chapters may see the light of day as a pamphlet some time in the future.)

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