

PROTOCOL AND STATUTES
OF THE
SOCIALIST TURNERBUND
OF
NORTH AMERICA
7TH YEARLY REPORT FROM OCTOBER 1ST, 1857 to SEPTEMBER 30, 1858
AT
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

PROTOCOL

The 7th Convention of the Socialist Turnerbund of North America at Detroit, Michigan from the 4th to 7th of September, 1857.

The delegates met Friday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Detroit Turnerhall.

The Convention was opened by the National President, Albert Tafel.

L. Bertsch was elected temporary secretary.

A committee of three was appointed to examine the credentials composed of: Hillgaerten of Dubuque, Stifel of St. Louis and Gerhardt of Washington.

A letter from the Schenectady Turnverein was read stating a direct motion to the Convention. It was decided to submit this letter to the committee on credentials.

The delegate from St. Louis reported that the Turnverein in that city was holding a Turnfest beginning September 12th and extended an invitation from his society to all members of the Convention to participate.

The invitation of the St. Louis society was recommended to the delegates.

A letter from Theodore Braklow in New York was read in which he applied for the position of editor vacated by Otto Reventlow. The

letter was tabled until the question on editors would be discussed.

Recess until 2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session, September 4th.

The Credential Committee made the following report:

51 organizations represented by 30 delegates with 90 votes were legally admitted.

Later, it was changed to 54 organizations and 93 votes as follows:

Albany, <u>N. Y.</u>	Wm. Rothacker	Freeport, Ill.	A. Juengst
Alton, Ill.	H. D. Weber	Galena, Ill.	B. Mauch
Baltimore, <u>Md.</u>	R. S. Charlier	Hamilton, Ohio.	Fr. Werner
Belleville, Ill.	H. D. Weber	Hartford, <u>Conn.</u>	Wm. Krebs
Boston, <u>Mass.</u>	Fr. Bertsch	Indianapolis, Ind.	Fr. Scheigert
Burlington, Iowa	J. Rosenzweig	Iowa City, Iowa	A. Juengst
Buffalo, <u>N. Y.</u>	M. E. Suchizky D. Hertle	Lafayette, Ind.	Fr. Scheigert
Chicago, Ill.	Wm. Krebs	Lebanon, Ill.	H. D. Weber
Cincinnati, Ohio	Tafel Werner Bertsch	Louisville, Ky.	I. Stumpf
Cleveland, Ohio	E. Kirchberg	Milwaukee, Wis.	Hans Boebel
Covington, Ky.	Fr. Werner	Muscatine, Iowa	J. Horr
Davenport, Iowa	G. Hillgaertner	Newport, Ky.	C. Tafel
Dayton, Ohio	Szabo	New Britain, <u>Conn.</u>	W. Rothacker
Dedham, <u>Mass.</u>	Fr. Bertsch	New Ulm, Minn. Terr.	Carl Koehne
Detroit, Mich.	A. Loeser J. Kirchberg	New York, N. Y.	C. Rosswog
Dubuque, Iowa	G. Hillgaertner Alb. Juengst	Norfolk, Va.	B. Mauch
Fayetteville, Ill.	H. D. Weber	Ottawa, Ill.	R. Kempter
Fort Madison, Iowa	L. Rosenzweig	Peoria, Ill.	A. Potthof
		Peru, Ill.	R. Kempter

Pittsburgh, Pa.	G. Boehler	Schenectady, N. Y.	L. Nauch
Philadelphia, Pa.	J. Gerhardt	Syracuse, N. Y.	J. R. Pellmann
Providence, R. I.	Wm. Rothacker	Terre Haute, Ind.	Fr. Scheisert
Quincy, Ill.	D. Hertle	Toledo, Ohio	Jul. Mohler
Racine, Wis.	J. Rosenzweig	Troy, N. Y.	Schaefer (Alt. Loeser)
Rochester, N. Y.	J. R. Pellmann	Washington, D. C.	J. Gerhardt
St. Anthony, Minn.	G. Kochne H. Gollmer	Wheeling, Va.	W. G. Boehler
St. Louis, Mo.	C. Stifel	Winona, Minn.	G. Hillgaertner

Delegate Philipp from Milwaukee requested one vote for the Turner society, Fond du Lac. He was chosen at a Milwaukee Turnfest at a meeting held by the Turner society to represent them.

Because Turner Philipp had no credentials from the organization, the Credential Committee moved that this delegate could not represent this organization by vote. Passed.

In consideration of the fact that Turner Philipp did travel to Detroit on verbal instructions from the Fond du Lac Turners it was decided by vote that Turner Philipp as delegate from Fond du Lac be given voice and vote and the privilege of taking part in debates.

Motion passed: To start organizing the Convention permanently.

The following officers were elected:

1st. Speaker - Turner G. Hillgaertner from Dubuque.

2nd Speaker - Turner D. Hertle from Chicabo.

1st Secretary - Turner Wm. Krebs from Chicago

2nd Secretary - Turner R. S. Charlier from Baltimore

3rd Secretary - Turner Hugo Gollmer from St. Louis.

The elected officers took the stations of their respective office. The 1st Speaker thanked the delegates for the honor bestowed on him, and remarked that he would make every effort to conduct the Convention in the best possible manner and requested the support of every delegate to help him carry out the difficult task satisfactorily.

A motion was passed to use the Order of Business that was adopted at the last Turner Convention.

The Speaker read the order as follows:

1) The session, if no other requests are made, will be conducted according to the regular parliamentary rules.

2) Voting will be conducted when requested according to the alphabet.

3) No one can talk more than 10 minutes and not more than twice on the same subject. The maker of the motion, however, has in addition to the above ruling the last word, on the subject.

4) When requested, the motion must be handed in, in written form.

5) To assist in transacting business more easily, committees are to be appointed.

Additional rules laid down:

6) The session shall begin at 7:30 a.m. until 12 noon, then from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

7) The number and type of committees should be the same as ordered by the last Convention.

The 1st Speaker shall appoint the committees.

Motion made: The report of the Vorort to be placed next on the agenda.

The following order of business was decided:

1. Report of the Vorort.
2. Criticisms of the Vorort.
3. Criticisms of the societies by the Vorort.
4. Criticisms of the editorial staff and vice versa.
5. Negotiations regarding the Turnerpaper.
6. Revision of the Constitution.

The 1st Speaker of the Vorort, Albert Tafel hereby submitted the following report.

REPORT OF THE VORORT OF THE TURNERBUND

October, 1856 - September, 1857

The Turnerbund, whose organization was threatened to be split in two parts has taken a firm stand since the last Convention. It has been made more secure and lasting because of the separation of heterogeneous elements. The following statistics will show this as far as it is possible to do so with numbers.

At the end of the last business year the Turnerbund consisted of 93 societies of which 23 withdrew due to known differences. These organizations were later suspended due to non-payment of bills to the Turnerbund (as ordered by the National Convention). Four societies disbanded and one withdrew from the Turnerbund. A total of 68 societies remained in the Turnerbund, 21 new societies joined the Turnerbund. This brought our total up to 86 and in addition 19 societies just organized are corresponding with us for admittance to the Turnerbund. Most of the newly organized societies during this past year are in the West in the following states: Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Two societies started in California, 2 in Minnesota and 1 in Kansas.

However, though the number of actual societies is smaller than last year's number, the total membership has increased by 100 members (not counting the junior members which number 1500).

The number of subscriptions to the Turnerpaper which at the time of the Philadelphia Convention were 3,782, at the last convention 4,461, is now to 4,693. At this time, it would be well to state the fact that societies are not subscribing to the paper in accordance with the number of memberships in their societies. For this reason, the Vorort criticizes the actions of societies. Lately, several situations of this nature came to our attention. We notified these societies that they were not upholding the rules adopted by the last National Convention.

The half-yearly reports of societies were turned in irregularly and unsatisfactorily. Only 53 submitted the first report and only 3 or 4 the second which is due at this time. Twenty-eight societies have made no report so far.

Of these 53 societies, 53 have a total membership of 3100 with about 600 additional junior members. Twenty-four societies have singing sections, 8 have rifle clubs, with a membership of about 300. Most of the societies have libraries, some small and some large. Seven societies give theatre performances and four have orchestras.

The fact that the 2nd report is due September 1st at the same time as the Turnfest and Convention is held makes it a most unsatisfactory time to collect the society reports. Reports are generally missing and no statistical report can be compiled at this time. January 1st and July 1st would be a more suitable time for this purpose.

Up to August 27th this year, 60 Vorort meetings were held, 858 letters were disposed of, 319 directly and 52 answered by mail. Seventy-two societies were reminded of their duties and 78 expulsions were published in the Turnerpaper.

The income and expenses of the National society will be reported in the bookkeeper's report. In general, we would like to repeat the previous criticism, the money due to the Vorort is not sent in as instructed by the National rule. Societies which were planning to withdraw, withheld all their money and others also failed to send it in, so that the National officers were unable to fulfill their instructions as laid down by the Convention. As examples: The school for Turnteachers and the preparing and printing of pyramid instructions could not be financed.

Many organizations increased their financial income by theatre performances. However, it created a situation where the main function of our Turner aims were shoved into the background because the available active support was taken over by this group.

Turn classes for boys are not as general as should be expected when we consider that one of the most important parts of the Turner program is the planting of the seed to perpetuate our National Turner life. Turn schools for girls exist only in a small number of societies.

Technical schools are generally lacking in proper management and financing. It takes a great deal of effort and a lot of energy to bring these things into existence. However, a start has been made.

Day schools are also slow in making headway. Instructions in English, reading, writing, and arithmetic are fostered in many societies with great success.

A good leader for the gym classes is a necessity for the success of a Turner society. Many societies break up because such is not the case.

Many societies were interested in the debate on whether to again unite with the societies which withdrew from the Turnerbund. A continuous agitation was kept up to effect a desirable settlement. It is

questionable as to whether in the present situation an agreement could be reached which would benefit the National organization. It is expected that the organizations which left the Turnerbund will take the initiative in the matter. It is our belief that we must hold fast to the following points:

1) That these organizations must live up to the rules laid down by the Pittsburgh Convention in 1856.

2) That all financial arrears must be paid into the National Treasury.

Two delegates stated they were opposed to the motion to accept this report and thank the Vorort for their general observation and good business management. They stated they were instructed by their society to criticize the Vorort and for this reason opposed this motion. The motion was divided into two parts and the second part was tabled. Motion was made to accept the report of the Vorort. After a recess of 10 minutes to give the chairman of the Convention a chance to organize definite committees, the Convention re-convened and the chairman read the names of members for the special committees.

a) Finance Committee - To examine the books and important documents of the Treasurer and of the bookkeeper: Charles Koehne, A. Potthof and L. Stumpf.

b) Committee to examine the Remaining Book and Documents:
C. Stifel, Fellmann and Rossweg.

c) Constitutional Revision Committee - G. Tafel, A. Guenst and A. Loeser.

d) Criticism Committee - C. Gerhardt, Buehler and Rosenzweig.

e) Committee for discussion of the Turnerpaper - Rothacker, F. Werner and Hertle.

A motion to turn over the important points of instruction to the standing committees brought forth a lively discussion. As one delegate wanted to present his instruction direct to the Convention, he feared that if same was turned over to a Committee important points might be omitted.

After it was repeatedly made known, that no committee has a right to suppress any accusation or propositions, but instead to go over same and present same to the Convention with recommendations properly ordered. This procedure is requested because it will simplify the business procedure of the Convention. Therefore, it was decided:

To inform all delegates to present all important instructions in writing, to the respective committees who are charged with the various catagories in their committee work.

In order to give the various committees time to do their work and to compile a report it was decided to adjourn til a given time.

MORNING SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1857

The protocol of the opening and morning session of September 4th were read by the temporary and the 1st Secretary and adopted by the Convention.

Criticism of the Vorort.

The report of the Criticism Committee was read. Criticism No. 1 submitted by the delegate from Milwaukee.

The Vorort is accused of not making an effort to unite the organizations into the Bund although many organizations made recommendations and suggestions along that line. The committee feels that no proof was on hand to substantiate this, and was of the opinion that same should come under the jurisdiction of the Convention as a whole.

Complaint No. 2: The Turnverein of Ottawa requested that the Vorort in the future should be more prompt in distributing the monthly

enclosure. Some appear two or three months late and the reading matter content is, therefore, out of date.

The delegate from Ottawa added verbally that the above was not a direct criticism of the Vorort, but instead only a wish, that in the future this situation should be altered. The Committee added that the fault rested mostly with the poor postal system.

Criticism No. 3: The St. Louis Turner Society made this motion:

a) To give the societies, which were ousted or withdrew from the Bund during the dispute, voice and vote in the Convention.

b) To indict the Vorort for party interest. During the voting of the National organizations regarding the court of arbitration, instead of remaining neutral, it agitated against same on party interests.

The Committee feels that part 1 (a) should be omitted because no evidence is at hand.

Part 2 (b) was disposed of the same way because no evidence is at hand, so that the Committee could not favor the criticism.

A motion was carried to take up the criticisms in order.

The first point, the criticism from Milwaukee, a delegate wanted to know what it was all about.

The delegate from Milwaukee stated, that the different points were known to all. Milwaukee had already at the previous Convention, instructions to bring about an agreement to unite. But as nothing has been done, they retracted their request and decided to take steps themselves to do something about it. To settle this question, Milwaukee took steps to bring about an extra ordinary Convention to be held in May of this year. The Vorort answered the letter which

was mailed the latter part of November of last year, only in March of this year and permitted themselves a disorderly conduct. The Vorort has no right to control the constitutional right of a society. If Milwaukee considered it proper to send circulars to the organizations for a support of their proposition, they were acting in accordance with their constitutional rights. The Vorort:

- 1) Neglected their duty in behalf of the request by Milwaukee.
- 2) In the matter of expressing their action completely in a circular against Milwaukee, the Vorort deserves to be reprimanded.

The Speaker of the Vorort stated concerning the first point, it was a neglect of the Secretary that the letter was not answered in time. A decision about this was made in due time. This decision was read as requested.

This letter from Milwaukee is dated December 10th of last year and on account of its importance (protocol book, page 296) the Vorort decided: This request and motion to discuss same in a special meeting.

The special meeting took place on Sunday, December 21st last year. It was stated, as recorded in the protocol book, that the Milwaukee Turners had good intentions but the proposition (which was not submitted with the national rules support and since the other motion by Rahway was not disposed of by voting, should not have been proposed, but was entirely out of order) would have achieved the opposite effect which was desired by Milwaukee.

The Vorort then acted as follows:

Decided that Rothacker be instructed to write to Milwaukee in the same thought as stated above and urge this society to cancel their request.

Also decided: To wait with the publication of the decision until Rothacker's letter was answered.

When the Vorort found out later that the letter was not forwarded, they decided:

On account of this neglect due to the above situation, to write to Milwaukee and inform them about the decision made by the Vorort on December 18th and without waiting for the answer to their letter from Milwaukee, that the decision with several statements should be forwarded to all National Turner societies.

Rothacker, who was present as the delegate from Albany remarked, that the matter was about as stated, that he mislaid the letter and in the hopes of finding same again, he did not report to the Vorort for some time. He stated that the Vorort is not responsible, that he alone was to blame for the whole thing.

What was generally the main purpose of uniting the organization again, the Vorort took the stand from the beginning on the side of reconciliation. However, it was planned to wait until the general agitation had somewhat subsided to some extent. This procedure proved to be the right course to take since the result had justified this action.

The delegate from Milwaukee believed that the Vorort was responsible for the doings and misdoings of individual members.

Against this, Rothacker stated, that the Vorort should be excused because they did not know of the negligence of Rothacker in this matter and the responsibility rested entirely with the Secretary.

The President of the Vorort held that the first point was discussed at length and also stated that the Vorort did nothing for which it could be criticized. Milwaukee had taken steps which were not within their rights. They did not seek the constitutional

It was decided to reject the criticism of the Milwaukee society.

The second criticism, Ottawa's accusation on the irregular publication of the supplement issue was now open for discussion.

The President of the Vorort stated, that as planned, the issues should appear monthly, but that at times the material sent in is in such large quantities due to reports, Turnfests and Conventions and at other times very little information is at hand. This means that the cost would be greatly increased, also the printing would be difficult to arrange and sometimes the insert would consist of many sheets and other times it would be very small.

The delegate from Ottawa stated that he is satisfied with the explanation.

The motion of the criticism committee was passed as follows:
To instruct the Vorort in order to overcome this situation that they should use discretion and work with the things on hand to their best advantage.

The third criticism, the grievance from St. Louis against the Vorort for their stand with party issues. The delegate from St. Louis stated that the Vorort instead of replying to the letter sent in by St. Louis, just published its contents, instead of submitting their decision in the matter to St. Louis. These letters were in accordance with the view and interests of the Vorort, but did not express the opposition viewpoint.

The speaker of the Vorort stated: The Vorort has no authority to make decisions, but only to express their viewpoint to motivate same and to present same to the organizations. This was done in the above situation, so we believe we acted according to general practice. One cannot expect the Vorort to render decisions on matters not definitely concerned with our Turner problems.

In formal procedure St. Louis is also wrong. Their delegate is of the opinion that accusation directed to the Vorort cannot be dismissed and some action must be taken. The Vorort has no right to excuse itself on account of some form situation.

The Speaker of the Vorort replied that the Vorort must in every case adhere to the Pittsburgh Convention decisions, without any consideration toward individual organizations.

One of the delegates holds it for party interest, if the Vorort only presents one sided information and decisions in order to influence the societies according in their beliefs. It was stated that the court of arbitration question was forwarded to the societies through the Bund for a vote, that the results were published, and only 1 or 2 national organizations declared themselves in favor of it.

That the vorort, who acted in accordance with the thought expressed in the Pittsburgh Convention and declared themselves free and openly could not be blamed for anything. That they tried to influence, cannot be proven, because in every instance, both sides of the argument were carefully explained and discussed, and that the Vorort has the duty to present matters in a clear and understandable way, and to remove all unnecessary explanations.

The delegate from St. Louis remarked in addition, that the Vorort had the duty to consider the wish of St. Louis that the number of societies who were in favor of the proposition should have been informed, which was also requested by Rahway.

The Speaker of the Vorort saw in it a situation which looked as if it would be co-ercing, that it has no constitutional implication, that the proposal was first possible by the Vorort debating same and ordering a general vote.

It was decided to reject the criticism also.

III. CRITICISMS OF THE VORORT AGAINST THE SOCIETIES OF THE TURNERBUND.

The Speaker of the Vorort is not inclined to bring in criticisms but considers it, however, his duty to lay before the Convention the following grievances:

1. The half yearly society reports were submitted at very irregular dates and many did not submit any reports.

2. From some societies we received letters which were written in dishonorable fashion.

3. Some organizations permitted themselves to take less Turner-papers than their membership count.

He made, therefore, the following motion:

To 1) The societies should be earnestly reminded to submit their reports on time.

To 2) It should be recommended that hereafter when letters are forwarded to the National Office, its content should be written within the dignity of the position of the Vorort and the Turnerbund.

To 3) To remind the organization to act in accordance to their duty.

The delegates requested that the societies be named who permitted letters to be submitted which were written in undesirable language.

In reply the Speaker stated that since he believes the societies in question have no representatives here and since he considers this to be mostly the uncivil and impolite action of the Secretary, a reprimand of any kind may lead to further unpleasant discussions, so for these reasons same should be dropped.

After the motion was re-considered and some delegates in part suggested that such letters should be ignored entirely, others favored the point that these letters should be presented at the Convention.

It was decided to receive the complaints of the Speaker of the Vorort to 1, to 2, to 3 and further:

Decided: Impolite letters should in the future be presented to the Convention by the Vorort.

The Speaker of the Convention remarked that since yesterday two more credentials were received and presented. One from the Philadelphia Maenner Turnverein, as representative Gerhardt from Washington and one from Dedham, Mass., as representative Bertsch from Cincinnati.

The report of the Turnerpaper Committee was next in order. The Committee reported, however, that same was not as yet complete.

The delegate from Rochester, N. Y. made a motion which decided: To appoint a special committee of three delegates for the purpose of discussing and debating the following points:

- 1) How is a re-uniting in our Turnerbund most desirable?
- 2) Under what conditions is this possible?
- 3) What steps should be taken on our sides to make this desirable?

The Speaker of the Convention appointed to this Committee: Fellmann from Rochester, Boebel from Milwaukee and F. Bertsch from Cincinnati.

A motion was made and carried to have a recess of a one-half hour period.

After the re-opening of the Convention the Finance Committee reported that their report was not finished.

The report of the committee for examining the books of the Vorort was now considered.

Substance from the report: The committee found that the business of the Vorort during the last year was comprehensive and manifold, however, in consideration of this, they did execute the business with praiseworthy promptness.

While the protocol from the years 1855 and 1856 took up only 195 pages, the ones from 1856 and 1857 took about 550 pages.

The increase in business, together with other situations, made it seem that the secretaries were not always in position to record all proceedings promptly, and that in the order of the protocols a mixup was found several times.

The following protocols were not at hand:

From 23rd of March about letter - No. 608 - 625

From 17th and 25th of June about letter - No. 672-674-687

From 17th of August about letter - No. 799-831

From 1st of September about letter - No. 857-868

The committee is of the opinion that by purchasing two protocol books each of the secretaries of the Vorort undisturbed by the other could record the protocols which come to him. In this way the Vorort could take a firm stand toward individual officers and by a closer inspection be able to have more regularity regarding the reading of the minutes. Also postponement of the reading of the minutes could be done when situations called for it but postponement for months at a time should not be done. Unnoticed decision and reports were not found. These should have been paid for though they were not recorded.

The committee requested that a clear picture be given of the efforts of the Vorort so that it can be decided if and where the blame for these bad conditions can be laid.

The committee also requested that we continue with the protocol book as started.

The Speaker of the Vorort reported that the omission in the protocol was due to the large amount of business at hand. As a whole, we find detail recordings in the protocol book. The material to fill in the omission can be found in the control book in complete

Additional statements, that the first reason for the omission was due to not having a new protocol book as soon as the other was completed.

The Treasury had no funds to pay current bills and wages regularly so it was necessary to delay the purchase of the new protocol book for about six weeks and to catch up with the recording was not an easy task.

At the question as to whether the protocols and documents during the time of the omission were at hand, the Speaker stated that all is in the best of order. The books will be up to date and complete by the time they are submitted to the new Vorort, about October 1st.

The 1st Secretary made the statement that he did everything that was in his power and there would be no omission if he would not have to make preparations to travel to Detroit on business as directed and, therefore, was prevented from doing the recording.

He is surprised to know that the committee requests the impossible, since the last meetings could not be recorded any more and that nobody ever requested that the Treasury books should be closed on the day of the Convention. These books can only be closed at the time when they are turned over to the newly elected Treasurer.

A committee member doubts that a belated entry could be made and wishes that the Vorort in the future would see to it that exactness in bookkeeping is maintained at all time since this service is paid for.

The committee is of the opinion that only the protocol Secretary of the Vorort should make entry in the protocol book. Also declares that the Vorort cannot be criticized. It expressed, however, the desire that the next Vorort should provide ways and means of preventing reprimanding, especially when it brings about a grave injustice to some real Turners.

The Speaker of the Vorort does not believe that any consideration will help, except that a paid Secretary should be engaged. The present Secretary was criticized but did not deserve such treatment because he did far more than anyone could expect him to do. He was convinced that he very often neglected his own business many times in order to do this job with great care.

The Secretary remarked also that in most sessions there were 20 to 40 letters without other important work that must be taken care of. The sessions are held at night after working hours. During this year not all letters came into the hands of the protocol Secretary. Others were received by the clerk. For this reason the recording was made far more difficult. In order to maintain a clear orderly protocol book it was decided to have only the Secretary do the recording. To do justice in the future, the Vorort should have a paid Secretary.

A committee member made the request to turn this matter over to the Vorort to report on the cost of such service.

A motion was made to excuse the secretary and to extend the thanks of the Convention to the Vorort, especially to the Secretary for his efforts.

One delegate was in favor of a single thank you.

The committee informed the Convention that after various statements were made, there is little reason for reprimanding at hand, that also the finance protocols are one of the main duties of the Secretary, which takes a lot of time and is very detailed work. These books are in excellent order. Therefore, a vote of confidence should be given to the Secretary.

In regards to the missing copybook, the Secretary stated that same was overlooked while packing for the trip, however, as the editor Becker declares, the book was in the best order.

One delegate stated that the possession of two protocol books was not practical and would cause confusion.

It was decided to table the motion until after the revision of the Constitution.

It was also decided to accept the report of the Vorort as to the omission of part of the protocol and the reason for it, but to extend the thanks of the Convention for the diligent work done by the Vorort especially by the Secretary.

A debate followed a motion which requested the discussion of the next Turnfest, Convention and Vorort headquarters. Several delegates stated that this question belonged to Constitution revision, but the maker of the motion and member of the committee was of the opposite opinion. Others wanted to wait until the matter about re-uniting with the organizations who withdrew from the Bund could be disposed of.

A motion followed to adjourn.

AFTERNOON SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1857

The reading of the protocol of the morning session was postponed because same was not completely written.

The committee for the National Turnerpaper made its report.

V. Summary of the Report.

The committee would like very much to consider the request of many societies to enlarge the Turner publication if only the National Treasury could stand for the payment of same. If the organizations will send in the back payments it will be possible to still enlarge the paper this year. The committee made this motion:

Decision 1: To give the Vorort the authority as soon as the National Treasury will permit to take steps to enlarge the paper.

It is the committee's belief that the paper, because of its content not only for Turners but also for the general public, could

gain popularity. It would be an honor to our Bund if its organ could be figured with the best German-American publications in the country.

Decision 2: The committee holds strict to paragraph 4. ("Bundesorgan of the Pittsburgh Convention, which requested each member to take the Turnerpaper.

Some were ready to state that this decision was a "forced subscription" (abonentenzwang). At a Turnfest in New York in a welcome speech, it was brought out that the main reason for a difference with the Bund lies with the "forced subscription" rule.

The committee, on the other hand, looks at this self-imposed and for that reason, self-understandable obligation for every National member, to receive this very interesting paper for 3 cents per week, as an absolute not compelled decision which could be charged with "forced."

Decision 3: 27 societies instructed their delegates that the two editor system should be abolished. Only one editor with a substantial increase in pay should be appointed. The committee through experience also supports this request of the many societies.

Decision 4: Several organizations requested the desire to hire a good European correspondent for the National organ and the committee also agreed with the above statement and added that such a change would also benefit the circulation of the paper.

The criticisms of the publishing office of the paper were not less, but more complaints were made. Through the hiring of a clerk in charge of the publishing office nothing was gained.

Decision 5: The committee made the motion to dismiss the clerk. In his place the shipping agency for the paper be given over to the foreman of the printing office and to raise his pay for that from \$10 to \$12.

The bookkeeper of the Vorort should as before, not only have the title but also should have the business of keeping the books. For extra work in bookkeeping, correspondence, and protocol, entry appropriation should be made to the Vorort for the sum of \$200. By this change (\$500 was appropriated in the previous Convention) the National Treasury could save \$200 and still could look around for a suitable editor.

Decision 6: The committee is in favor of abolishing of the regular monthly enclosure, instead it recommends the publishing of this enclosure only as soon as enough material is at hand to print same.

(The second half was decided) 7: In consideration of the standpoint of the National paper, the committee is for endorsing the Pittsburgh platform, however, wants shorter popular articles.

Decision 8: The American panorama review should be eliminated, in its place the main political questions be given in the independent and objective style in leading articles.

Decision 9: The Vorort should order the New York Evening Post and the "Truebuena" as an assist for the editor.

Decision 10: Questions about Turner activities should appear oftener as before in the Turnerpaper.

Any scientific question which is under consideration for an open debate, should be printed by the editor for the benefit of the reader so that he can be properly informed.

These are the suggestions and wishes that this committee proposes to submit to this Convention.

It was decided to accept this report and in its parts to bring same for debate.

100

In the discussions of the first part, about the enlargement of the Turnerpaper, the size of the family papers which would cost \$60 to \$70 was proposed.

Other delegates want the size of the paper to be such that same could be bound. Still others are in favor of the present form and want to save the cost which would occur if the change was made. Some are for the elimination of the spaces between lines and in this way more reading material could be used.

As soon as the speaker of the Vorort made it known that in the following year an enlargement of the paper was not possible, then several proposals were taken back.

The motion of the committee (see part 1) was passed.

The 2nd part was read.

A delegate made the proposal according to his instruction that paragraph 4 should be stricken and it should be left to each society how many Turnerpapers they care to receive, but to raise the price from 3 to 5 cents per copy.

This proposition was opposed because if the rule of paragraph 4 were eliminated, it may be that many Turners would cancel the paper and that the same could not exist any longer.

Further remarks were made that no Vorort or societies could undertake the publishing of the paper regularly. They could not stand the risk of the expense for paper, printing, mailing, etc.

More remarks; one should be convinced that if this tie which encircles the society is broken soon thereafter, our entire organization would discontinue and then the agitation of the trouble makers would soon win a foothold.

Another delegate also stated that the Bund could not exist without a National organ and that this organ must have a sure existance in our

National organization. The material advantages should be of great help to both the Bund and organizations.

It was also added that it would be a good thing if the membership in some organization would read the paper quietly and with interest for a period of one year.

One of the delegates from Cincinnati avered that he, himself, made a motion in the Cincinnati Turn Gemeinde to abolish this paragraph but during the debate he was convinced that the so called "forced" was absolutely necessary.

Still another delegate stated that most of the organization did not consider the matter carefully when they instructed their delegates to abolish this paragraph. Again another stated that this obligation is the only safe measure for the existence of our National organ.

It was decided to do everything possible to reduce the price, as soon as the means permitted.

That this obligation as it was explained would be too great a burden for the small societies, a remark was made that the societies should send in the Turnerpaper money with the National dues. In this way it would be a very small contribution for the individuals. The teaching and the explanations you receive from the organ is more than the small sacrifice you make. Those who are hollering the loudest against the paper need it most. The weekly cost is only 3 cents. The paper should be in every Turner's hand and read by all. In addition it was stated, that the Convention express the desire that all societies make an effort to have all their members read the Turnerpaper. This request was not accepted because it was already a society rule.

Another motion was also defeated, to notify organizations of how many copies they would have to take, so that both parties do not suffer.

The motion to have carriers so that every Turner could receive the paper and the distribution thereby be made easier was also lost. The societies are the agents of the Turnerpaper and are requested to distribute the paper and if they neglect this duty, the above motion would also be of no use.

The motion, point 2, was adopted (see part 2 above). Resolution was passed: To reduce the price of the paper for the national organizations as soon as the National Treasury can make the adjustment.

A telegram was received from the National Treasurer in which he asked if it were absolutely necessary for him to be present at the Convention.

The Speaker of the Convention then asked the finance committee if it were necessary to have the Treasurer present while his books were examined. It was not.

Motion made and passed: The presence of the Treasurer was not needed.

Through the Speaker of the Convention, the answer was sent back to the Treasurer as "No."

The third part of the report was read.

One delegate made the motion to retain two editors, this motion was lost. As to the motion by the committee, it was voted to hire only one editor (see above part 2). An additional motion to raise his salary to \$800 was accepted by the committee. It was, however, stated that it would be desirable to wait with this amendment until it was decided where the next Vorort would be located. It was then decided to set the salary for the editor at \$800.

The 4th part of the report, to hire an European editor, was then open for discussion.

One delegate stated that it was not necessary to hire such an editor, but he would like to have more articles printed about Turning.

Others find that such a change would be desirable because the paper would have a better standing with the public, and also would have a larger reading circle.

Part 5 was now ready for discussion.

The Speaker of the Vorort stated that the Convention had no right to make any agreement about the salary of the foreman of the printing office, that he was entirely opposed to the motion. He also stated that he had no time for this extra enterprise. Also that the Vorort needs someone who can also take care of the clerical work. No one could expect anyone to do this work gratis.

A delegate made the motion to provide \$500 for this type of work. Another fought against this and stated the Vorort needs too much money. The work of the Vorort could be done some other way, cheaper and better and the members of the Vorort should not only take the officer positions but should also do the work. He stated that the amount set by the committee of \$200 should be sufficient and favored the motion to provide \$300 instead of \$500.

Others reminded that \$300 would not be enough. For such an amount one could not get a good bookkeeper. \$500 is not too much for the service he must do. Namely, a large amount of clerical work, also mailing and sending 4600 newspapers.

Motion passed: For expedition and clerical work to allow the Vorort \$500.

It was decided to adjourn until 7:30 in the evening.

EVENING SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1857

The protocol of the morning session was read by the Secretary.

The committee on revising the protocol books reported that they did not find any criticism about keeping the protocol books of the Vorort, only in some cases where not enough facts were given. This committee itself felt obliged to also vote for giving the protocol secretary a vote of thanks for his fine service.

Two delegates requested a motion for the excellent and diligent way of keeping the books of the Vorort, to extend a vote of thanks of the Convention to the Vorort which should be recorded in the protocol.

The business of the Convention was continued and the 6th part of the committee report on the Turnerpaper was read.

The committee moved a change for the better that at least every quarter of a year an extra insert should be published with the paper.

A request was made, that the vorort be urged to print matters of importance at once. This should rest with the discretion of the Vorort.

Motion made and passed: The extra insert should be printed as soon as enough material is at hand. However, it should be the rule to print the extra insert at least quarterly.

The 7th part now came under discussion. One delegate stated that the part that deals with the platform did not belong here and made the motion to table this until that part comes up under the order of business. The committee was willing and stated that they only wanted to say something about the policy of the paper.

Vote passed: The 7th part of the committee report omitting the first part was accepted.

Decision made: To accept the 8th, 9th and 10th part of the report.

Several delegates considered the following motion: The feuilleton should with special regards to women readers of the Turnerpaper, be kept in light and polite literature. It should consist of romance, novel and biographies altered in a suitable way.

A delegate made a motion that the editor should be forbidden to carry any personal controversy in the Turnerpaper.

This motion was later changed as follows: That the editor had a right to defend himself but not to scold.

Later it was again stated that the editor should have the right to defend himself and that the truth cannot always be handled in a mild form. Liberal-minded editors had for a long time been subjected to villainous, miserable wretched meanness from literary hirelings and this gang should receive something worthwhile across the mouth. No Turners should permit anyone to torment or spoil one's work. The editor should have malice, yes much malice.

One delegate thought in the last year, controversial matters came up which were extended in a very lengthy way and could only harm the Bund. No controversy should be carried too far, but a right to defend themselves should be the editor's privilege.

One delegate was instructed to bring up that the Turnerpaper should follow a neutral political tendency in which case they would gain more respect and a greater influence by taking an independent stand, also could thereby prevent the accusation that the Turnerbund is for party agitation.

It was further remarked that the editors should not look for trouble and battle but also should not let anyone box their ears, then there is also mental ear-boxing that counts. Another delegate stated that in the case of a low-down attack, you cannot blame the editor for stepping in and hammering away until the furs fly.

A delegate remarked that it seems to him that any motion was out of place because we should permit the editor to use his own discretion. He explained in a humorous way the limit to which he can stay but he also should keep in mind his originality in any case.

A general viewpoint should be considered. One should not muzzle the editor. He is responsible to the Convention and should use tact in editing the paper. The previous motion was then voted on.

Decided: The editorial of the Turnzeitung should be so conducted that provoking and personal attacks on the editors and the Bund in satire or ridicule or for personal defence be answered in such a way that no one is permitted to step on them or the Bund but they must fight their battle in a manly way.

A motion was made.

Decided: To give the editorial staff of the Turnerpaper a vote of confidence.

The next step was to vote for an editor of the Turnerpaper.

Proposed were C. Becker and Bracklow. (the latter in writing.)

Godfrid Becker was unanimously elected. It was decided to inform Mr. Bracklow of the result of the voting and at the same time let him know that on account of the new rule to hire only one editor. His election was made impossible.

The special committee for giving an opinion for re-union propositions (with the organizations that withdrew) read their report.

In answering the questions which were before us, the committee had the following to report.

1) A re-union of the Turner societies is recommendable as long as their principles and fundamental rules are the same. A larger

group of societies are in the position to do more effective work in many ways than a small group. The Turners who have many enemies have reason to unite, so that they can give effective resistance and continue to work for a great goal to develop the human being according to free and human laws into a happy and healthy individual.

We know very well, that in uniting the way Turners are to enlarge themselves with unsatisfactory and damaging elements must be avoided. But we are convinced that the Turner organizations which do not belong to the Turnerbund at this time, in the majority of their membership, are in principle of the same mind and that they, true to our Turner principle would work hand in hand with us.

It is a lot to suggest to bring about a re-union and remarks can be made against such action. But the committee feels that the first statement made above holds the text to all. The second question:

2) Rules for a re-union must be set up as follows:

- a. Payment of all arrears up to the time they stepped out.
- b. Recognizing all the resolutions passed at the Pittsburgh Convention that the minority must submit to the majority rule. Also they must accept the decision of this year's Convention.

3) The third question may have been disposed of, as soon as the above statements can be voted upon and passed. We do have to add that the Vorort should be instructed that the societies in question should be admitted without paying entrance fees and without a waiting period if they accept the above National rules.

After reading this report a motion was made to receive this report. It was stated that this report was in every respect expressed in a feeling of honor and upright sincere effort to bring about a re-uniting of all real Turner societies.

Several voices were heard against re-uniting, some were instructed against admitting these societies. They remarked that they would be the cause to work against the welfare of the Bund. One delegate requested firmly the expulsion of all the societies which cheated the Bund and those who tried for several years to destroy same.

Against this it was stated that many, especially small societies, were sorry they withdrew and would be pleased to rejoin the National organization again.

Another thought was expressed, that paragraph 5 of the National Convention prohibits two National organizations from existing in one and the same place, this would be in conflict with the Constitution. Finally, it was stated that all petty matters and heckling should be dropped. If two societies are in one place, it would be necessary to leave it to them to decide which one should become a member, second, the Vorort could take steps to settle it and if this all fails then there is still a way open, that an exception could be reached, a small change in the rule. But after all a strong basis is needed to bring this about so that the old dance does not start all over again.

It was voted to receive the report and the rules set up by the Committee were carried.

Motion made and carried to record this report in the Convention protocol book and to send same also to each one of the societies who withdrew from the Bund.

Motion made and carried to adjourn until Sunday morning, 9:00 a.m.

MORNING SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 6th, 1857.

After the opening of the session a motion was made that the bills of the Bund should be paid through free collections from the societies.

Instead, a motion was carried to lay the above motion on the table until the finance report was adopted.

The Committee on Constitution presented its report, because the committee to revise the finance book was not able to complete their work.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE.

The outline of the committee for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th part of the introduction stated: The representation of the principles of the Turnerbund regarding American politics can in the present political setup only be preserved by taking a stand to battle against the misuses. "The Turners are against any elimination of any rights which show the right color of religion or the place of your birth, because they do not permit any consolidation with a cosmopolitan worldly lookout."

There were objections made against points 3 and 4. As was told, the Knownothing issue does not exist any more and too much weight was placed on the temperance question, however, point 2 should be joined up with the committee report. Some were in favor of the outline of the committee. On the other hand, it was stated that the outline of the committee has no final settlement but it was not good to change the now familiar platform.

For the first part of the introduction, because the Bund is an organization of societies and had to do with it, another rule will be proposed and also decided. (The introduction of the new Turner Convention).

The second part of the motion stated as follows:

- 1) The Turners are against slavery. (Same as in the old Constitution.)
- 2) The Turners are opposed to nativism. They consider this as a cosmopolitan America as unworthy as a Chinaism. The word "Chinaism" was later changed to "Kastenthum."
- 3) The Turners are opposed to political Churchism as it holds in a field which lies beyond the border of the State and any political group.
- 4) The Turners are opposed to the temperance mischief.
(Same as in the old Constitution.)

After a long debate this was disposed of, in its place was substituted the 3rd part of the motion, an improvement at the end of the introduction in the old Constitution as follows:

Decided: The Turnerbund should be a culture school for all revolutionary ideas which come from a natural and rational view of the world.

A committee member held that the committee proposal was sufficient, namely when in behalf of the opposition against slavery, an amendment would be made. Made a motion which was later lost.

The Turnerbund declared itself against the institution of slavery in this country.

Other delegates made the statements repeatedly, that the Know-nothingism does not exist any more, but instead the nativism. For this reason the first point and also the temperance question should not receive special attention. But in case of the slave question we should take firm steps against it. Many were against a political platform and want only a radical one.

Statements were made against the latter stating that the Turnerbund should always be openminded in all party questions.

The Buffalo platform brought about a solid foundation for the Turner movement and it would be better to remain with it and stand fast with these principles.

Point 2 should be kept alive.

A delegate remarked that the Turnerpaper is for the educational discussion arrangement of individuality.

To the two motions made, additional statements about slavery and changes for the better for points 1, 2, 3, and 4, there was still another motion added, to especially emphasize the slavery and the nativism question in the committee report. Later the words "the species" were added.

Against the last additional phrase rose a storm of protest for this reason, while it according to our fundamental rules of humanity appears natural, our enemies would consider same as a rude suspicious lead.

A delegate wanted to know if Negroes could be admitted as members. The answer was that the Bund cannot make any difference between skin color and, therefore, from the Bundes standpoint nothing would stand in its way.

The committee motion was then adopted as follows:

The Turners are against slavery, nativism or any form of inhibiting personal freedom, which deals with skin color, religion, the place of birth or species of human, because same cannot be united with a cosmopolitan worldly viewpoint. A motion was made to have a recess for ten minutes.

(Report from the afternoon and evening sessions are missing.)

MORNING SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1857.

The protocol of the afternoon session was accepted.

An attack was made against the ways and means of voting on the committee proposal with its change for the better as to the introduction.

The Speaker of the Bund made a motion to declare the Speaker of the Convention out of order.

A delegate wanted a re-consideration.

Both motions were declared out of order by the Speaker of the Convention.

The Speaker of the Bund appealed to the Convention.

The Speaker of the Convention stated that as rule one can vote for an amendment motion first but that in this, the amendments are so close to the main motion that it would be without gain and in addition, parliamentary rules are also a factor.

The Speaker of the Bund replied that the question was if the decision of the Speaker of the Convention is in order. A vote was taken and the 2nd Speaker took over the chair during this question.

Vote was cast as follows: The decision of the Speaker of the Convention was in order. The re-statement of the decision regarding the introductory points 1,2,3, and 4 were again proposed. The word species should not be in the motion as a fundamental concept. A few delegates stated that this passage as a general rule should not have passed, then in reality only two delegates were in favor of including same, all others against. This insert should not be included for that reason.

Regarding this remarks were made by other delegates that every delegate did understand what this was all about and a repetition was not necessary. However, another delegate was of the opinion that a confusion was brought about and that many delegates have a wrong

conception. The Vice-President of the Convention stated that he was under the impression that the decision was made without the insert and many delegates were of the same mind.

In the voting about same it was, however, decided not to reconsider this proposition. The paragraphs 1 and 2 of the old Constitution were read and adopted.

Paragraph 3 was added "and its statutes" and instead of membership record to substitute the word "membership". Paragraph 3 to remain as is.

Decided to adjourn until Monday morning, September 7th, time 7:30 a.m.

MORNING SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1857.

The protocol from the afternoon and evening session of September 6th were read and passed.

The revision of the Constitution continued.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 were read and accepted.

To paragraph 6 the following proposal was made: If in a city a National organization withdraws from the Bund and a new society joins in its place, it is also permitted that the former society could also be admitted again and also to state at the end of the paragraph "it should be permitted to organize branch societies."

Later the delegate who made the motion made this improvement to the motion "that in a city which has a population of over 200,000, there could be two National Organizations."

However, it was considered to be dangerous and would lead to disputes to have the above paragraphs thus changed and for the reason stated both proposals were rejected.

An amendment to paragraph 6 was made and decided: Such branch societies can be entirely independent in management, but are requested in National affairs to have contact with the central committee.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 were read and adopted.

Paragraph 9 was read. A motion was made and decided: To substitute the following "Turner material is on hand" instead of books and the like.

Paragraph 10 was amended "the withdrawal from the Bund is left free to all societies" as soon as the Vorort is notified about this action. Continued "since the withdrawal or exclusion of any society no other society can be taken in as members before the next National Convention."

A delegate wanted the passage "after 4 weeks" omitted, because no one could compel a society to remain as members if they decide to withdraw.

A motion was passed.

The withdrawal from the Bund is left free for any society as soon as a written statement is made to the Vorort and if all obligations are settled.

A delegate made the motion and it passed to add to paragraph 5 "if the society has fulfilled its obligation."

In paragraph 10 it was recommended to omit the phrase "from 3 Bundesvereine."

Part of the delegation expressed their desire to retain this paragraph and a motion was made to change this as follows: "from at least two societies."

Another improvement was made, instead: "protested" substitute "objections made."

The committee proposal was rejected. (See above) As to a motion, that a different ruling for this and other paragraphs were necessary, the President of the Convention replied to it as follows:

The Convention should not take time because a purposeful arrangement and a useful organization of rules and of paragraphs passed should be edited and recorded in the Convention protocol.

Paragraph 11 was read and the three month's time for a credit period was considered to be too long and recommended that a two month's period should be ample time.

Another delegate remarked that many times the bills are received too late and for that reason the two month period would be too short. It was requested to write up this paragraph more distinctly and definitely and also proposed that the Turnerpaper bills should be paid monthly. A Turner added that the credit period for other payments should remain for a three month's period.

A motion made and passed: The credit period should be two month's instead of three.

Paragraph 12 was read and adopted.

Paragraph 13 was read and with the endorsement of the committee it was proposed: The words "the Bund itself and" to be crossed out from this paragraph. This was passed.

From a delegate the following wording of the first sentence of paragraph 13 was proposed and decided: The Convention is the only competent judge over disputes in the National body.

Paragraph 14 was read and decided: In order to improve the financial situation of the Bund the dues should be raised to \$2.00 a month.

This motion was not supported, it was stated that the smaller societies should be considered more, that they have too many expenses already.

Motion made to read paragraph 14 and to be as is.

Paragraphs 15 and 16 were read and adopted.

Paragraph 17 was changed as suggested by the Speaker of the Vorort.

Decided: Instead of 1, 2, and 3, the Secretary to change c. and d. "1 and 2 protocol and e. to correspondence Secretary."

Paragraph 18 was changed as follows:

Decided: As paragraph 18 "the Bundesverein" at the seat of the Vorort will elect same from within its membership." After reading paragraph 19 and the improvement motion of the committee a delegate requested to strike out point 3 and point 9, a and b as instructed. Many others stated in a lively discussion, that proposals and extra conventions should be abolished or as much as possible be made more difficult. One delegate spoke for retaining this rule.

Decided: The motion of the committee omitting point 3, should be adopted.

For point 4 (now paragraph 3) the committee motion proposal

Decided: To strike out "in a monthly enclosure".

As to point 7 of paragraph 19 a motion was made by the committee to eliminate this point which was rejected because the 2nd part of this point had to remain as is.

A motion was made with this change as follows:

Decided: "If the situations etc. and with the consent of the organization from which the Vorort was elected to do."

A motion made and adopted: "In important dealings and with co-operation of the society, to make definite and binding motions."

As to point 9, it was decided: To retain decision. Also decided: "The Vorort should send the bill to the organizations every month."

(About point 10, are the resolutions in the discussion about the "National Organ," for which a ruling is already made?)

Repeatedly it was pointed out by the Speaker of the Convention how necessary it is also by this paragraph 19 to have a carefully worked over and collected editorial of the Convention protocol, that the Convention cannot take time do this properly.

It was decided to have a ten minute recess.

After re-opening of the Convention, additional points of paragraph 19 (the old rules) were discussed and decided: As point 7, the Vorort has as its duty to inform every new society which makes application to join, to call their attention to the contradicting and shortcomings of the Constitution.

Decided: As point 8 "to refuse membership of a society as long as that society has a member who has been expelled from another society."

Decided: To change paragraph 20 as follows, instead of "editors" to "editor."

Decided: Paragraphs 21, 22, and 23 were adopted.

Decided: Paragraph 24 was changed as follows: to strike out the phrase "as last resort."

Decided: Paragraph 25, adoption.

Decided: Paragraph 26 to be omitted. (As requested by the Committee)

Next step was to discuss the

BY-LAWS

Point (a) paragraph 1, cross out the words "in Germany", this was not seconded. Instead, the following motion was made.

Decided: Instead "from a Turner society in Germany" to change to "from a Turner society outside of the United States."

Decided: To adopt the points b, c, d, and e.

To paragraph 3 a delegate made this motion to add: "insofar as it consists of medicinal treatment and doctor's care."

Others were in favor of eliminating paragraph 3 entirely, because same only has a suggestion to offer. Several others, however, regard the suggestion for this institute as very desirable. To the above was added, the organization for workingmen's bureaus be recommended.

All motions were lost and the following decided to retain paragraph 3 as is.

Paragraph 4 was read and the speaker of the Bund stated that societies often requested publishing the names of Turners who for non-payment of dues were expelled. The Vorort wanted to please the societies but stated that a publication of this sort is not justified.

Several other delegates stated that the non-payment of dues is not right, but not dishonorable and expressed the desire that only expelled members should be publicized.

Against this it was stated that every organization has their own rules for such situations and for that reason one cannot make any exceptions, but must retain this paragraph.

Still another delegate remarked (who is for publication, because same is done under the societies name) that an exception to understand in behalf of the Vorort should be brought about at once. He made the following motion: That the following rules for paragraph 4 be

Decided: "Members who were expelled due to dishonorable actions should be publicized in the paper by the Vorort with reasons for same.

When requested the story about a dishonorable discharge should be submitted to the National body.

Paragraph 5 was now read and the Speaker of the Bund requested that large amounts of money should not be sent by express but instead through exchange.

One delegate stated that for his society it was impossible to pay through the exchange of Cincinnati and he was opposed to such action.

The motion was made and carried instead of "through secure channels (Express)" to insert "through exchange."

A following motion was made:

Decided: "The organization must send in their money through safe channels or through secure exchange, etc." The Speaker of the Bund stated in a motion the following addition to the sentence.

Decided: "The organizations are responsible for sending the money, must defray the sending expense and look after safe delivery."

Decided: To adopt paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Paragraph 10 was read and the Speaker of the Vorort made his viewpoint known that this paragraph did not belong in the by-laws.

One delegate was instructed to propose that the Vorort should send songs to the organizations. Another delegate requested that the Vorort should be requested to issue new pyramid drawings. It was decided: The Vorort is requested, etc. (See paragraph 10 of the By-Laws of the old Constitution) and 12 four voice pieces for Turner societies to be sent to the Societies against payment for same.

Decided: To adopt paragraphs 11 and 12.

Paragraph 13 was read and on account of several instructions from societies, a lively debate was started.

In the proposal for "military organizations in the Bund appointing a committee to decide on a uniform military arms of all Turner cadets," also to "decide upon a like uniform" in addition, a like costume for Turners of wintertime for general use. Establishment of a good sharpshooter-skirmisher regulation and proposals that all work out for a uniform establishment.

Because of the viewpoint that such an undertaking should be left for the time being in the hands of local societies the following

proposals were rejected: (1) The motion for the military organization of the Bund, (2) The motion to decide on a winter uniform for Turners. On the other hand the following motion was decided: A like drill regulation to be started by all Sharpshooters Corps.

Paragraph 14 and also the amendment motion of the committee were read. Same has the following contention.

Decided: National Organizations which have good Turner talent and which are properly situated should start leader schools for developing able Turnleaders. These organizations should be properly supported by the Vorort.

The Speaker of the Bund finds this paragraph and this rule very nice but not practical for action because the Bund has no finances to help out.

A delegate, however, stated that the paragraph and the motion was practical only in the last year due to the falling off of societies and because of non-payment of their dues, this proposition was not made possible, but he stated that in the coming year it could be started. He is in favor of the committee proposals and made a motion to complete same in order to bring about a system, a uniformity of exercises.

The Vorort is requested to take steps to hire a trained Turnteacher from the Dresden Seminar as soon as the financial situation of our National Treasury will permit. He should be employed by the National Turner Executive Staff. The Vorort should allow from \$500 to \$600 for this proposition.

Some delegates hold such proposition to be a pious wish, but state it cannot be carried through.

A delegate held that the old paragraph 14 was very good, therefore, the committee proposal was impractical. The following amendment

"That a traveling Turnteacher should be engaged who will visit various organizations of the Bund and should receive from the Bund for this service the sum of \$200. The maintenance cost should be paid by the organization which receives this instruction.

The maker of the motion held that steps should be taken now to engage a Turnteacher and stated that the committee proposal is very practical but for the time being he was of the opinion that if this proposal is not adopted at this time, all is lost time. By the next Convention he would not be available.

Instructed by the Turner society in Philadelphia he proposed the name of Turnteacher Louis Winter from Philadelphia.

To a question, what this teacher could accomplish in a general way, he remarked:

That he had to visit societies and would have to stay 8 or 14 days, in other places several weeks in order to train good leaders in a system, for the time being, until he could re-appear or that he could send a substitute teacher who was instructed by him. His instruction should be that the exercises for the apparatus at hand should be for a one year program and to prepare the leaders so they can understand the fundamental procedure of the Turner system. Also that these leaders are able to understand practical Turner books and could properly demonstrate exercises contained in them.

At the seat of the National headquarters or in another suitable place he should remain for a quarter of a year or perhaps for one half year in order that a Turnteacher, during his absence should continue in practical exercising and that the junior group could become the missionaries of Turnerism following a general plan.

Especially to start boys and girls Turn classes which are so necessary for a Turner society and for immeasurable value to our

No expense would ever be of a greater value and no yearly effort would bring greater results than the active organization of such classes.

In addition, such a well learned Turnteacher would contribute a lot to overcome many misunderstandings and nasty rawdealing regarding the Turner efforts.

The amendment to hire a teacher for \$200 was lost. Also the amendment to hire a teacher from the Dresden Turn teachers school for the sum of \$500 to \$600 was also lost.

Decided: To adopt the committee proposals.

Motion passed to have recess until 1:30 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 7th, 1857.

The protocol of the morning session of September 6th was read.

The 1st Speaker remarked that the entire second sentence of the introduction should be taken in with the committee proposal. Also notice should be made in proper place, that he had given over the President's chair to the 2nd Speaker.

With this addition the protocol was adopted.

The revision of the Constitution was continued.

Decided: To adopt paragraph 15.

The committee requested striking out paragraph 16 as not workable. This creates a lively discussion. It was stated that this paragraph did bring about many good results and will stimulate many more organizations in time to come to do their best.

The proposal by the committee was rejected.

Decided: To retain paragraph 16.

Decided: To adopt paragraphs 17, 18, and 19.

As to paragraph 20, it was stated that for the mental effort of societies more should be done and it would be well when at last lectures according to the American form could be started.

Accordingly, it was reported that the proposals are still on hand but that neglect was due to financial difficulties and also due to our entanglements that it was not brought to life. A motion made and decided: To retain paragraph 20 and to request the Vorort to carry out this ruling without delay.

Decided: To retain paragraphs 21 and 22.

To paragraph 23 a proposal was made to have two Turnfests, one in the East and the other in the West.

After a short debate it was considered best to have only one National Turnfest.]

Decided: To retain paragraph 23.

The paragraph 24 finds much opposition. Several delegates desired that no prizes should be set up by the National Office because a clear judging by such different groups of training and development of such free and exhibition exercises is not possible and thus our National Treasury would be relieved of a large financial burden.

Others remarked it was more practical that the Vorort would not furnish all prizes but that the Turnfest society should also furnish such prizes.

To discontinue the prizes for declamation and music was also suggested and one of the delegates wanted the whole prize system abolished because it would be unworthy of Turners to come to a Turnfest because of prizes only.

It was also desired and a motion passed to set aside a definite amount of money for National prizes and also to include some for older Turners and Juniors.

Also there should be exercise divisions retained and Turning in general, apparatus and natural Turning, in which a just decision can be made more correctly. This latter part should have more consideration.

A delegate wanted also a motion passed, that Turners who received a first prize one time at a National Turnfest cannot compete for same again at another Turnfest.

The motion to abolish the prize system entirely was rejected and finally the motion made with an amendment and decided: At every Turnfest, only 4 prizes should be awarded for older Turners, 2 for bodily exercises, 1 for literary efforts and one for art work. Two prizes for Junior Turners for encouragement. For furnishing the additional prizes the Festival society will make preparation.

It was proposed to give the Vorort \$100 for Turnfest prizes. In addition, it was proposed to allow from this sum \$40 for Junior prizes.

Lastly, another amendment was made to allow \$100 for 6 National prizes and to permit the allocation of these prizes to the hands of the Festival society.

The second part of the motion was declared out of order by the Speaker on account of the preceding past motion but the first part was decided: To furnish 6 Turnfest prizes, the Vorort has jurisdiction over \$100 for this purpose.

Decided: To retain the balance part of paragraph 24.

Decided: To retain paragraph 25.

To paragraph 26, several places were proposed for holding the next National Turnfest.

Baltimore, Belleville, Buffalo, Chicago, and Dayton.

The delegate from Baltimore made known that his society was not considered for five years and that the Festivals were often held in

The delegate from Belleville is definitely for Belleville, because in its vicinity are many new and very promising Turner societies and, therefore, his society would be the most suitable. After several additional remarks it was decided to vote. Buffalo received 41, Belleville 28, Baltimore 20 and Dayton 3 votes.

The motion to again vote between the two societies who received the most votes was rejected and by a motion from the delegates from St. Louis, decided: Even though no society received a majority vote it was decided to hold the next Turnfest, according to paragraph 26 in Buffalo, N. Y.

The delegate from Buffalo thanked the Convention for their consideration.

To paragraph 27 regarding the next Convention city, the following places were proposed: Rochester, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Wheeling and Cincinnati.

The Speaker of the Bund made it known that it would be to great advantage and a saving for the National Treasury if the Convention would be held in the city where the Vorort is located. At the same time the delegates would have a nice opportunity to look over the National property and also to have a look into the Vorort doings and business organization.

After a short debate it was voted Indianapolis 47, Rochester 26, St. Louis 19, Wheeling 5, and Cincinnati 5.

Paragraph 27. The voting decided to hold the next Convention in Indianapolis.

For the Vorort city, according to paragraph 28, the following were nominated: Cincinnati, St. Louis and Milwaukee.

The delegates from Cincinnati stated that the Turngemeinde was fed up with having the Vorort any longer. Their instructions were

that only in case no other society was ready and willing to take over, that only then the delegates were permitted to accept it again.

The delegate from St. Louis stated that St. Louis would not take over the Vorort under any condition.

The delegate from Milwaukee made the same statement as to Milwaukee.

The speaker of the Convention wanted, if possible, to have the Vorort transferred but as all organizations proposed stated that they did not have the material or the intellectual strength, found himself obligated to vote for Cincinnati again.

From many sides it was stated, as the National situation now stands, it would be necessary to have in the coming year a strong, able and businesslike administration and it was, therefore, from dire necessity that Cincinnati should make the sacrifice and take over.

The delegate from New York held it also desirable to transfer the Vorort and proposed Rochester, N. Y.

The delegate from Rochester declined emphatically in the name of his organization.

The delegate from New Ulm proposed Dubuque. The delegates from Dubuque stated they were instructed to insist that their society cannot be considered.

The result of voting gives the following results: Cincinnati 67, Baltimore 2, St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 8.

Many delegates voted as they were instructed.

The delegates from Cincinnati had to refrain from voting because as instructed could not vote for their society.

The Speaker of the Convention stated paragraph 28, Cincinnati as the National headquarters as elected for the coming year.

As an addition to the by-laws a motion was made and decided:
"The property of an organization which was dissolved and which was turned over to the Vorort should be given to a new organization which started in the same place and belonged to the National body for their use. Any organization which takes over the properties of such organizations is requested to pay all debts of the dissolved organization."

The Speaker of the Convention still criticized the bad situation between the editor and the Vorort or more so regarding the Turnerpaper and the extra edition. He remarked that often something was printed in the Turnerpaper which was contradicted in the extra edition.

The Speaker of the Vorort and a delegate remarked that this was an incorrect statement, that the Vorort usually had their own way, but never censored the action of the editor. Any argument in behalf of the Turnerpaper and the extra edition was unknown to them.

A motion was made and decided: "To instruct the Vorort that the decisions made about the Turnerpaper with the respective chapter of the Convention should be brought into harmony and be formulated by the Vorort.

The Speaker of the Convention proposed to paragraph 2 of the Bundesorgan and it was decided: Instead of "making it difficult for the editorial" to add "without interfering with the editorial in any way."

At the same time, it was decided to strike out the part of paragraph 7 of the Bundesorgan, which was declared unnecessary.

Decided: The change of the editorial personal is made through the National Convention and when a vacancy occurs in the mean time, then the Vorort with the co-operation of their society (see paragraph 24, point 5) will fill the position until the next Convention.

The delegate from Burlington made a motion as instructed which was decided: To have written in the English language a memorial which would light up our Turnerism from a physiological and pedagogical standpoint, also the present formulation of the Californian law and the speech of the president ch. Miro on Turnerism. This should be forwarded to various state lawmakers of the United States of North America in order that similar decisions be submitted.

The delegate from Albany made the following motion as instructed:

There should be a Labor Bureau established in the following way: Every organization will report the number the ~~the~~ trade of the out of work members and the Vorort will publish this in the Turnerpaper. If in any city a request is made for some trades workers that society should at once write to the Vorort, which in turn could inform good workers about the proposition.

The Speaker of the Vorort remarked that this proposition is pretty good, however, would necessitate a large amount of work and because of the time wasted by writing to and fro, the good intentions would be greatly reduced.

After a short debate in which the last remarks were the determining factors, it was preferred that such a proposition for the time being should remain in the hands of the individual societies. This motion was lost in voting.

The following motion was made and decided: The former editor of the Turnerpaper, Otto Reventlow, as a part payment for his moving expense from Albany to Cincinnati, receive the sum of \$50.00.

In order to give the western societies the opportunity to advance, a motion was made that "the Turner society from St. Louis be asked to hold a Turnfest in a not too distant future and that the Vorort be requested to give this Festival support."

The delegate from Belleville would like to see Belleville substituted for St. Louis.

Many voices were opposed to such a proposition. They were of the opinion that the general Turnfest which should be our first consideration could suffer considerably by it. The motion was lost.

A repeated remark about paragraph 6 to have only one National organization in one and the same place was made into a motion but again was lost by voting.

The financial report was now submitted (see below). Decided: Detroit should be the first city to have a Leaders Course under the direction of A. Loesers. The Vorort should be requested to assist the Detroit Turner Society financially and otherwise.

Decided: The Constitution and the Convention protocol should be printed shortly by the Vorort and mailed to all societies.

Decided: In order to ward off definite conceitedness and instructions talk, the Convention protocol should only make a summary without naming the speakers and should be published as stated, it should represent the thought of the whole Convention.

Decided: The Vorort should edit the Convention protocol and the Constitution.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM SEPTEMBER 2, 1857

The undersigned Revision Committee reports as follows on revising the books of the Treasurer and Bookkeeper of the Vorort. Although a careful inspection was made of all books, it was not possible to go into every detail about special entrances in the books. This would be known to every one who understands this subject, that this could not be done in a few days. The Committee had

to be satisfied to check into the main figures and was also at ease to know that the home society of the Vorort had to revise the National books quarterly and in detail.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 1857.

The closing of the main book to August 20th of this year stands as follows:

All outstanding debts without the questionable bills are as follows:

National Property	\$4,915.99
National property, printing office, etc.	811.73
National Treasury	306.31
Bills (which may not be collected)	248.39
Resources on paper	<u>185.92</u>

Total	\$6,466.34
-------	------------

Combined bills are	\$1,437.63
--------------------	------------

Now the total National wealth is	5,028.71
----------------------------------	----------

Including the bad bills and questionable outstanding bills	6,466.34
--	----------

To deduct the amount of bad bills and those in question \$1,333.94

It remains in the Treasury the sum of	\$3,694.73
---------------------------------------	------------

The total income from August 1856 to August 20, 1857 (to the day when the books were closed) inclusive of the amount left from the following year of \$514.25 was	\$6,670.89
---	------------

Expenses	<u>6,364.58</u>
----------	-----------------

Balance on hand	\$ 306.31
-----------------	-----------

On August 20, 1856 the expense of the Bund was	\$1,487.18
--	------------

On August 20, 1857 the expense of the Bund was	<u>1,437.63</u>
--	-----------------

Reduced Expenses	\$ 49.55
------------------	----------

The total amount of the National Property was on August, 1856, deducting the bad bills	\$2,098.63
On August 20, 1857	<u>3,694.73</u>
The National Treasury had increased to	\$1,596.10
The Turnerpaper Nos. 1 to 46, inclusive cost for typesetting, printing, paper, editorial, rent, etc., in addition 10% for type usage	\$5,935.08
Income from the Turnerpaper	<u>7,439.96</u>
Remains a profit of	\$1,504.88
Initiation fees and dues of Societies for the current year amounted to	\$ 711.67
Expenses of the Vorort for extra enclosures writing material, etc.	<u>368.49</u>
Remains	\$ 343.18
The net amount for ads was	\$ 250.00

The undersigned committee take the liberty to report on the following factors:

From the obtained balance account, one could see that by several organizations an account is outstanding which would cover not only all debts, but it would cover all the expense of the proposed improvements for the Turnerpaper etc. For that reason the committee makes this suggestion to the Vorort.

To proceed according to the Constitution against these organizations. The 6, 9, and 12 months payment must be requested promptly. Most all of them according to their membership cannot be financially poor and all could and should meet their financial obligations.

A motion by Charlier from Baltimore about the bad bills stated that the committee should take it under advisement, it is recommended by the committee that the new Vorort should settle this matter as soon as possible.

The motion by the Burlington society to publish those society names who owe bills to the Turnerpaper is rejected by the committee as impractical.

As the committee closes this report it states, while it was not possible in the short time to give a detailed report, it is, however, satisfied that the work was done satisfactorily.

THE COMMITTEE

A motion was made and decided: To receive this report as completed.

The motion by the committee was taken up by the delegate from Baltimore and brought to a debate and decided: To instruct the Vorort to take steps to see that bad bills should be reported on. The Speaker of the Bund remarked in its behalf, that the Bund according to its present arrangement is fully protected, but that through additional force, we easily run the risk of not getting anything.

In behalf of a quick clearing up of all National debts a motion was made:

"All members of National organizations should be extraordinarily assessed to the amount of 50 cents, and be paid by November 1st of this year, which should be later credited to the organizations.

To this an amendment was moved, instead of the word "extraordinarily" to substitute the words "free contribution."

The first motion was so amended and it was decided: All members of the National organizations should make voluntary contributions through their organizations until November of this year and send same to the Vorort by that time, so that the National debts can be wiped out and the Bund could have a free hand.. As soon as the National Treasury will permit, the extra collection should be credited to the respective organizations. In the debate over this it was suggested to the

societies to raise some of this amount through concerts, balls, theatre performances, etc.

The Vice President made a motion and it was per acclamation decided: This Convention, before it is dismissed, considers it as a duty to express their deepest sympathy for all human races on earth, which are still under the slave rule and other depressing dictatorships. Also declares they look patiently with burning desire for the moment when the chains will brake and also in the old world that freedom will find a home.

Decided: To give a confidential vote to the National officers for their very fine business management during the past year.

Decided: For the friendly and fine treatment of all delegates, the Convention expresses their sincere thanks.

Decided: The Convention expresses to all committees and officers, presidents and secretaries of the Convention, for their interest and careful execution of their duties, their sincere thanks.

Decided: The Turngemeinde of Cincinnati for their willingness to take over the Vorort again which is retained by giving a large amount of sacrifice, the Convention expresses their thanks in the name of the Bund.

Decided: That the delegate who will be in Detroit the next day, to proofread the last protocol and to adopt same.

Decided: To meet on Tuesday, September 8th at 2 p.m. for this purpose.

Decided: In order to have time to think once more about things which may have been omitted, the Convention took a recess for 30 minutes. After the recess period the Convention was again opened and the Speaker asked if anyone has yet something to bring up.

The delegate from Rochester remarked that it was painful for him that Rochester did not get the Convention because at the previous Convention it was indirectly stated that the Convention would be given to Rochester this year. That he is at a loss to know how he can ever make the Rochester Turners understand this action of the Convention. It would have given his organization new life and would have been of great value to his society. Most of the delegates were sorry that they were just now informed about all this. A delegate was ready to make a motion to recind their former action if the delegate from Indianapolis would be in accord with it.

One delegate remarked he was acquainted in Indianapolis and that there would be no question about it that the society in Indianapolis under such situation would gladly step back and believes that the delegate from Indianapolis could easily justify this action.

The delegate from Indianapolis stated, however, that he could not be in accord with the motion to reconsider and for that reason the decision made by the Convention must remain in action.

Decided: All delegates of this Convention do hereby express their confidence and thanks to the President of the Convention, Hillgaertner, for his tactful and intelligent leadership.

As no other business was at hand the Speaker of the Convention closed same after a short remark. He gave a short review about a successful and quiet workings of the Convention and took leave from the Convention in a friendly and heartfelt remark.

Adjournment.

SESSION AND BELATED DISCUSSION BY THE DELEGATES.

September 8th at 2:00 P. M.

The protocol from the morning and afternoon sessions from September 7th were read and adopted.

Because the business transaction of this Convention was finished after closing the Convention of the day before, it was necessary to organize this meeting due to a telegram which was received from Patterson.

The Speaker, Hillgaertner, read the content of the telegram which was sent from a delegate meeting of the separate Federation (Sonderbund) Convention in Patterson. Quote:

"Do you want to unite, so state under which condition this is possible."

This was taken in consideration and several delegates remarked that the answer can be given with the decision as carried by the Convention.

A telegram was directed to Sonderbund as follows:

"Yes, the condition will follow through the mail."

This was considered to be in accord but several delegates reminded that the decisions by mail would not be received in time, and a motion was made that a telegram be sent at once which would give the conditions to unite.

One of the delegates held that a restatement was necessary which would give to the withdrawn societies the decisions which were adopted at the Convention. Another protested that this action was not possible because officially this Convention was closed and for the second part that it was unnecessary because a suitable motion for the purpose of sending the adopted resolutions may be framed up by this delegation which would not be

contrary with the decision of the Convention but would only be a secondhanded action.

Others held it was a misdeed and might easily lead to misunderstanding, evilminded accusations to telegraph these instructions in the English language. The following motion was made:

That this important matter be not delayed on our side as far as honor and duty is concerned. Three delegates who are traveling home in a Easterly direction should be appointed to deliver the instructions personally to the delegates who are assembled there. In this way they can answer questions and are able to clear up matters and give the instructions formulated at the convention.

One delegate made a motion to telegraph that the instructions would be sent to Williamsburg. This was declared out of order because the delegates who are assembled here do not recognize a Vorort in Williamsburg and for that reason no transaction could be made with them.

Several delegates were afraid that the whole procedure is more of a false pretense and did not believe in a re-uniting, which may not be of a sincere motive. They are only in favor of sending the first telegram.

The following two motions were made but also were not carried.

"To send the telegram which was formed according to the decisions made and to delegate three Turners to go there."

"To make no exceptions between delegates from the East, West, and North, instead to vote for a delegate who is most suited for this mission."

Another motion made and decided: To send two delegates who are traveling in the Easterly direction to Patterson

(see the main motion above.) Proposed were: Rosswog, Rothacker, Fellmann and Gerhardt.

After a remark from a delegate that the vote for Rothacker as such may cause objections in Patterson. Regarding this statement Rothacker withdrew his name as a delegate and Gerhardt did the same.

Decided: Fellmann from Rochester and Rosswog from New York were assigned as deputies to the delegate meeting in Patterson, N. Y., to forward the resolutions from the Convention. Gerhardt wanted to go along as an escort. The Speaker instructed the delegate to do their best to bring about a unification.

The Speaker read a letter from L. Winter, Turnteacher from Philadelphia, in it he applied for the position which was announced in a circular from Milwaukee (Albany) as Turnteacher for the Bund. He referred to the recommendations he can provide from New York, Newark, Philadelphia, and other places. He also stated he is willing to undergo a strict examination which would show his ability for this position. It was stated because the motion in consideration of same was lost at the Convention it was

Decided: This letter to be turned over to the Vorort. At this time a letter was read, addressed to the Convention which came from the delegates from Brooklyn Ch. Shurig and Meinhardt which came to Detroit, September 8th.

At the beginning it was noticed that they were instructed to do everything possible to unite the Turners and they requested beforehand to extend the hand of the Convention for such action. This question must precede all others because all that follows will have some bearing on this.

Their instructions were the same as those from the Eastern societies who left the Bund.

1) Abolishing the forced "newspaper subscription." If the paper cannot exist according to the present set-up, then same should be made smaller. If the West cannot accept this - which would be a pity - societies could use the money to a better advantage.

2) Two National Headquarters should be continued, however, in a friendly way as we are familiar with it for some time. Not in a suspicious and slandering way as the Turnerpaper did to the disgrace of its entire membership.

We are in the hope that the complete unification of the latter can be done in advance.

Herein, although many things are promised as an unquestionable obligation of the duty of the Turners to subscribe to the National paper and not be forced to take it. The letter is characteristic, not a more reconcile character. In one case it made insulting remarks and harsh accusations. Every delegate is now sure that this letter made clear to several regarding the reconciliation readiness of the societies who left the Bund not desiring to be antagonistic but it will not be possible to think about an honorable and creditable unification into one National body.

It is now clear that in advance any consideration and hope for an early effort to unite the groups would bring about a bitter feeling of self-disappointment. This letter leaves the impression that the hearty harmony and solemnity which was present among the representatives of this Convention in Detroit and the further existence of the Bund could be assured without these societies which withdrew.

Decided: To turn over the Convention protocols to the Vorort.

Decided: To adjourn the Convention.

STATUTES

Decision Made at the Convention in Detroit, Mich., 1857
Of the Socialist Turnerbundes of North American from
1857 - 58.

The National Organization has for its purpose the union of all organizations who adhere to the platform as stated below, assisting them in their efforts to develop their members into healthy individuals and helping them to be able to think and act freely for themselves. As a special message, the organizations should use all their means and efforts to bring the progress in radical thought in social, political and religious fields to their members so they have a clear conception of and realize the importance of working for a successful and truly genuine human rights program.

The Turnerbund should be a plant school for all revolutionary ideas which have as their background, the natural laws and as such a rational world's viewpoint. The Turners for that reason will fight the slave movement and nativism and especially all rights obstructions which cannot be co-ordinated with cosmopolitan fundamental laws.

The principles of the platform of the National Turners regarding American politics can under the present party rule only be fought by taking a firm stand as proposed in our fundamental laws against the unbearable misuse of our human rights.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Paragraph 1 - The Turnerbund consists of the United Turner Societies of North America.

RULES FOR JOINING

Paragraph 2 - Every society must consist of at least 10 members.

Paragraph 3 - A society who wishes to join must send in its membership list, its constitution, and include a report about its circumstances and activities to the National body.

Paragraph 4 - The name of a society which makes application for membership will be published in the Turnerpaper and after a period of four weeks, if it can meet its obligations it will be admitted (Paragraphs 15 and 19.) The induction will be announced in the Turnerpaper.

Paragraph 5 - Only one National Turner society can exist in one and the same place.

If the above rule prevents an organization from joining then the organization of a branch society is permitted. Such branch societies can be absolutely independent in managing their own affairs, however, must have a part in National affairs.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Paragraph 6 - A society has one vote in National affairs as long as the membership is not over 50. If same becomes 50 it is entitled to 2 votes, for every additional 50 members it is entitled to one extra vote.

For a practical execution of the voting rights, it is necessary to send in a-head of time the application dues and for additional National votes it is necessary to include the \$3.00 dues. (Paragraph 19).

Paragraph 7 - In all National affairs every society which joins the Bund is subjected to its ruling.

Paragraph 8 - The organizations are requested to make half yearly reports, namely, the beginning of January and July. Reporting about its membership, conditions and activity as embodied in the by-laws (Paragraphs 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.)

Paragraph 9 - The organizations of the Bund have the obligation to take as many copies of the Turnerpaper as they have members.

Paragraph 10 - Information about special society and National relations as well as ordinary materials which are for use of the organizations are to be mailed to the Vorort.

Paragraph 11 - The quarterly dues are due October 1st, January 1st, April 1st and July 1st. Also the bills for delivered National material should be paid promptly to the Vorort. (Paragraphs 14, 19 and 24, Point 9).

Paragraph 12 - The organizations have the duty toward every Turner in all happenings in his life, to give aid and comfort and he should be treated as if he were a member of their society.

WITHDRAWAL AND EXCLUSION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Paragraph 13 - The withdrawal from the National Body is the privilege of any organization as soon as they meet their obligations and make a written request to the Vorort.

Paragraph 14 - If an organization is two months in arrears in its payments and after same was notified twice by the Vorort and did not give a suitable explanation about it, they are then dropped from membership. (See Paragraphs 11 and 19.)

Paragraph 15 - If a withdrawal is demanded by another organization or if two National organizations protest against the

application of a society it is then necessary that the reason and objections of the societies in question should be sent to the Vorort and the latter bring this to the attention of the Convention for their consideration and final settlement. (See Paragraphs 4 and 17.)

Paragraphs 16.- A society who withdrew or was expelled from the National body loses all claims and all rights on the National property.

DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS

Paragraph 17 - The only competent judge over disputes and complaints in the Bund is the National Convention.

Paragraph 18 - No organization has the right to publish criticisms of the Vorort, the editor or any other National Turner organization in any other newspaper except in our own National Turnerpaper. (Enclosure to Turnerpaper.)

The Vorort, however, is duty bound when such requests are made to publish same in a suitable manner in the supplement addition of the Turnerpaper.

INITIATION FEES AND DUES

Paragraph 19 - To pay the expenses of the National Body every organization has to contribute financially.

1. Initiation fee of \$3.00 which includes one National vote. (See Paragraph 6.)
2. For every new gained National vote an additional \$3.00 (See Paragraph 6.)
3. For every National vote - \$1.50 quarterly dues (See Paragraph 11.)

NATIONAL YEAR

Paragraph 20 - The National year starts October 1st and goes to Sept 30th of the following year

DISBANDMENT OF THE TURNERBUND

Paragraph 21 - The Bund cannot be dissolved as long as two organizations with 5 National votes are members.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE (BUNDES-VORORT)

Existence, voting and authority of the Vorort and obligations of the voting National organizations.

Paragraph 22 - The management of National affairs, the custodianship of the National Turner Organ and especially the execution of all Convention decisions lie in the hands of the National Executive which has a membership of 9 Turners (Vorort). They are:

- a) First Speaker (President)
- b) Second Speaker (Vice-President)
- c) First protocol Secretary
- d) Second protocol Secretary
- e) Third Corresponding Secretary
- f) Treasurer
- g) Bookkeeper
- h) First Turn counsel (Turnrath)
- i) Second Turn counsel (Turnrath)

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE VORORT

Paragraph 23 - The National society which is the seat of the Vorort elects the officers from its membership. Same society is responsible for the property of the Bund and especially for the National Treasury and correct bookkeeping. (See Paragraph 24, Point 4).

RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Paragraph 24 - The Vorort has as its duty:

1. To keep the Treasury of the Bund and meet all current obligations.
2. To furnish a detailed yearly report about its activities, including the condition of the Bund and its individual organizations in a complete statistical statement.
3. All affairs which specifically represent Turners and organizations are to be published in the extra edition of the Turnerpaper.
4. To make a quarterly financial report to the National society from which the Vorort was organized, also to submit the books for inspection. (See Paragraph 23)
5. In urgent situations, especially when a transfer of a Convention to some other place is necessary, they are requested to debate this proposition with their home society and make their decisions accordingly. They in turn must make a detailed statement to the Convention regarding such actions.
6. To see to it that the Turnerpaper lives up to the principles of the National body, as laid down in the National Conventions. Also that the editorial staff follow precisely all decisions and rules of the previous Convention.
7. To inform all societies who care to join of all misjudgements and shortcomings in their statutes (See Paragraph 3)
8. To postpone the membership of a society who made application to join as long as they have members in their organization who were expelled by another organization.
9. Every month to mail the bills to the societies.
(See Paragraphs 19 and 11)

10. Funds to be made available:

- a) For expedition and service for clerical work for the Bund, the sum of \$500.
- b) For European correspondence, first class European and American newspapers and suitable articles about bodily exercises, the sum of \$200.
- c) For purchasing six Turnfest prizes, the sum of \$100.

CONVENTIONS

MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONS

Paragraph 25 - The delegates of the societies meet at a given time and at a definite place for the Convention which is opened by the President of the Vorort or his representative.

Paragraph 26 - The Convention organizes after examining the credentials by voting for the necessary officers and sets up the agenda for the Convention.

AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

Paragraph 27 - The Convention has to:

1. Receive the reports of the Vorort and to examine same.
2. Examine the activities of the Vorort and to decide about the working situations of the Vorort and the organizations.
3. Decide about disputes in the Bund and the expulsion of societies (See Paragraphs 15 and 17) and to make binding decisions.
4. Revise the National Constitution.
5. Elect the editorial staff of the National Turnerpaper and make the necessary rules and regulations.

6. Decide the places for the Turnfests, the Convention and the seat for the National Executive Office.

VOTING

Paragraph 28 - The voting at the Convention will be taken by request of the voting delegates.

REPRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES, THE VORORT AND THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Paragraph 29 - The organizations can be represented by as many delegates as they have National votes. No delegate can have more than 5 votes by himself. (See Paragraph 6)

Paragraph 30 - So that the Vorort and the editor can do justice in reporting to the Convention, it is requested that two members of the Vorort (Speaker and Bookkeeper) and the editor are requested to attend the Convention at the expense of the Bund.

Paragraph 31 - The delegates of the Vorort and the editorial staff are not permitted to vote and cannot represent any organization as a delegate.

BY-LAWS

TURNPASSES

Paragraph 1 - a) Every Turner who is in possession of a pass from another Turner society or from a Turner society outside of the United States should be taken in as a member at once, without waiting for a test period and without paying any initiation fees.

b) A Turner who remains more than four weeks in a place where a National organization exists without rendering his Turnpasses will be considered a non-Turner if insufficient excuses are at hand.

c) No Turner society can take in a Turner as a member who does not possess a legitimate Turnpass or who cannot prove his qualifications otherwise. (See point a)

d) A Turnpass for membership which is turned in to a society will be filed by them. In case this Turner leaves the society again he shall receive a new Turnpass.

e) A Turner who leaves his society without meeting all his obligations to that society and tries to join another society should be withheld from membership in the second society until he has met all his obligation to the first society if so requested by the first society.

PROBATION PERIOD FOR MEMBERSHIP

Paragraph 2 - In order to examine the character of the candidate most thoroughly, the probation period should be at least four weeks.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Paragraph 3 - Members who are expelled on account of dishonorable activities must be reported to the Vorort with statements of accusations. In case the Vorort deems it necessary, a notice about same should appear in the supplementary Turnerpaper.

The Vorort as the right to demand the complaint statements.

SICK BENEFIT

Paragraph 4 - It is recommended that all societies start a sick benefit branch.

CITIZENSHIP

Paragraph 5 - Every member who is not yet in possession of its citizenship paper is requested to act as soon as possible to become a citizen of the United States.

INCORPORATION

Paragraph 6 - It is recommended to incorporate the societies when convenient.

SOCIETY SEAL

Paragraph 7 - For letters and documents the organizations are requested to have a society seal.

SENDING OF MONEY

Paragraph 8 - The societies must send their money in a safe manner to the National Office. The cost of sending same and the possible losses through unsafe channels and discount losses must be born by the society.

BALANCE - ACCOUNT

Reclamation against the balance account must be made within six weeks from the date of the sender, if this is not done in time, the account is settled.

For organizations in California a period of three months is allowed.

Paragraph 10 - A society must meet its obligations if an account is not balanced and should not withhold same.

SONGS AND DRAWINGS FOR BODILY EXERCISES AND APPARATUS

Paragraph 11 - The Vorort has during the National year:

a) To print drawings of pyramids, figures for new bodily exercises, and practical Turn apparatus and

b) To provide for 12 four voice song pieces in book form suitable for Turner societies.

These can be ordered by any society and will be sent when the cost is paid.

BODILY EXERCISES

Paragraph 12 - All organizations are requested to have active Turn classes and are urged to promote a systematic and eager desire in that direction.

Paragraph 13 - Besides the apparatus exercises, the free exercise and the so-called nature Turning, also wrestling, running, climbing, throwing and the like, should have an important part. The societies are also requested to have military tactics and swimming exercises as a compulsion.

The thrust, strike and bayonet fencing, as well as the sharpshooting, are especially recommended to all societies as practical exercises.

LEADERS CLASSES

Paragraph 14 - To start regular classes for well-organized gym classes and for the purpose to create uniformity, it is proposed that the societies will organize leaders classes in fencing and Turning.

The Vorort has requested the organizations begin this undertaking in all possible ways.

Paragraph 15 - In National organizations where there are good Turners and which are located more suitably, leaders classes to train good instructors for the Bund should be organized and these organizations should be assisted in every way possible by the Vorort.

GYMNASIUM CLASSES FOR JUNIORS

Paragraph 16 - In order to start exercising in early youth, so that they can develop strong and healthy bodies, it should be the aim of every society to start Junior Gymnasium Classes for boys and girls. Especially if there is no gymnasium instruction in the public schools. (See Paragraph 19)

ARMAMENTS, CLOTHING AND EXERCISING REGULATIONS

Paragraph 17 - The purchasing of guns as the suitable armaments for Turners is recommended to all Turner societies. For the schooling of the sharpshooter's division in the societies, the new Prussian skirmish drill regulations are to be adopted.

In order to have a uniformity in the society armaments (musketeer shooting division) it is suggested that the organization get together when purchasing guns and uniforms.

MENTAL CULTURE

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Paragraph 18 - In order to bring about an all around educational system in the Turner societies so that in a ripe old age because of education establishments one can pursue mental endeavor, it is proposed to organize industrial schools as far as it is possible in societies considering the following subjects:

English language, nature study, practical chemistry, mathematics, drawing, history, geography and bookkeeping.

Societies who are not able to do more should at least organize classes in the English language.

DAY-SCHOOLS

Paragraph 19 - An effort should be made by every society to have day schools for boys and girls, according to a school plan which was adopted by the Convention and was published by the Vorort, so that not only the body but also the mind can be properly trained.

JUNIOR ORGANIZATIONS

Paragraph 20 - To bring up youth to good, strong manhood for life, also to continue same after school days, the organizations are requested to establish gymnasium classes (See Paragraph 16), also to form Junior societies for the purpose of mental culture. The Vorort is requested to furnish ways and means in helping such undertakings.

LECTURES

Paragraph 21 - For mental advancement, the Vorort is requested to bring to life in the societies, lectures of scientific and practical nature which should be conducted at regular intervals.

DEBATES

Paragraph 22 - In order to give organization a suitable topic for debates, the Vorort should publish every month two subjects in the National Turnerpaper.

LIBRARIES

Paragraph 23 - The organizations should have libraries even if they possess only a few, but good useful books. All Turners are urged to do all they can to bring this about.

TURNFEST, CONVENTION AND VORORT

Paragraph 24 - Every year a National Turnfest should be held.

The place is selected by the Convention.

Paragraph 25 - The Turnfest takes place the last part of August. The Convention the first part of September. The definite time is given by the Vorort.

Paragraph 26 - At the Turnfest, awards are given for Turning, for literary accomplishment, industrial and artistic performances.

The Vorort has to furnish two prizes for Turning for the older Turners and two for the Juniors, one for literary and one for artistic performances. The costs for same is to be paid out of the National Treasury. (See Paragraphs 24, Point 10 (c)). The balance of the prizes must be paid by the Turnfest society.

Paragraph 27 - The Vorort has to select two subjects for the literary work six months before the Turnfest.

Paragraph 28 - The next Turnfest will be held in Buffalo, N. Y.

Paragraph 29 - The next Convention will meet in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Paragraph 30 - The seat for the National Turner Headquarters for next year will be in Cincinnati, Ohio.

REVERSION AND USING SOCIETY PROPERTY

Paragraph 31 - The property that was turned over to the Vorort by an organization which has disbanded can be turned over to a new organization which was organized in the same place and be used by this society as long as they are members of the Bund. Such a society who receives the property of a former society is in such a case, requested to meet all the debts of the disbanded society.

Paragraph 32 - A summary report for the protocol of this Convention will be forwarded to all National societies.

NATIONAL ORGAN (TURNZEITUNG) TENDENCY, CONTENT AND FORM

Paragraph 1 - The Turnerpaper must be edited in full accord with the introduction of the National Constitution. The paper is to print articles which treat the progress in radical thought on political, literary, technical, and social questions. Same should be in popular language and not too lengthy discretion should be used regarding space.

Scientific questions of the day should be printed regularly for educational purposes. Suitable technical and pedagogic articles about bodily exercises (Turnen, fencing, etc.) should be made available. (See Paragraphs 24, point 10b).

The feuilleton of the Turnerpaper should take into consideration, the women readers and publish polite literature and should have pleasing changes in romance novels and biographies.

There will be engaged a good European correspondent who can also in this respect raise the value of the Turnerpaper. (See Paragraph 24, point 10b). The best European and several suitable

American (New York Tribune and New York Evening Post) newspapers will be at the editor's disposal. (See Paragraph 24, Point 10b).

The form of the Turnerpaper should, as soon as the funds will permit, be enlarged to a pleasing size. The paper should be so arranged that it will be an equal to any of the best papers.

COST

Paragraph 2 - The National Organ (Turnzeitung) is published at the place of the National Headquarters weekly. The cost for the societies (main agents for the Bund) is 3 cents per copy.

As soon as the financial conditions of the Bund is improved, the changes for the better and a reduction for the society members will be made.

MANAGEMENT

Paragraph 3 - The Vorort has the supervision of the Turnerpaper, however, should not interfere with the editing of the paper.

It has to see that all instruction in regard to the editorial rules as laid down by the Convention is upheld.

The Vorort takes in the money and pays the bills.

EDITORIAL

Paragraph 4 - The editor has to edit the Turnerpaper according to the rules as embodied in the introduction and as to the rules of Paragraph 1 of the National Organ. The editor should bring the introduction of the National Constitution to all National members in a clear and understandable way. To broaden and enlighten

the readers on the progress of radical thought on political, literary, technical, and social questions be treated in a free and objective manner. (See Paragraph 1, Introduction to the National Convention and National Organ.)

Paragraph 5 - It is requested that personal attacks on the editor or the Bund should be fought with suitable weapons, be it sarcasm or personal reply, it should be emphatically answered and the editor should not permit anyone to step on him or the Bund. He should take a manly stand and fight bravely.

Paragraph 6 - Godfried Becker is appointed as editor for the National paper.

Paragraph 7 - A change in the editorial staff can be made by the National Convention.

Any changes in between the Convention can be made by the Vorort.

AGENTS, ADS AND FINANCES

Paragraph 8 - The societies are the agents of the paper, they solicit ads and collect the money, send same to the Vorort and are responsible. It is the duty of the society in the interest of the Bund to work for enlarging the circulation. In suitable places where no National organization exists, the Vorort will look for good agents and print the names of same in the Turnerpaper. All agents will be engaged by the Vorort, without pay and they receive a suitable amount of Turnerpapers as samples.

EXTRA EDITION

Paragraph 9 - The supplement edition to the paper, has all the special society news, reports, requests, etc. It is printed as soon as sufficient material is at hand. However, every quarter a number must be printed. This extra edition is only mailed to National organi-