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GREAT PICKET DEMONSTRATION NEXT MONDAY!

VICTORY OF THE STRIKING WAIST MAKERS IS VERY, VERY NEAR.

One half of the strikers, fifteen thousand in number, have already won out. The whole city is excited over the strike. Schlesinger is the "busiest man in town," as the saying goes. Besides all kinds of conferences with the bosses, both the ladies' waist bosses who keep on falling away from and breaking with the association, and the bosses of the other trades which are included in the International, he must give lectures in the various churches, ladies' clubs, to satisfy the people who are very eager to hear what the President of the International has to say about the main issues of the strike. And the entire staff of the International is as busy as its President. The White Goods Makers are getting ready for the fight. S. Shorr is their president. The Wrapper and Kimona Makers are preparing to take the war path—and all utter the same battle cry: A 44-hour work week, a raise in wages and all the other demands which the Ladies' Waist Makers have put forth. The Children's Dress Makers' Union is being granted all its demands by the association without strike. Yet there remain unsettled the independent and non-union shops, and in these shops the fight will begin next Monday. Last Monday morning there took place a great and inspiring demonstration which will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. This Monday the demonstration must be a still greater one. Schlessinger, Baroffi, Sigman, Seidman and the entire general strike committee will be in the picket line.

Of course, if the leaders of the bosses association of the ladies' waist industry could have foreseen, four weeks ago, all that has happened from the moment when they so lightheartedly called forth the strike of their thousands upon thousands of workers, then you may bet ten to one, that they would never, never have done so. But such is the nature of foolish man. A moment, of madness comes to him, an insane moment. He forgets all the lessons taught him by the past, and he brings trouble upon himself. Take for example Wilhelm and Nicholas. Power makes one blind, mad. Such people begin to suffer from a certain mania. They persuade themselves there are none greater, or stronger than they. They believe that the whole world must lie at their feet and bask in the light of their eyes. And they call forth a conflict which lasts, sometimes a long and sometimes a short time, and which always ends disastrously for them and for their foolish ambitions.

One cannot be angry with these maniacs, although they cause so much unhappiness in this world. They are spiritual-

ly sick. They should be sent to a hospital for the spiritually sick rather than to a prison.

The bosses of the association were obsessed by this same kind of spiritual blindness when they permitted their workers to leave their shops on Tuesday the 21st of January. They did this because they had persuaded themselves that, in the first place, their workers would never leave the shops. How could they leave, give up their jobs in midwinter, when food was so high and when very few of them had anything put away? Then again, they figured that, if the workers did leave the shops, they would soon return. What good is there in wandering about through the streets? Then they thought if their own workers would not return, there would be others eager to do the work.

Such were the unfortunate miscalculations of the bosses. And what has now come of all these hopes? Ruin! The workers left the shops but they did not return, pleading for work. There are no others to take their places. Half of the strikers have already returned to work but on the conditions set by

them, and the entire bosses fraternity which just a few weeks seemed to be so stable and united, is about to fall apart, like an old, rotten building, and the fight of the ladies' waist makers grows more energetic, more determined each day.

This is the result of a four weeks' fight. And did we not warn them? Did we not tell them that they would regret their actions? But this did not help. When men have grown insane over their almightiness, then there is no help for them. But now they see, for themselves, how wrong they were. Many of them have put aside their weapons and surrendered. But there have remained enough stubborn ones among the bosses. And the question is, how many days will pass before they see the light? And we appeal to the strikers now: help them, your unfortunate bosses, to come to their senses as quickly as possible. Let your feelings of pity, this time, be stronger than your wrath, and let not those few men who have worked themselves up so well, have to be reduced to their former positions of apple peddlars.

And how better can you do this, strikers, than by coming next Monday, in full force, as many of you as have remained out of work, about fifteen or twenty thousand? Perhaps the bosses will then realize, as hundreds of their colleagues have already realized, that each additional hour of conflict brings them nearer to their ruin.

They, your bosses, are blind; they may think that because you are carrying on your strike so quietly, so deliberately, without any noise, then they may take it as a sign that your hearts are not in this great conflict. They cannot understand that your calm manner comes from your confidence in final victory, your consciousness that nothing on earth can wrest this victory from you. To understand this one must know psychology. But your bosses are not such men. Make them understand, this by your demonstration next Monday. Let them see that you will never return to their shops until they will grant the just and necessary demands of your unions.

The greater your demonstration next Monday, the greater significance will it have not only for you but also for all your brothers and sisters of the White Goods Industry, for the Wrapper and Kimona Industry, and for the Children's Dressmakers' Industry. In these industries, too, the bosses are blind. They do not see what a great defeat awaits them. Let your demon-

stration of next Monday open their eyes if such a thing is possible. Save them from their own madness, from their suicidal craze. Give them to understand, by your demonstration, that it is dangerous to begin a conflict with workers who have some self-respect, who know the value of union among themselves, and who are conscious of their strength and the justice of their cause.

See to it, brothers and sisters, that the demonstration next Monday shall be an epoch-making one in the history of your great International. Remember that this may be your last picket demonstration, that on the next morning, if not the very same day, the bosses may come to their senses and say the victory is theirs, therefore, that you shall be able to look back to this demonstration with sentiments of pride and joy after returning to your shops as victors.

No one must fail to come to the demonstration next Monday. It is a great occasion and it would be wrong to miss it. Remember, brave strikers, that the members of churches and schools, who looked so strong and impenetrable, is now tottering, crumbling, and just give it one good push and it will fall. Then let the demonstration of next Monday be this great, this victory-bringing push.

Let that day, next Monday, be your banner day, your holiday. Celebrate on that day the victory which has already been won and the full victory which must soon come.

And it must come. All good forces have joined you in this great conflict. The whole city is with you. All who think and feel like human beings are with you. Your President is an honored guest among the elite. The members of churches and prominent ladies' clubs wish to see and hear him. But no one wants to listen to the bosses. The city knows what they want; and it has turned its back to them. Then show yourselves to the city in your full force, to the city which sympathizes with you, and you will see with what acclaim you will be received.

And again: this is not only your fight which is almost won. You must here give warning to all other bosses of the various industries that belong to our International and to the others, that their end cannot be different from that of the association bosses of the ladies' waist industry. Who knows, perhaps, by your demonstration, you will help that many other conflicts shall be avoided because the bosses will realize that their fight against the workers is a hopeless one.

THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

By Hillet Rogoff

In spite of all the great events now taking place in the world—the peace conference at Paris, the happenings in Germany and in Russia, the labor question in this country has somehow managed these days to secure for itself the most important position in a twofold one; one, the great and ever-growing number of unemployed, and the other, the number of strikes which are taking place in all parts of the country.

About unemployment much is being said and as yet very little has been done. War Secretary Baker has assured us that every returning soldier will be provided with work. Similar statements have been made by other influential government representatives. But in the meantime we keep on receiving miserable reports from various cities about the returned men who are looking for jobs. The labor masses grow more restless each day. It is expected that within a very short time the number of unemployed will reach a half million. More sensational, of course, is the news about the strikes. Great excitement was caused by the strike in Seattle, Washington, where all the workers of all trades and industries laid down their tools and went out on a sympathetic strike to help the striking shipyard workers in that city. Seattle was entirely paralyzed for a week. No cars were run, the newspapers did not appear, restaurants were closed and the schools were closed. The strikers organized their own guard to maintain order and opened soup kitchens to feed the strikers who had no homes and had to eat in restaurants.

The city officials, especially the mayor, condemned the strikers and threatened that they would punish them in the most horrible way. The business men and bosses informed the public that this was not a strike but a revolution, and a Bolshevik revolution into the bargain. The federal government promised to send soldiers should this step be necessary.

The conservative union leaders were also against the strike and wanted to break it. At the writing of these lines, contradictory reports keep coming in from Seattle about the condition of the strike. But no matter how it ends, it will have one result—it will arouse the old conservative union leaders and will make them reconsider their tactics and their attitude toward the membership of the unions. The leaders of the unions over there will have to become more radical, and will have to take more into account the wishes of the rank and file, or else they will have to relinquish their posts.

Of a much more serious nature, though not quite so sensational is the strike in Butte, Montana. There about 60,000 miners have gone out on strike in order to keep their employers from reducing wages. During the war when there was a great demand for copper and the copper magnates earned enormous profits, it was to their benefit to raise the wages of the work-

ers. Now that the demand for copper has somewhat decreased and that there are quite a number of unemployed in the streets, the magnates want to reduce wages, although they know very well that the cost of living has not been reduced.

In Butte, Montana, there has long been going on a fight between the radical and conservative workers. In this strike, it seems, the radicals have the upper hand as in Seattle; and they have gone still further than the Seattle strikers. They have organized soviets. Among the strikers there are a great many returned soldiers and so the soviets bear the name of soldiers and workers councils. The owners have soldiers to guard the mines and these do not permit the miners to do picket work; especially do they not permit the soldier-strikers to picket.

A very interesting and significant occurrence in this strike is the following: Monday morning when the strikers boarded the street cars to go to picket the mines, which are outside the city, soldiers stopped the cars and ordered the pickets to return home. The workers who assured them that they were "scabs" were permitted to remain on the cars. As soon as this was reported at the headquarters of the car workers' union, a strike order was issued to the car workers and all traffic was stopped.

The general sympathetic strike in Seattle, the sympathetic car strike in Butte, Montana, point to a new spirit in the American labor movement. They show that there is being developed in our labor circles a certain class consciousness and a class solidarity which have been foreign to them up till now.

The strike in Paterson is also a radical one. The demands of the workers are not very radical ones. They ask for a work week of 48 hours and they want to receive the same wages that they formerly received for a 54 hour week. Only the leaders of the strike are of the left wing of the movement. This gives the employers a chance to spread the report that this is a "revolution of the reds," of the Bolsheviks and this also gives the police an excuse for mishandling the strikers.

That a new radical spirit is penetrating the American labor movement and that the American workers are beginning to regard themselves in an entirely new light, than the one in which their own leaders formerly regarded them, can be seen from the many great and minor events in the world of capital and labor. The above-mentioned strikes are striking examples of this. But here is quite another occurrence from which we can learn the same lesson.

The country is now very much perplexed over the manner in which to solve the railroad question. The government now has the railroad under its control. The companies demand that they be returned to their former owners. There are various difficulties in the way, various

plans are being proposed how to get rid of these difficulties. During the many months in which this matter has been discussed, many plans have been sent in by those who felt in this matter concerned, by the companies, by the lawyers, the bankers, by government officials, etc.

Suddenly last week, there appeared in Washington a representative of workers, of the two million organized railroad workers, and he announced that he has a brand new plan proposed by the workers. And just try to guess what this plan is. Simply that the government should buy the roads from the companies and give them over to the workers for them to administer!

Has anyone ever heard of the like here in America? This is almost, almost soviet control.

The plan of the workers is of course more conservative than the soviet rule in Russia. They ask that the government should be the owner of the roads and that the workers should pay rent to the government. Should there be any profits, then up to five per cent of them is to go to the government, and what remains over five per cent is to be divided between the workers and the government. Should there be losses then the government is to stand these.

Of course the capitalist press had a good laugh over this plan. And also believe that nothing will come of it. The Washington government will not even take it up seriously. But what is significant is that the workers desire this, that they are convinced that it is due them, that they are entitled to this.

The prohibition amendment, it seems, will not have such smooth sailing. Trouble is expected from various quarters. First of all, there is great discontent among the workers of various trades. In New Jersey certain unions passed resolutions saying that they would strike if they will be forbidden to drink beer. Similar threats are heard from the workers in other states. The representatives of the prohibition movement are laughing at this. Just how serious these threats made by organized labor can be, will be seen a year from now when the new amendment will be enforced.

Trouble is also expected from abroad. English and Italian millionaires have large investments in the American breweries. It is thought that these sums reach into the hundreds of millions. These investors argue that they will not permit the amendment to destroy their property and that they will hold the government of the United States responsible for their investments.

And they base their arguments on the attitude the United States adopted in a similar case in Mexico. The Mexican government passed a law limiting the control of private owners over the oil wells of Mexico. This law affected the investments made by American capitalists in Mexican oil wells before the law was passed. Since then a conflict has been going on about this between the Mexican and the American governments. America asserted that her capitalists invested their money in the Mexican oil wells before the law was passed. Then how can the Mexican government now rob them of their investments through a new law.

Well, say the English capitalists who have invested money in our beer business, we have the very same argument to present. America's answer that the prohibition amendment is a law to guard the morality of the country and that morality stands above everything else, can also be made use of by Mexico. She may say that the abolition of private control over the natural resources of the country is regarded by her as the most important moral reform. She can argue and rightly so, that the chief reason for the international orders and revolutions which has immersed Mexico in blood for tens of years, was the constant quarreling among foreign capitalists over her oil wells and her mines; and that a law which will forever do away with these quarrels and disputes, is of much more importance than the abolition of drunkenness.

The suffrage amendment has again been defeated in the Senate. When the bill was brought up in the month of October, two votes were lacking to carry it through. At the voting this week only one vote was lacking. This bill will not be brought up again in the present congress. Its backers will wait until the opening of the new congress and will then try their luck again.

The honor of defeating the bill can be shared by both capitalist parties. Proportionally as many democrats as republicans voted against the bill, its democratic opponents came for the most part from the southern states. They do not wish to give women the vote because then the Negro women would gain political power. It seems that the men of the south fear more the intelligence of the Negro women than that of the black men. The republican opponents of the bill were the well-known reactionaries of the party, the Lodges and their like.

Among the latter was also the republican senator from New York State, Wadsworth. He deserves both censure and condemnation for his vote. He must be condemned for being so reactionary, for bearing such a terrible grudge against his wife. But he deserves a compliment for his courage. In New York State the women have the vote. By his vote against political rights for women, Wadsworth has drawn down upon himself the wrath of the millions of women voters of New York State, of his own state. It is almost certain that this will kill him politically. He knew this very well. Yet he stuck to his convictions and voted according to them. Such conscientiousness among capitalist politicians is not met with very often.

Congress in Washington is deceiving itself so holding speeches against President Wilson and carrying through his bills. The attacks on Wilson come for the most part from the republicans. They are not pleased with what he is doing in Paris. And yet when the democratic majority wishes to carry through a bill it must only state that Wilson wishes this bill passed and then the republicans yield.

Such an instance occurred in the case of the bill to set aside more than 600 million dollars to build new warships. The republicans were opposed to this bill. But the democrats declar-

OUR CAUSE SPREADS OVER LAND AND SEA

By William Morris Feigenbaum

While the great peace conference is settling the affairs of the world, at the Qual D'Orsay there have been two other conferences in other parts of Europe, of the utmost importance which in their own way, have been settling matters fully as important as those at the Paris meeting. At Bern, in Switzerland, the International Socialist congress has been meeting for the past few days. At the time of its assembling there were some eighty-seven delegates from about twenty-one countries. Among the delegates there were Arthur Henderson, of England; Albert Thomas, of France; Kurt Eisner, of Bavaria; Emile Vandervelde, of Belgium; Camille Huysmans, the secretary of the International Socialist Bureau, and many other international known figures. Later, the delegates numbered 127.

The most important of the German Socialists were absent because of the history-making Assembly at Weimar, sitting at the same time, but the party of that country was represented by Karl Kautsky, its foremost thinker and writer, and several other members.

The Socialist party of the United States was unrepresented because the American delegates were unable to get their passports in time. While the Congress was in session, James Onal and Almeron Lee received passports from the United States Government, while the third American delegate, John M. Work, was denied a passport because of his association with Victor L. Berger, on whose paper, the Milwaukee Leader, Work is an editorial writer.

At this writing, however, neither Lee nor Onal has been able to sail because their passports have not yet been issued by the British consul, a necessary step because the delegates expected to sail on an English steamer.

The first days of the Congress at Bern were stormy. The first task seemed to be the quixotic one of "fixing the responsibility" for the war.

Albert Thomas, one of the extreme "right" of the French Socialists, began denouncing the Germans for participating in the war. Dr. Mueller, one of the German delegates retorted, defending the course of the Germans. For a while, it seemed as if the meeting would break up as so many thousands of meetings have broken up, in jangling, discord and fruitless wrangling over the question of who started the war.

The note of discord was quelled however, by the calm, clear, cool head of Karl Kautsky, who made a bitter attack upon those of his own Comrades who had supported the Kaiser in the iniquitous war. This action cleared the air permanently.

Emile Vandervelde the brilliant leader of the Socialist party in Belgium, who entered the cabinet at the outbreak of the war was one of the irreconcil-

ed that President Wilson had expressed a desire that this bill be passed and the republicans almost to a man voted for it.

ables, who said he would refuse to meet the Germans. But his actions at Bern, stern and strict as they were, showed that the Socialist and labor world is rapidly coming to see that the real interests of the workers are with each other — not against each other. He met them and cooperated as a real comrade.

Frank Bohn, an American, attempted to address the Congress. He was not given an opportunity to do so. The Congress, however, in rejecting him, wrote down the fact that they are interested, not in the opinions of individuals that to them it is more important that the Socialist party of America be represented than individuals, no matter how right they may be, to come and make speeches.

The delegates who agreed fully with Bohn's views were as emphatic in rejecting him as were those who differed with him.

It is becoming apparent, that the Bern congress is but the first of a series of congresses that will result in the rebuilding and the re-integration of the international labor movement.

The Spartacus group of Germany was not represented at Bern, while some of the most powerful of the revolutionary labor movements were not there.

The chairman of the Congress was Hjalmar Branting of Sweden, one of the most reactionary of the European labor leaders; the temper of the Congress, however, has not been conservative. Its work seems to have been the striking of the first blow for the rebuilding of the international union of the workers so urgently needed now.

Meanwhile, President Compers refuses to join with the workers from other lands. He is irreconcilable, so much so that many of the Europeans are beginning to wonder if he knows that the war is over yet. He has publicly stated that the Bern Congress is a "German plot."

While the Bern congress has been in session, the German National Assembly has been meeting in the historic old city of Weimar.

The attempts of the Spartacus-Bund to prevent the holding of the congress failed.

The eleventh-hour attempt to shut off the lights in the city did not succeed. Some 397 delegates, including 20 women, attended.

Friedrich Ebert, the chancellor opened the discussion with a half-hour address, in which he declared positively that the old order was dead, and the monarchy would never return. Amid great enthusiasm, he welcomed Austria into the German Republic. The second day of the Assembly saw the election of Dr. Eduard David, a moderate Socialist, as permanent president.

The Ebert ministry seems to have outlined a plan of Government beforehand to be presented to the Assembly. The Assembly, judging from its make-up, the next it will without much change, and debate.

Whatever the future of Germany, it will most certainly be a Republic, of one form or another.

Meanwhile, the Spartacans,

defeated in their attempt to prevent the holding of the Weimar Assembly, have been active in one city after another. In Bremen, in Hamburg, and in other sections, the members of this party have been seizing power, holding it for a while, and then relinquishing it.

The great strikes in Great Britain, have been growing. There is a development that has hitherto been unheard of, the "shop steward" movement.

The "shop steward" is the English expression for what we call shop chairman. These officials of the unions have been building up the organization of the workers from within the shops, and they have been demanding the control of the shops for the workers directly through the shops. It is slowly coming to be realized that the strikes that are still gripping the United Kingdom are revolutionary in the sense that they are not so much for the winning of shorter hours and better wages but as a step towards the final socialization of the industries of the country for the workers.

The Russian situation has become an international sensation again. The invitation of the Peace Congress to the Russian factions to meet at the Princes Islands to discuss all matter relating to Russia has been accepted by the Soviet government. The United States has designated William Allen White and George D. Herron as the American delegates to the conference. The Soviet government has not yet selected delegates.

White is a liberal Journalist from Kansas, while Herron is a former Socialist of national reputation. He is the founder of the Rand School (named after his wife, Carrie Rand Herron) who left America because of the savage persecution visited upon him because he had divorced his wife and married another — which is not altogether an unknown occurrence in this country. — the journalistic jackals called him a "free lover," and practically pushed him out of the country for it. Herron has become one of the greatest chauvinists in the world recently, and he seems to have given up his former internationalism.

These men are to meet the representatives of the Bolshevik party, and work out some sort of agreement with them for international relations. This means that the Soviet Government will soon be formally recognized.

An interesting occurrence recently has been the letters sent to America by Robert Minor, the brilliant radical artist. Minor, who is an anarchist, was sent to Moscow where he interviewed Lenin. His cables to the World are full of disillusionment. Instead of the anarchist society that he expected to find, he discovered a highly organized, efficient government, carrying on the business of a vast nation successfully and with excellent results.

"Where is the rule of the people in self-governing group?" Minor wants to know.

These cables are an effective reply to those who would have us believe that the Russian government is inefficient, and based upon violence and bloodshed. It was entirely too efficient and orderly to suit this idealist, who

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By Louis V. Goldsman

One hundred and ten years ago, on the 12th of February, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. He was killed on the 15th of April, 1865, at the age of fifty-six.

No man before him, with the exception of Washington, did as much for his country and for all mankind as Lincoln. On the first of January, 1863, he signed the proclamation which abolished black slavery in the United States.

And he did this in the face of tremendous difficulties. Besides the opposition of the slavery states, he was also being hindered by his own cabinet, his class advisers who could not bring themselves to displace England who at that time carried on a great cotton business with America and they did not wish to ruin this business. Then there were also men, who put on one side of the scales, profits, and on the other side, human liberty; men who placed money above the life, liberty and happiness of human beings. On the first of January, 1863, Lincoln called his cabinet together to ask them their views on the matter, but he told them that no matter what these views were he had decided to do what he thought right. Because if slavery is not a crime then nothing is criminal, and on that very day he signed the proclamation.

And each year on the 12th of February, the whole world, in gratitude, remembers the great man who served mankind and did away with one of the greatest evils that ever existed.

But the world should also remember that no matter how great was the accomplishment of Lincoln, much, very much has remained to be done.

In those days when Lincoln freed the black slaves, he did not think that the time would come when in the cotton mills and on the cotton plantations, little white children would make up for the damage and the loss of profits caused by the freeing of black slaves.

Lincoln did not think that the same people who had freed the black slaves would tolerate so much white slavery.

Lincoln said: If you recognize the Negro as a human being, then slavery is a crime; you may perhaps think that the Negro is not my equal, but when it comes to the right to eat the bread he earns, then the Negro is my equal.

What would he say today to the slavery and the terrible suffering in the war mines where free slaves, thousands of mothers, fathers and children, are starved, tortured and killed under worse slavery conditions than those existing in the days of Lincoln?

What would he say today if he saw in the factories, mines

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wanted to see something else.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that Prince Kropotkin, Marie Spiridonova, Martov, Maxim Gorky and a number of other internationally famous revolutionists when the Bolsheviks used to kill three times a week have joined hands with the Bolsheviks, and are strong supporters of the Soviet government of Russia.

JUSTICE

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FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

MORE ABOUT THE STUPIDITY OF THE ASSOCIATION BOSSES.

One of our readers who, for reasons best known to himself, did not consider it wise to give his correct name, writes us the following:

"It occurs to me that you were very wrong in what you said in your editorial about the bottomless stupidity of the association bosses. You wish to prove more than you can. Do you really think that if they had been the inefficient, stupid men you picture them, that they could be such efficient, splendid businessmen? Granted that a few of them were just lucky, but you cannot say this about all of them. Just because you are too eager to prove your point, because you wish to convince the world that all of the bosses are simple idiots, your editorial has its point and is not convincing. Don't try to prove what does not seem reasonable, and then, perhaps, your editorials will have the desired effect upon some who need to be influenced. In your way, you, unwillingly, do the bosses a good turn."

A Reader of "JUSTICE." Let me admit right here that this letter gave me a little food for thought. Had I really gone a little too far? Had I actually painted the devil blacker than he is and had given him a chance to appear in the guise of one who himself had been wrongly slandered, of a martyr? I must say that I should have been very much grieved if I had actually made a statement for which I had not very good grounds. And I shall, therefore, here repeat the facts which have been so many times confirmed. These show plainly that the bosses are far, far from being truly efficient businessmen who understand their own interests.

Number one—The boss, the employer, has and must have a great desire to exploit his employees as much as possible—this is the nature of the boss. But in order to be successful as an exploiter, he must understand how to curb his great appetite. He must understand, for instance, that he cannot bring back the condition of slavery when the worker was the property of the slave-owner. He must take the times into account. He must know how far advanced we are. He must know that there are certain things which he may secretly desire, but which he can never again get. All these things a wise boss must take into consideration. He meets his employees half way; he understands that the time has gone by when one can be unreasonably obstinate.

Have the association bosses done this? The answer of every unbiased person to this question must be decidedly "no."

Because what is there in the demands of the workers about which a man with the least bit of common sense will say that it is not fully justified? They have asked for and are still demanding a 44-hour work week instead of the 48-hour week which was the rule up till now. Is this such an impossible demand? Why? Through the development of machinery, by the ever-growing division of labor, the work is being turned out much more quickly than, let us say, was the case a few years ago. Everybody knows that the worker under the present efficiency system turns out as much in forty-four hours as he did in fifty hours a short time ago. It is also certain that in the comparatively few hours that the worker works nowadays he loses more strength, consumes more energy, and nerve tissue than in former days when he worked longer hours—then why should the worker not demand a shorter work day?

Intelligent people would soon realize how well-founded is this demand. And yet when the association bosses heard of it, they raised an outcry, just as though their factories were taken from them. Do people with any common sense do this in any way?

The union further demanded that in addition to shortening the work week, the bosses also grant them a fifteen per cent increase in their wages. Is this asking too much? Certainly not. This increase in wages would not bring them any more joy in life than they have had up till now. With this increase they could not buy one additional mouthful of bread, one more suit, or rent a brighter or larger room in which to live. "Living in condition" would not have improved one bit. They would go on living just as well, or rather just as poorly, as formerly, only they would have four hours more of leisure during the week. And once you admit the justice and logic of a forty-four hour week, then you must admit that with it must come an increase in wages. This is so evident that a child could grasp it. But the bosses did not understand it. With lips foaming they shouted down these two just demands as the most terrible crime on the part of the union. Can one say that such people have any sense?

Then consider another thing. According to a statement in the Times of last Sunday, the wages paid to the garment or waist

maker, constitute only fifteen per cent of the price of the garment. Therefore, an increase of fifteen per cent in wages would raise the price of the waist only a very insignificant amount. Let us make this clear by giving an example: The price of a waist, let us say, is one dollar, and for making this waist the worker gets fifteen cents and the remainder, eighty-five cents is spent for material, rent and includes the profit which goes to the boss. When the worker demands fifteen per cent more for his work, this means that instead of fifteen cents he will receive seventeen and a quarter cents. That is all. The worker will receive two cents more for making a waist for which the employer receives one dollar. Is this such a great demand? Can a truly sensible businessman bring himself to call forth a strike because of this and lose so many thousands?

Number two. Every sensible man understands that once the workers have gained something for themselves, he will hold fast to this gain and fight with all his power against any attempt to wrest this gain from him. Because it is in the nature of man to progress, not to go backward, and he must be insane who thinks that he can come above the workers back to the condition in which he found himself years ago—back from the position he has won for himself through great effort. This seems to be very clear. And yet the association bosses desired nothing less than that the workers should return to conditions of six years ago. The workers fought and bled until they won for themselves the privilege of not being discriminated against without cause, and for six years the bosses have had to stifle in their hearts this noble desire, and suddenly they get the notion that all must return to conditions of six years ago and they think that they can succeed in this!

Of course everyone knows that behind this desire to have the right to dismiss a worker at will, there lies hidden the still stronger desire to smash the union together. For what cause can one have no power if it is not able to defend the rights of its mistreated members. But is it not the height of idiocy to think that the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union can be broken? And this is what the bosses intend to do. Is it then an exaggeration to say that such bosses are great, blooming idiots?

Number three. In the fight between the ladies' waist makers and the manufacturers, it is not only the two parties in conflict who are deeply interested in it. There is a third party—the great public. It is therefore in the interests of each of the parties concerned to try to win the sympathy and the good will of this third party. The workers, although feeling themselves strong because of their great numbers and because of the justice of their demands, nevertheless, from the very first moment, saw to it that the public should get a true conception of their side of the issue and should feel with them. At the very beginning they stated that they were willing to put the whole affair into the hands of an impartial judge and let him arbitrate.

But what did the bosses do? They defied public opinion openly. They declared that they did

not wish the meddling of outsiders. Instead they tried to confuse the public with all kinds of impossible falsehoods about the union and about its tried and respected leaders. Do you call this acting wisely? Is it not rather a case of breaking one's own windows?

Number four. In the three weeks of the strike many big manufacturers have severed connections with the association. More than twelve thousand workers, that is more than one-third of the strikers, have returned to work under conditions set by the union. It is clear that the backbone of the association's fight has been broken. The shops of the association are empty and they will remain so until the bosses will grant all the demands of the union. It is already an open secret that the bosses have lost out—then why do they continue acting stupidly? A wise man always recognizes the inevitable and yields to it. But the bosses are not wise, they are fools, and their stupidity is truly bottomless. Every day that they continue their vain fight, the extent of their defeat increases.

As for the bosses being capable businessmen? The answer to this is that this is not true. All their business efficiency consists of it being able to squeeze another nickel out of the worker. A waist buyer tells an interesting story in the Sunday Times about our waist manufacturers. I cannot relate all that he has to say about their inefficiency in appointing such men in their offices, who instead of attracting customers, repel them. The waist buyer designates the people employed in the offices of the ladies' waist manufacturers as idlers, shiftless people, men who are constantly polishing their nails, who cannot speak properly with anyone so that very often, having come up with the intention of placing a large order, he has left the office regretting that he ever came there and firmly determined never to come again.

Such efficiency is displayed by the association bosses! All they strive for is to get from the worker a little more work which is not paid for. And, therefore, I think that I did not overstep the limit in saying that the bosses are being carried away by their passions and that in all their dealings they display not one iota of common sense. I am certain that I only told the truth and this in a restrained and moderate way.

A WORD ABOUT WEEK-WORK WORKERS

Somewhere in this issue the reader will find a report about the meeting of all shop chairmen of the Cloakmakers' Union, at Cooper Union, last Thursday, which was, in truth, a source of real inspiration for all those who were present. The very fact that the great hall was filled by shop chairmen alone, speaks well for the great, truly wonderful strength of the Cloakmakers' Union. At this meeting the first mention was made about the resolution which the cloakmakers intend to effect in their industry, that is, the substituting of week work for piece work.

Such has been said and will be said about the need for this revolution. This number contains an article by Mr. Sigman, manager of the Joint Board of

DEMobilIZATION AND THE WORKERS

By M. Koltchin

Four years ago when England began carrying through enforced military service, the government of that country also began working out plans for the future demobilization. Special commissions and committees were appointed. At first these committees were of the opinion that they were the usual "fake" committees and did nothing. But later they applied themselves energetically to the problems. And three years ago, in 1916, the government had already worked out a plan of demobilization. It does not matter what this plan was or whether the workers, especially the old and new labor parties were satisfied with it. The fact is that a plan had been worked out.

Well, it cannot be said for a moment that the English government is more liberal or that it takes a greater interest in its workers and soldiers than the American government. It seems still less likely that the English government is more efficient than ours. What has been the difference in time of war the American government accomplished more in one year than did the English in three. And this is not because America is richer or that she was fresher—England is not a pauper and she, too, was once fresh—but because America represents in itself one big business with many earnest businessmen. Every business or firm does the following when anything happens or is about to happen: if the event is a trifling one, a game, then the men of business assume themselves; they do not take it seriously, as at the time of the war with Spain. But if the thing means "business," is something real serious, then it is regarded as business and everything is done with all the energy called for by the affair.

This is why America in the short time of a year and a half developed such a great military force and built up such a mighty military machine. And if she was able to do this, then surely she would have been able to work out a plan for demobilization which, if not better, would not have been worse than the

one worked out by England. But we have no plan at all—either better or worse. We are, in the matter of demobilization altogether "planless" as an American publicist termed it. Demobilization is going on; tens of thousands of soldiers and workers are being demobilized each day and all this is being done without any definite plan. Why is this?

Because America does not take the whole business of demobilization seriously. It does not feel that it is business, important business. And why does it not feel so? Because American labor did not make her feel this. The English government, very early, began to occupy itself with the problem of demobilization, with the working out of demobilization plans, not because of her generosity and her care for the condition of the workers or because she is more efficient than the American government, but because the English workers, from the very beginning of the war, were considering peace problems. Back in 1915, when Kitchener spoke about demobilization, the English labor unions, the labor party and the socialist organization also spoke of demobilization. When Kitchener declared that the war would last three years more (and it did last three years more) all kinds of conferences and congresses of workers and Socialists were held in England which took up the problems of demobilization. The government was therefore forced to consider these problems. It had to prepare a plan for demobilization, it dared not permit that some one—and especially the labor class—should have a plan when it had none.

But how was it here with us, in the United States? Did anyone talk of reconstruction, of demobilization? Several times certain groups did call reconstruction-conferences, but they did not discuss either demobilization or reconstruction at these gatherings. And even if they had discussed these problems it would have no effect, because these conferences had very lit-

many, yes of most, of the members have been opened, and the time has come to change the entire system. This was shown clearly at the meeting of the shop chairmen at Cooper Union, by their determination to create a mighty fund, and it was decided that the chief demand of the union at the renewal of the agreement with the bosses, would be the establishment of the week work system in place of the piece work system which has always prevented the union from bringing about permanent and definite improvements in the conditions of the cloakmaker.

It seems to me that it would be a very good thing, in settling the strike of the waist makers also to try to introduce the question of the week work system. This would, perhaps be the greatest accomplishment of the strike. Week work, with a forty-four hour week, and an established minimum wage, would avoid another conflict in the future.

to do with the workers and the workers had little to do with them. Labor in America remained silent, just as though demobilization was none of its affairs. The official labor leaders not only remained silent, but they did not even wish to hear anything about reconstruction or demobilization. They, the official labor leaders had a good excuse, or at least they thought it was a good one, for their conduct. They kept on saying that this was the time to talk of mobilization and not of demobilization; now they could not think of peace problems because the only problem to be considered was war.

And the government, too, bothered very little about these matters and one cannot blame it. If the workers, themselves, were not thinking of their own condition, if the labor leaders bothered little about demobilization, then why should the government occupy itself with these things at a time when there were so many other affairs to be considered? No plan was worked out and there is no plan.

Of course there are plans, many plans, individual as well as government plans, but the fact that we have so many plans and that we make use of all of them at once, make matters worse than they would be if we had no plans at all. We go from one plan to the other, make use of all at the same time, or demobilize without any plan at all, simply because we have no definite plan, no well worked-out plan.

In my next article I shall take up these various plans for demobilization. Here I wish to point out briefly, just how important and far-reaching this problem of demobilization is, and how very much the workers are concerned in the solution of this problem.

At the close of the war America had an army of four million men. About two million were in Europe and two million in the camps. To this number must be added the war workers, that is, those who worked in munition factories, on ships, etc. To this very day we do not know how many of these there were, but a great many thousands. There are estimates but these estimates begin with three million and reach to five million. It may therefore be that beside the four million soldiers, we have also an army of four million war workers who must be demobilized—eight million people. And we must also bear in mind that of these eight million, the majority were formerly workers and that the majority of the soldiers formerly worked at peaceful trades before the war. These war workers were entitled to exemption. These eight million must be returned to industries, many of which were altogether abandoned during the war, and some of which kept on with their work but have now enough workers. The workers must find work and there is no work; there can be no work in such a period of transition, when big industries must shut down, when capital is withdrawn from certain industries and is rushing to other fields of "investment."

I know very well that the problem is a great one, and it cannot be fully solved in our present state of society. Still more—even a better, more normal and more organized society could not solve these prob-

CLEVELAND CLOAKMAKERS WILL RAISE A STRIKE FUND

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO "JUSTICE."

Cleveland, February 12.—On Monday evening, the 10th of February, there was held here a mass meeting of the members of the cloakmakers' union and it was decided that a tax for a general strike fund should be imposed on every member of the union. Every man will pay five dollars and every woman three dollars. All promised to pay this tax within the next five weeks.

M. PERLSTEIN.

lems very speedily. But the process of demobilization can be carried on so that the workers and those demobilized shall suffer as little as possible because of it, or it can be done in such a way that it will bring about great sufferings and cause a wave of unemployment to spread over the whole country. The workers should therefore have been the first to work out a plan for demobilization which the government would have been forced to take into account. But the workers had no plan.

And what are the results? From all sides come reports about a swelling army of unemployed. The very official labor leaders who didn't wish to hear anything about plans for demobilization, now raise a great outcry about unemployment. Three hundred thousand, four hundred thousand, five hundred thousand—shoots Mr. Frank Morrison, general secretary of the A. F. of L. And the number is increasing. Each day tens of thousands of soldiers are being demobilized. Here, in the camps a million soldiers have already been discharged, and eight hundred thousand more will be sent home this month. Each day ships filled with soldiers arrive from Europe. They are given a hearty reception, but that is not enough. Of course the government employment offices are looking for jobs for soldiers, the big employers promise jobs, and the government has promised every soldier his pay as long as he will remain idle, but still they are looking for work, they are without work, they help lower wages, they put all workers in danger of losing their jobs. And conditions grow worse steadily. It is needless to tell here of the effect that an ever increasing army of unemployed has upon the condition of all workers. When on the other side of the door stand thousands of hungry ones who are willing to work any number of hours, for any kind of wages, and under any labor conditions as long as they get work—then the employed workers cannot think of shorter work days, about higher wages or about better working conditions.

A crisis is approaching—a great, terrible crisis, bringing unemployment, hunger and suffering. And to a certain extent the workers themselves are to blame for this, especially the official labor leaders who refused to prepare for this crisis.

the Cloakmakers' Union in which a few points are made clear and in such a manner that nothing can be said against them. Other articles will appear making clear other points. But the main point of all is that the piece work system does not allow the workers in the shops to be really good union men. Instead of there being a spirit of solidarity in the shop, an essential for good union members, this system only tends to create among the workers a spirit of competition.

It is to be wondered at that this state of affairs could have existed for such a long time without being noticed, but even if the leaders of the union and the observant members did notice it, they could have done very little to help matters. The piece work system is a chronic disease in the cloak industry and most of the workers, up to a very short time ago, believed, that it is the best system in the world. Finally the eyes of

THE CONQUEST OF LEISURE

By Juliet Stuart Poyntz

NO right is more precious to the working woman than the "right to rest," the great movement for the limitation of hours that is sweeping over trades employing hundreds of thousands of women will bring to the working woman the great boon of Time—time to rest, time to play, time to be human. The sweeping reductions of five or six hours a week that are being demanded and won in the textile industry and the clothing trades mark the greatest step forward that the woman's labor movement has taken in recent years.

The ten thousand waistmakers who are marching back to their shops after a two weeks' strike with a permanent conquest of five hours a week do not realize perhaps with what ease great victories like this are won today as compared with the years of struggle and suffering that were required to start the movement for shorter hours. Strangely enough it was during a great depression following a war period just as at present that the ideas of limiting the hours was first born. It was immediately after the Napoleonic Wars that Robert Owen, a pioneer Socialist, made the extraordinary discovery that it was not necessary to work little children of seven years old sixteen hours a day in order to make a comfortable profit from cotton factories. A servant professor, for the type existed even in the early days, insisted however that the whole profit of the manufacturer was made in the last hour of labor and that if the hours were reduced there would be no profit from the business. The professor had his way until the shameful conditions of employment for women and children forced the first legislation for the normal working day in 1833, and wonderful to relate, the fifteen hour day was established by law. This was the privilege of workers of a better day. This great victory gave your sisters in the cotton mills the opportunity of working only from half past five in the morning till half past eight in the evening, with short periods allowed for meals. Even these humane conditions were lacking in the dressmaking trade.

In one account of "seamstress slavery" we read, "The young slaves are worked in gangs in ill-ventilated rooms. Their occupation is to sew from morning till night, and from night till morning, without pause, without speech, without a smile, without a sigh. In the gray of the morning they must be at work. From six in the morning until nine at night it is stitch, stitch, stitch. In the busy season the needles are then set in motion once more until one, two and three o'clock in the morning, stitch, stitch, stitch. Even during sleep their miseries continue. They are cooped up in sleeping pens, ten in a room large enough for two. The seamstress may leave the mill no doubt, but what awaits them on the other side of the door?—starvation if they be honest; if not, prostitution and its consequences."

In the same book, "The White Slaves of England," Richard

Cobden gives instances of dressmakers who had gone blind from overwork, one working eighteen hours a day and sometimes more, another who had remained working forty-nine days and nights with only an hour or two of rest occasionally, while still another actually died of exhaustion, working on the average of sixteen and a half hours at a stretch, and during the season often 30 hours.

It is well for us to reflect upon conditions such as these, for they show us where we would be today if we were not for the organized force of workers exerting itself to secure better conditions through organization and legislation. The battle for the Ten Hour Act of 1847 in England which secured the first real victory in the struggle for shorter hours was fought with great bitterness for twenty years. And when it was finally won, the women workers should work for more than ten hours a day in factory or workshop, the first important step was taken along the road to the forty-four hour week of today, and the forty hour week of the near future, and the thirty hour week that is to come. In the earlier days the effort for shorter hours was made almost entirely through political action, because trade unions were not yet strongly developed, and the need for immediate action was urgent if the strength and future of the working class was not to be sacrificed. Then too there has always been a very strong argument for the legal protection of the hours of women. Even the most selfish employers were forced to admit that the overwork of the prospective mothers of the race was a serious menace to the health of the next generation. The revelations of Factory Commissions from the earliest days of the machine system showed that children working in class districts were dying like flies because of neglect and the physical weakness and exhaustion of the mothers. And so women who were the earliest and the chief victims of the machine system were given some legal protection from the most extreme exploitation of the employer.

Working men have had to wait out their own salvation in the matter of hours. The good old fashioned policy of "let-it-alone" on which the ruling classes proceeded held that government could not interfere in the supposedly free contract between worker and employer. Only weaklings, women and children deserved the protection of the state, small as it was! Strange enough there were some advocates of Women's Rights who protested against the protective legislation of women on the ground that it interfered with their freedom to work! Naturally these fierce devotees of freedom were middle class women, and fortunately they were unable to carry their point. It happened however in industries where men and women were employed together that the men profited by the shorter hours of the women, since it did not pay to keep the machinery running for only part of the workers.

The progress of trade union organization had a much greater influence in reducing the hours than did legislative action, and as women have learned the lesson of organization, they too have profited by direct action. In the state of New York for example, while the law still allows unorganized women to work fifty-four hours a week, the organized women of the needle trades have for several years made their own trade-union law which now provides for only forty-four hours. Ten hours more of life every week! Is that not alone a sufficient reason for being for our unions!

There is a deep significance in the great movement that is going on all over the world for the shortening of hours. Millions of workers everywhere are on strike today for a shorter work-day. Is it a mere accident or a mere coincidence that all alike should be moved by the same impulse in a time of such deep meaning as the present? Why is it that the tragedy of the world war the first re-termination of the workers in their determination to make the world anew is the bold, general strike for shorter hours? It is a new day indeed, the workers have decided that their lives are not to be bartered for any price, that no wage, no matter how high, can induce them to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage. Bread they will have, but not with bread only will they be bought. The worker of today is not the dull slave of fifty years ago. He has something to live for. He is not a mere machine. He is a person. He reads. He goes to the theater. He has established his own libraries, his own educational institutions. He has learned to drive full care away at the theater and the opera. And he wants time, time, for all these things. Time to eat, time to live, time to be happy, time to be a person. The masters of all ages have thrown the dog a bone when he growled. But the worker has risen to truly human stature. He is no longer satisfied with bones. He wants life and the fullness thereof. He wants better wages, more bread, better housing, better clothes, but he also wants more education, more recreation, more pleasure, more rest, more time for himself. The great struggle for shorter hours is therefore based on the revolutionary principle of equality.

Edwin Burke once exclaimed when he gazed upon the French Revolution (from a safe distance) that the lower classes were a different and inferior order of human beings, and that by no effort could they ever reach the elevated position of their betters. But the worker of today does not believe this. He rebels passionately against any sort of life that shuts him out of either material or spiritual benefits. And it is the spiritual benefits for which the movement for shorter hours is striving.

The conquest of shorter hours has a double significance. On the one side it has a negative value in restricting the exploitation of the manufacturer. Thus far shall they go, and no farther! On the other side is the positive question for the worker, "What shall I do with my new found leisure? How can I use it to the best advantage?" In answering this question he is

working out the principles of a new life, a true proletarian culture. Time is a new acquisition for the worker, he has not yet been able to evolve any plan for the most fruitful use of his leisure. The woman worker with her multifarious duties can easily fritter away in trivial things the new opportunity for health and mental development that comes with greater leisure. How many of us for instance are making the best use of the Saturday afternoons that were wrested from the bosses with such difficulty? The groups that are spending every Saturday afternoon in our Unity Centers are making their time count for enjoyment and physical development. Those who are depending their extra time on the new educational opportunities which the labor movement is providing for its members in ever increasing measure are winning their shorter hours twice, first when they took them from the employer, and secondly when they learned to use them for themselves. The labor movement should take upon itself the pleasant task of organizing leisure for the workers just as fast as they can win it from the employer. The wider extension of our already thriving educational movement, the establishment of workers' theaters with dramas written for the people and not for the tired business man, the organization of physical exercise and walks into the country for the enjoyment of the beauties of Nature, so long a closed book to the workman, the publishing of workmen's libraries on subjects of importance and interest to labor, the building of social and educational centers for the labor movement, these and other similar projects are part of the effort at a solution of the problem of the conquest and use of leisure. And all of these should be undertaken by the workers themselves through their own organizations, so that they may breathe the life of the people and form a vital expression of their needs and aspirations.

THE TESTING

God mixed in man the rapture
the years
And scattered through his brain
the starry stuff
He said, "Behold! Yet this is
not enough,
For I must test his spirit to
make sure
That he can dare the vision and
endure.

"I will withdraw My face,
Vell Me in shadow for a certain
space
And leave behind only a broken
clue,
A crevice, where the glory glimmers
through
Some whisper from the sky,
Some footprint in the road to
track Me by.

"I will leave man to make the
fateful guess,
Will leave him to torn between
—the no and yes;
Leave him unresting till he
rests in Me.
Drawn upward by the choice
that makes him free—
Leave him in tragic loneliness
to choose,
With all in life to win or all to
lose."

—Edwin Markham.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALL OVER THE LAND

By MAX D. DANISH

New Life in Montreal.

During the past two years the Montreal Cloakmakers' Union has had a hard road to travel. The outcome of the strike of 1917 demoralized the workers to a great extent and put the organization on the down grade.

It must be noted that the cloakmaking family in Montreal is of a peculiar caliber and nature. Montreal recruits a large number of its cloakmakers from out of town, from New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and other cities,—and this unstable and transient element was always an obstacle in the way of organizing a solid union in that city. There was, however, in Montreal, like in all other cities always a band of faithful and loyal workers who know no defeat and to whom the organization of the workers meant everything in life. During the past dark two years these men have stuck loyally together, and now that the storm is weathered and normal after-war conditions are returning, they have launched an organizing campaign that is bound to yield fine results.

The International is lending every assistance to the organizing work that is at present being conducted in Montreal. During December, first Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg spent a week in Montreal on behalf of the General Office and addressed a number of meetings. Brother Joseph Schubert, the indefatigable secretary of the Montreal Joint Board, writes as follows:

"We are working like the 'dickens' to build up a union and we are succeeding to a great extent. I hope that in a few weeks from now we will be able to send you a very encouraging report, totally different from what we have been writing to you in the past. I believe that after the report which Brother Elmer Rosenberg gave you last month, you are convinced that the 'devil' here is not as black as he is being painted. Of course, it is still far from a union stampede here, and we all know that we must have patience, energy and devotion in order to succeed fully. Such qualities are just as rare in Montreal as they are in New York, Chicago or Cleveland, but after the mass meetings that we have had here during the past month and the sincere decision of the local cloakmakers to have a union and to build and strengthen it, we all feel that we will get there very soon.

"All of our locals have during the past month had elections of officers and the new Joint Board is made up of fresh forces, of boys that have come to the front lately. We know that it is very important for us to have a speaker from the outside, from New York once in a while, but we have come to learn that we must rely largely upon our own resources and we are going to apply this lesson from now on."

Among the Raincoat Makers

After the unusual war-time prosperity the raincoat makers industry has entered a transitory, a so-called "reconstruction" period. The influence of the new conditions on the trade

in general and on the workers in particular is yet hard to forecast or predict. The number of unemployed in life trade is not alarming as yet. There is still work in the shops, and while a number of men who were previously employed at cloakmaking and who came into the raincoat trade during the time when war-work was at its height, have gone back to their former trade, the reduction in the number of raincoat makers has not been significant.

Generally speaking the raincoat locals in New York and outside of the city are in good shape. In New York City, Local No. 20 has changed the personnel of its officers during the last month's election, an event which was accompanied by some agitation in the local. As stated above the new problems in the raincoat trade growing out of the change from a war to a peace footing are yet to come and the new Executive Board of Local No. 20 may yet be called upon to deal with them and to show that it is adequately fit to tackle and solve them.

In Boston, Local No. 7 is in equally good shape. There is work in the shops; the local meetings are well attended and the local treasury is in sound condition. The same may be said about Local No. 54 in Chicago, which has had a number of stormy encounters with some of the big firms in that city during the past year and a half.

There is a strike at present in the city of Racine, Wisconsin, in the big plant of the Chicago Rubber Co. It started as a strike of stitchers, which later spread to every department in the factory and caused the shutdown of the entire plant. This strike is being conducted under the auspices of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, and is in charge of Miss Ida Glatt, organizer of the Federation. The strikers have applied for a charter to our International Union, and over 200 members have been enrolled in the prospective local already. There is little doubt that the strike will be won, and the factory which was the non-Union outpost of this big company, will become a thorough Union shop in the near future.

The Connecticut Corset Workers

The past few months have seen marked awakening in the corset workers' locals in Connecticut. To be true to facts the state of Locals No. 33, 34 and 39 in Bridgeport and New Haven was far from desirous during the past two years. The wave of enthusiasm which brought these locals into existence in 1915, was waning and gave way to a routine, drab existence. The locals had no fighting program and their numbers were gradually diminishing. The girls who did not speak English, the Hungarians, and Italians, were particularly affected; they became indifferent and ceased to come to the meetings or to pay dues. The influence of the organization on the working conditions of the local industry became correspondingly negligible.

The abnormal industrial conditions in these cities arising out

of the war, were also a considerable factor in weakening these locals. Bridgeport and New Haven during the past few years were great centers of war industry. The numerous munition shops drew heavily from the ranks of the corset workers who were attracted to these factories by high wages, and at one time, the corset shops themselves converted about 50 per cent of their plant power for war-work. The shop committees, which were established in 1915 to deal with the foremen and superintendents in the corset shops, gradually lost their power and were hardly functioning.

The end of the war has at once brought forth a number of new pressing problems for the corset workers. First was the question of unemployment created by the large numbers of women who came back to the corset shop after they were laid off in the munition factories. This problem was, fortunately, solved quickly, as the corset shops soon resumed normal operations and absorbed these workers. Next came the question of organization. There are over 6,000 corset workers in Bridgeport alone and about 3,000 in New Haven. Only a small part of these were within the fold of the Union. The General Office kept an organizer in this territory during this time but as long as abnormal industrial conditions lasted it was regarded as futile to attempt an organizing campaign.

Four months ago the International sent into Connecticut two organizers, Vice-President Miss Fannia Cohen and Samuel Lefkowitz. Later Miss Cohen was withdrawn and Brother Lefkowitz was permanently assigned to this territory. His coming brought considerable life into the locals. Soon regular meetings with Hungarian and Italian speakers were arranged and a systematic campaign was set on foot.

The corset workers of New England are but a small part of the very large number of corset workers all over the country. Long hours and comparative poor pay prevail in the trade and they offer an excellent field for organization and education. It is important to lay a solid foundation for a country-wide movement in the Connecticut shops; to win better conditions and a standard week work and enroll every man and woman into the organization. The winning of the Middle-West and the Western corset shops and the introduction of uniform working conditions throughout the industry, will then be made considerably easier.

Among Cincinnati Cloakmakers General Organizer, Abraham Snyder, writes:

"Our agreement expires on February 1st, and we have just now sent our demands to the manufacturers. As usual we had a mass meeting to discuss and vote on these demands, and we regret very much that, owing to the great dress and waist strike in New York City, it was impossible for President Schlesinger to visit us, an occasion which we have anticipated for quite some time. Of course, the center of gravity in our local situation is the firm of Bishop, Stern and Stein, the largest shop in the city. We don't expect any trouble, however, and have reason to believe that we

shall sign up agreements with all our firms in a short time.

We are asking \$33 per week for cutters, \$32 for sample makers, \$28 for tailors and a flat increase of \$2 for all other week workers. We also ask 90 cents per hour for cloak operators, 70 cents per hour for skirt operators, 85 cents per hour for pressers and 75 cents per hour for finishers, and we expect to get it.

We have had some friction here in a raincoat shop and we lost control of it because we could not supply the firm with the Union label. While this single case in itself is not, to our minds, of great importance, the question of the label on raincoats may be a matter for the International to think about, there are other raincoat shops here in the Middle West that could be easily organized by the International Union, if we could supply the firms with the Union label.

CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10 TAX THEMSELVES FOR THE LADIES' WAIST MAKERS' STRIKE

Our cutters' union, local 10, is a "mixed" local. All cutters who work in the ladies' dress industry in Greater New York belong to it. To this union belong the cutters of cloaks and suits, of waists and dresses, of wrappers and kimono, of white goods, etc. It is therefore quite natural that as soon as a strike breaks out in any branch of ladies work in New York, local 10 is involved in it. Because the cutters, the members of local 10, always go out on strike together with the other local unions. They all belong to the same International; they are all children of one large family.

Well, the waist and dress cutters of local 10 are now on strike together with the waist and dressmakers' union, local 25.

Last week, the executive of local 10 of the "White Goods Division," held a meeting and they were about to decide that these cutters should tax themselves to pay three dollars a week for the waist and dress strike, for the duration of the strike.

The cutters of the cloak and suit division found out about this and they asked the other cutters to hold up their decision for a while. They felt that they had been insulted because their branch had not been represented at the meeting. They stated that the cloak and suit cutters did not wish to be exceptions but that they, too, wanted to pay three dollars a week for the strikers.

In short, a meeting was soon held of all branches of local 10 and it was unanimously decided that all members of the entire cutters' union, local 10, should pay three dollars a week for the general strike of the waist and dressmakers, as long as the strike would last!

Does one need to make any comment on such brotherly action? The noble deed of local 10 speaks for itself. This only goes to prove how united, faithful and devoted are all the local unions of the wonderful International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
(Concluded from page 3.)
and mills the large numbers of children who are tortured and robbed of life even before they begin to live.

The work which Lincoln did is only a beginning; the greater part remains still to be done.

Who will sign the proclamation which will make it a crime to use for profits the bodies, the health and the strength and future of a child?

What man, what party, will rise above all the others, without having in mind any benefits or profits, and free the children from the factories, and will not

permit such terrible slavery and atrocities?

When Lincoln wanted to free the blacks, his opponents told him that this would ruin business and lessen profits. And when today one talks about improving the conditions of the worker, one hears again the same answer: business will suffer, profits will fall, goods will cost more.

How sad it is that when one wishes to better the condition

of human beings the only thing that stands in the way is profit and money.

Great was Lincoln who fought for justice and who liberated the black slaves!

So great will be the man, and

let us hope that he has already been born, who will do for the poor children, for the tired women, for the great army that works without hope and without a future, what Lincoln did for the black slaves of his day.



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Delegates,
Organizers,
Secretaries,
Members,

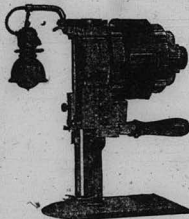
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CUTTERS

All members of Local 10 employed in trades
not on strike, or in settled shops, are urged to
pay their Work Tax of \$3 per week beginning
February 3, 1919, and for the duration of the
General Dress and Waist Strike. This decision
was passed at the Special General Meeting held
on February 1, 1919.

SAM B. SHENKER,
Secretary.

HARRY BERLIN,
President.

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