

FOSTER IN CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL LOCALS

ACQUAINTS THEM WITH SITUATION IN STRIKE ZONE

MOST PLANTS ARE PARALYZED. FROM 300,000 TO 350,000 MEN OUT AT PRESENT. NO STRIKE BENEFIT PAID. FOOD IS GIVEN TO NEEDY.

BAROFF SENDS OUT LETTER TO ALL LOCALS TO SPEED UP RAISING OF AID FUND. JOINT BOARD OF CLOAKMAKERS' UNION ADVANCES \$30,000.

William Z. Foster and a number of representatives of the New York locals of the International met at the Broadway Central Hotel, Broadway & 3rd St., on Thursday afternoon, October 30, to discuss ways and means of aiding the steel strikers financially and morally. Mr. Foster thought it essential to acquaint the assembled representatives of our locals with the actual situation in the strike districts. He dwelt at great length on the campaign of lies and slander maintained by the press in the interests of Garry's corporation, and presented a number of striking facts, which prove that the plants in most of the strike districts are either totally paralyzed or badly crippled. He cited figures supplied by men and officials of railway switch lines carrying materials to and from the steel plants showing that the output in plants reported by the press as running full blast is at best 10 per cent of the normal. The number of men now out, according to careful tabulations of the strike committee is anywhere between 300,000 and 350,000.

So far as the morale of the men is concerned the strike is in a splendid condition. The strikers are determined to win their right to organize and bargain collectively, and to dethrone Kaiser Garry. The need of financial aid from outside, however, is urgent. It goes without saying that regular strike benefits cannot be paid to all the strikers. This would require millions of dollars every week. What the strike committee is doing to relieve the need of the strikers is supply the needy ones with food. There is a well organized and efficient machinery for food distribution in the various strike centres. But in order that the work may be kept up, more funds are needed.

The representatives of our locals who were present at the conference elected from among themselves a committee of ten to promote the cause of the steel strikers among the members of the International. The following are on the committee: S. Seidman, L. Langer, I. Feinberg, J. Halpern, H. Breslaw, M. Danish, O. Wolinsky, S. Nufro, J. Heller and M. Gorenstein.

Earlier in the week Ab. Baroff, General Secretary of the International, sent out the following let-

ter to all the locals of the International:

"The General Executive Board of our International Union at its last quarterly meeting decided to raise a fund of a quarter of a million dollars for the strikers in the steel industry of this country.

As members of organized labor, you are no doubt familiar with the great struggle which the 350,000 slaves of the Steel Trust are carrying on for the last five weeks. For the first time since the great Homestead strike in 1894, when the steel magnates had drowned in blood the first attempt of the men in the steel mills to organize and improve their conditions has this great army risen again on behalf of their human rights. The Steel Trust, representing the greatest combination of capital in the world, aided and abetted by the entire capitalist press of the country, fighting the men tooth and nail, refuse to negotiate with their Union and is apparently bent on crushing their hopes.

Your International Union, as a part of the militant Labor Movement of this country, feels that it is a sacred obligation on its part to come to the aid of the steel strikers. After passing its resolution, the General Executive Board immediately called a conference of its Executive Boards of our 23 locals in New York City and, amidst unbounded enthusiasm, a resolution was adopted, unanimously, to raise the quarter of a million dollars within the next several weeks, proportionally by all the locals affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and pledging themselves to deliver to the General Office within the next few days a sum of at least one-third of the amount decided upon, and place it at the disposal of the strikers.

Members of the International! A strike like the steel strike is one of the greatest significance to the entire working class of this country and of the world; it is a history-making strike, and upon the outcome of it depends to a great extent the future of the entire labor movement in this country. Our Unions have at all times shown that they fully understand the value of labor unity and solidarity. We have always known that the Labor Movement is one great big chain consisting of many links, and we can only be strong when all of the links, parts,

and divisions of this mighty chain are strong and bound together.

Do not forget that the 350,000 steel strikers are opposed by the citadel of Capital, by the greatest combination of Wall Street, and that their defeat will encourage every labor-baiting and Union-baiting employer to defy and trample upon the rights of their workers.

Get to work at once. Call a special meeting of your Local Union and decide immediately upon the question of raising the sum for the International Steel Strikers' Fund. As the first step, it would be urgently advisable to forward \$1.00 per member for this great undertaking, which will once more prove to the world and to the organized labor movement of America that we are in act as well as in word, bone of their bone,

(Continued on Page 8)

AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL INFLUENCE

QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY. GENERAL SECRETARY BAROFF EXECUTIVE

SCHLESINGER'S PERSONAL LETTER URGES TO BOOST THE CANDIDACY OF IRWIN SUPPRESSED. MR. UNDERMEYER HIS CAMPAIGN

Quite a stir has been created on the East Side by a trick of Mr. Irwin Undermeyer's campaign managers who circulated a copy of a letter written by Benjamin Schlesinger to Mr. Samuel Undermeyer, the candidate's father, on the stationery of the International, where the writer expresses his high regard for Mr. S. Undermeyer and his appreciation of the eminent jurist's courageous stand on a number of public matters, in which other men of his position would be afraid to utter a word. For who can stand in defense of the Rand School and not have the epithet "Bolshevik" flung at him? Who would dare oppose the theatrical manager, or what is even more dangerous, the steel king Garry? Mr. Samuel Undermeyer, however, did have the courage to defend his convictions and to fight blind reaction, and it is in recognition of this that Benjamin Schlesinger wrote the ill-fated letter of appreciation, in which he also expressed his opinion that the father's liberal actions would not injure the candidacy of the son.

FOSTER IN CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR LOCALS

(Continued from Page 1)

blood of their blood, their sisters and brothers.

ABR. BAROFF,
Gen. Sec.-Treasurer.

The Joint Board of the New York Cloakmakers' Union decided to levy a \$2 assessment upon its membership to raise its quota of the \$250,000 pledged by the International. The Board advanced from its treasury \$30,000 and immediately forwarded the sum to the steel strikers. Many locals in N. Y. and other ladies garment centers have followed the example of the Joint Board and have advanced part of their quotas from their treasuries. It is expected that the \$250,000 will be raised within the next two or three weeks.