

**BULLETIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN, NO. 511. ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE SERIES,
VOL. 7, NO. 3. THE AMALGAMATED
WOOD WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF AMERICA, PP. 237-445**

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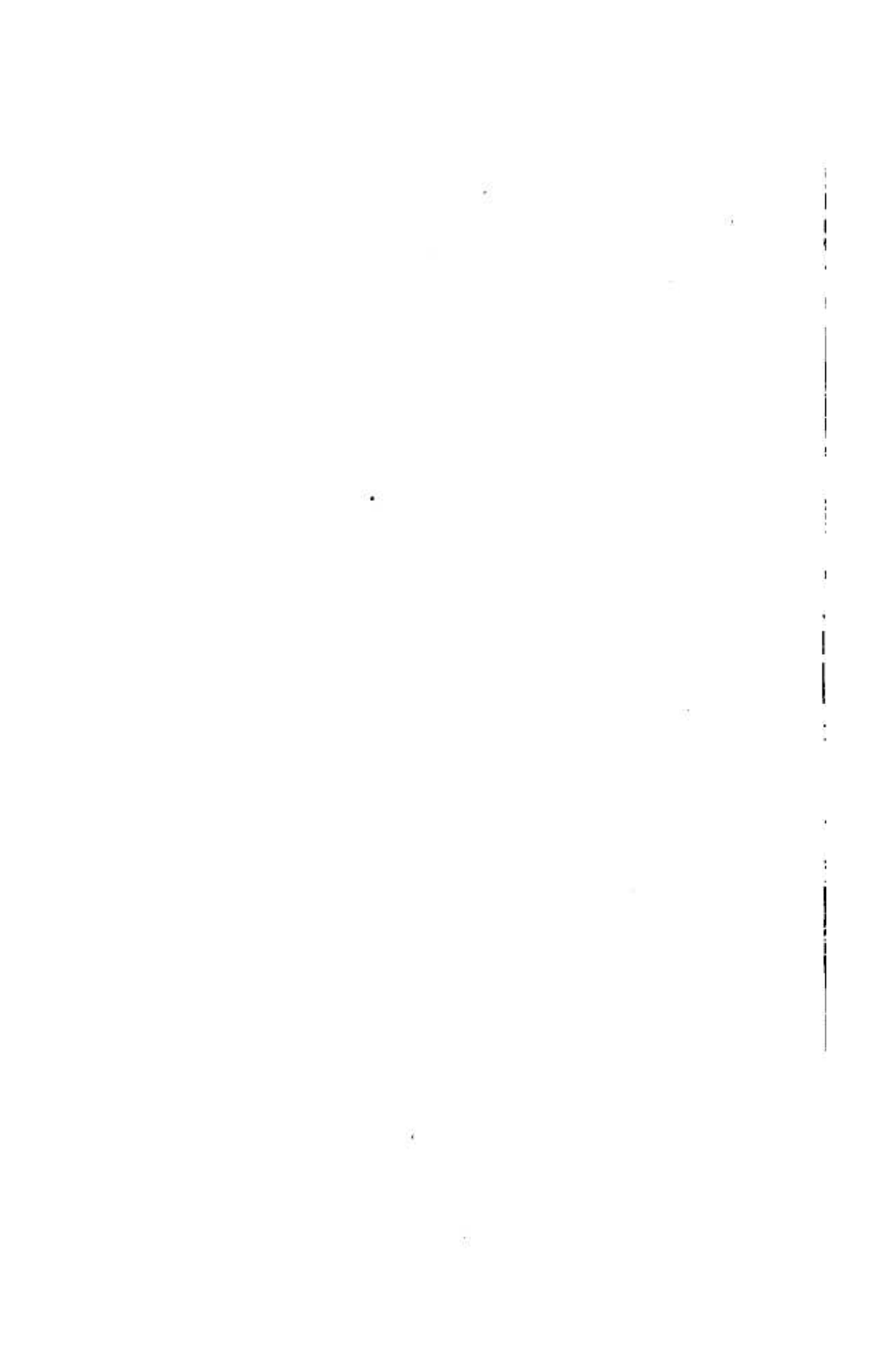
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PREFACE

In this study an endeavor has been made to trace the history of a trade union, and to show, in so far as it is possible, the connection between the problems of organized labor and the evolution of the industry itself. The recognition of the close relation between the history of the industry and the problems of the union has led to a study of the evolution of the wood working trades, tracing the influence and effect of machine processes, and the gradual separation of the industry into several trades, in which there were specific and particular problems, which, in turn, have given rise to separate trade unions. In so far as it was possible, the history of these early unions has been followed and the attempt has been made to show how the experience of these organizations was carried over and became an influence in shaping the structure and the attitude of the later trade unions.

This portion of the thesis may be regarded as introductory. The chief work has been done on the study of the formation, structure, and policies of the Amalgamated Wood Workers' International Union, but in studying the history and the problems of this union, the influence of industrial conditions has been kept constantly in mind.

The facts for this thesis have been collected from a variety of sources. The history of the industry had to be collected from scattered and brief references, which required a large amount of patient search for facts. The development of wood working tools and the mechanical principles involved has been adequately treated in a number of works and reference is made to them in the appropriate place in the body of this thesis. The most fruitful source of information concerning the history of the early unions is to be found in the documentary material in the Wis-