

## GEN. JAKE LOEB'S ARMY OF BIG BUSINESS DUE FOR FIGHT OF ITS LIFE WITH LABOR

Seldom have issues of greater importance to the welfare of the mere citizen, the so-called "common people" of Chicago, and the whole nation been met more squarely and with greater vigor by a labor body than was the case at the Chi. Fed. of Labor meeting in Musicians' hall yesterday.

In the first place—and this issue is the most timely if not also the most important—Gen. Jake Loeb was informed in unmistakable words that he cannot cram the sword of militarism down the throats of Chicago's high school students without fighting organized labor until either Gen. Jake and his military hosts evacuate the trenches protecting the fortress of Big Business or else labor is so fastly bound by special-privileged laws or a well-known variety of court injunction that it cannot longer fight.

A resolution which the federation adopted by unanimous vote again condemned the inauguration of a voluntary military training system in the high schools. The legal department of the federation was instructed to investigate that portion of the scheme held especially abominable, which requires volunteers to the high school tin soldiery to sign a contract providing that no student may drop out of the subject of "military art" without suffering the penalty of absolute dismissal from school. Pupils who in a heat of what they imagine is patriotic fervor volunteer to the school militia can't quit without being kicked out of the public schools.

Notice was taken of the fact that this military training is introduced only into the high schools and that few children of the labor class can afford to go to high school. With exceptions, it is only the children of the rich who will secure a military high school training.

Which brings us to Prof. F. W. Roman, professor in economics of Syracuse Univ., who was one of the speakers yesterday.

"You working men must see to it that your children get a high school education," Prof. Roman said. "You are injuring the cause of labor when you do not secure for your children the best education you can obtain for them.

"To give them the best education you must have schools free to tell the truth. If you really want this sort of freedom in the schools you will first have to free the teachers.

"The teachers in the public schools today are confined to teaching strictly knowledge—reading, writing, arithmetic and such mental abstractions. Such things are necessary to be taught, but we should not be so limited in our curriculum. Your children should be taught about taxation, wages, rents, the issues of political and social life, intelligently and unbiased. You cannot have this until the teachers are free, and the teachers cannot become free until you free them.

"Criticism has been made of universities being controlled by big interests. I know there is just grounds for this charge, but the interests have a much tighter grip on the public schools than they have on the universities."

Prof. Roman again said as he has already said before business and commercial men of Chicago that the advent of military training in the schools means the stifling of initiative action and the stunting of invention.

The federation also condemned the Loeb plan to make high school girls members of the school militia by enlisting them to sew up the rips and polish the buttons in the uniforms of the boys.

The general impression of federa-