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Jean Louis Pindy, *[Resolution on Resistance Funds]*²⁵

There seem to be two distinct aspects to the question: how resistance societies should be organized to prepare for the future and, as far as possible, to make the present more secure; and how our ideas about the organization of work in the future can help us to establish resistance societies in the present. These two sides of the question complement and reinforce each other.

We envisage two ways for workers to group together: a local group that allows workers in the same place to maintain day-to-day relations with one another; and a group stretching across different localities, basins, regions, etc.

First mode. This form of grouping corresponds to political relations in present-day society and replaces them in an advantageous manner; it has up to now been the form employed by the International Working Men's Association.

This state of affairs entails that the local resistance societies in a federation help one another by means of cash loans, organize meetings to discuss social issues, and jointly take measures in the collective interest.

But as industry expands, a second kind of grouping becomes necessary alongside the first.

Workers in all countries feel that they have a solidarity of interests, but that they collide with one another. At the same time, the future demands an

²⁵ This resolution was presented at the morning session of 11 September 1869, at the Basel Congress by the rapporteur of the committee on resistance societies, and subsequently approved. At first a supporter of the theories of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon [1809–65], Jean Louis Pindy [1840–1917] was an activist in Paris and Brest. Also a delegate to the Brussels Congress (1868), he was a prominent leader of the Paris Commune. Later, he moved to Switzerland, became an anarchist, joined the 'autonomist' IWMA and participated to the conferences in Geneva (1873) and Bern (1876). The resolution was included in B1869 and was published in PI, II: 108–9.

organization that goes beyond the limits of a town and, no longer recognizing frontiers, establishes a vast allocation of labour from one end of the world to the other. From these two points of view, resistance societies should organize internationally: every trade must engage in correspondence and the exchange of information within its own country and with other nations, must work to set up new branches where none exist, must agree with fellow workers on common action, and must even pool its funds with others when this is possible, as the English do already. This kind of grouping becomes an agency of decentralization, for it is no longer a question of establishing in every country a common centre for all industries; each will have as its centre the locality where it is most developed.

Once these two groupings have taken effect, labour will organize for the present and future by doing away with the wages system as follows: working hours will be reduced across the board within the same occupation, the work will be divided up equitably, and competition among the workforce will be eliminated. This way of proceeding, together with a limit on the number of apprentices through free and rational statistical calculation applying to all occupations, will allocate workers within all industries, prevent accumulation in one and shortages in another, and make the right to work a reality.

The grouping of corporations by town and by country has another advantage. Since each trade will strike by turns, and be supported by the others, it will pursue its struggle until it reaches the level common to all.

Furthermore, this kind of grouping forms the commune of the future, as the other kind forms the workers' representation of the future. The grouping will be replaced with the associated councils of the various trades and a committee of their respective delegates, thereby regulating the work relations that will replace politics.

To conclude – and since grouping by town and by country already exists in part – we propose the following resolution:

Congress takes the view that all workers should actively engage in creating resistance funds in the various trades.

To the extent that such societies take shape, Congress asks sections, federal groups and central councils to give notification of this to societies of the

same corporation, in order to bring about national associations of the various trades.

These federations will be charged with the collection of information regarding their respective industry, the operation of common measures, the regulation of strikes and activity to ensure their success, until such time as the wages system is replaced with the federation of free producers.