

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT
WORKERS UNION

VOL. I

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No. 9

THE BLACK SATURDAY AND THE WAIST MAKERS' STRIKE

This was eight years ago, on the 25th of March, 1911, on a Saturday which since then is known by the dreadful name of "Black Saturday." On that day the entire city of New York, the entire country and, indeed, the whole civilized world were horror stricken at the terrible Triangle fire, in which 147 young lives of ladies' waistmakers suffered the most horrible death imaginable.

It was not an accident, it was a horrid hellish crime. The victims were caught in a fire-trap.

It seems as if all forces of hell conspired to destroy these young lives. The doors through which the girls could have escaped had been barred at the order of the Triangle bosses. Nor were there any fire escapes that might have served as a means of escape to some. The elevator was not running and the victims had only one choice — a choice between two deaths: to be burned on the eight or ninth floors or to jump from the windows and be dashed to pieces and cover the sidewalks with their blood and marrow.

It was a weird alternative, and on that Black Saturday 147 human beings were virtually killed in the ladies' waist factory of the Triangle company, a name which no one can recall without wrath and abhorrence.

Eight years passed, and no other such accident—nay, massacre, for no other name can be given to the disaster of 1911,—has happened since.

Why? It is because the court sentenced the Triangle bosses to long terms of prison at hard labor, and this sentence cast fear upon all other employers? Oh, no! The court, after a dragged out trial, strange as it is, declared the Triangle bosses innocent of this most horrible of crimes. Nor did the murderers suffer financially. They got their insurance money and without delay opened a new factory elsewhere.

It is not the bosses' fault that another Triangle disaster has not occurred between 1911 and 1919. It is the Ladies' Waistmakers' Union, which, having received new vitality through the death of 147 of its members, that has kept its vow made at the graves of its martyrs, that no such massacre would happen again.

Perhaps this is news to our new members. If so, let them know that it is these lives perished in the fire that form the foundation of the Union. These martyrs would have died in vain if upon their mangled bodies

were not erected the fortress of the Ladies' Waistmakers' Union, which is now conducting the determined and bitter struggle with bosses of the Ladies' Dress and Waist Association.

The bosses perhaps wonder whence the girls draw their energy and endurance. Especially since they know that it would be possible to come to some sort of understanding in the matter of wages and hours, which, the

bosses think is the main thing with the workers. Why then, are they waging so bitter and stubborn a fight for the question of discharge, a question, which, after all affects the majority of them but little?

The bosses evidently do not realize that among the ranks of the living strikers are also the spirits of the dead martyrs who appeal to their brothers and sisters on earth in an ominous

voice of martyrdom and warn them:

"Beware of welding on this point of discharge! If you give in on this point you forfeit your Union, and if you forfeit your Union, know, that the same lot, which brought us to our early graves, is in store for you; that you, too, will be burned and mangled and suffer agonies of hell in the minutes that will separate you from a horrible death!"

The charred arms of the dead martyrs stretch from the graves with a mute appeal:

"For your own lives' sake, in the name of your honor as women, do not yield at this point of discharge, and thereby destroy the Union for whose strength and power we fell victims!"

And the dead continue:

"With our life-blood we built your Union, your stronghold, your defense; cherish your Union, be vigilant lest evil befall it. Remember that in your present conflict there is more at stake than a few cents increase, a few hours' leisure. Your dignity, your honor, your very lives are at stake!"

It is this voice of our Triangle martyrs that sweeps off the spurious issues of the bosses like so much cobweb. And it lends the strikers strength to go on and on with the struggle, till the victory is complete, till the Union is made safe against its enemies who will not even in their dreams dare plan for its destruction.

THE LADIES WAIST MANUFACTURERS COME ONE BY ONE, BUT COME THEY DO!

Last Wednesday Mr. S. Fahr-er, the ladies' waist manufacturer, signed an agreement with the Union at the office of the International, by which the ladies' waistmakers of his establishments will work only 44 hours a week and will get a raise in wages, the extent to be agreed upon later. As to the question of discharge, each case will be referred to an impartial chairman who will decide whether the discharge was justifiable or not, and also whether the boss must reinstate the discharged worker or not.

Fahr-er's coming to the Union and his breaking away from the Association is of great significance. He is not only a member of the Executive Committee of the Bosses' Association,—he is also the chairman of the Labor Board. Besides, he is one of the big manufacturers, the owner of the Lion Waist Co. and of the Falcon Waist Co.

His breaking away from the Association is an indication of the general dissatisfaction prevailing among the bosses who belong to the Association. They protest against being ruined rather than giving into the just demand of the Union that they are to reinstate workers who were unjustly discharged.

Mr. S. Fahr-er was the first to break the ice. He had the courage to break away and by doing so showed the prevailing spirit among the manufacturers. Now it will be easy for the rest to follow in his tracks.

After he signed the agreement Mr. Fahr-er said: "A heavy burden is off my shoulders. I wish I had done this seven weeks ago. The stand that the Bosses' Association took in the matter of discharge is an unfortunate one, especially since the ques-

tion of hours and wages was not greatly involved."

This is, indeed, common sense. The stand the bosses took, it is now generally admitted, was an impossible one. There was never a shadow of a chance for them to win the struggle with an "issue," which is contrary to every sense of justice and fairness. Their fight was foredoomed to defeat. Most of the bosses have already come to realize this, and now that the chairman of the Labor Board blazed the way for them, there is not the least doubt that before long the rest will follow suit and take advantage of the remaining few weeks of the season.

THE HARBOR STRIKE

The New York Harbor strike is still far from settlement. On Wednesday, both the War and the Navy Departments agreed to the terms which the United States Railroad Administration offered to the marine workers and which the latter accepted. This action reduces the controversy at New York to one between the unions and the private operators of tugs, lighters, coal and grain vessels.

The strike began to enter an acute stage when the private boat owners made an open appeal for discharged navy men to operate idle harbor craft. Vice President William A. Maher of the Marine Workers' Affiliation declared that plans had been adopted for taking drastic steps today and the difficulty in moving coal about the harbor tied up or delayed practically all shipping and made a shutdown of the subways one of the pos-

sibilities of the future, if the strike is long drawn out.

Pressure is being exerted by Federal and city officials to bring about a termination of the strike.

WAR LABOR BOARD TO GO

The War Labor Board, which has been so successful in adjusting differences between employers and labor will not continue in operation after the war is officially over.

In a letter to Charles B. Nelson, secretary of the Central Labor Union, H. L. Kerwin, assistant to the secretary of the Department of Labor says:

"The War Labor Board was formulated by the Government as a court of supervision over industrial relations for the period of the war, and the authority of the board will obtain until the Proclamation of Peace is formally declared by the President."

IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR WORLD

By M. Kolchin.

IN OUR COUNTRY

By Hillel Rogoff

English Labor and Conscription

We all remember the pledges given by the "coalition" candidates of Great Britain during the last election campaign. We remember, among many others, the pledge to abolish conscription. Mr. Lloyd George's coalition government, however, has introduced a new military bill which provides for a standing conscript army of 900,000.

Upon the second reading of the bill last Friday William Adamson, the leader of the parliamentary Labor Party, opened the debate on this measure by moving to reject the bill. He accused the government of making a bad beginning in their demands for the general abolition of conscription throughout Europe. He pointed out that this measure, if adopted, would bring consternation into the hearts or those who believed that with Prussian militarism destroyed, such armies would be unnecessary, and would disillusion those who believed that this war was meant to end wars. James H. Thomas, another laborite, accused the government of breaking the election pledges in introducing the bill and asked whether this army was not intended for the invasion of Russia.

In reply, Mr. Churchill said that only "imperious necessity" forced the government to introduce the bill, that when the pledges had been given this "imperious necessity" could not yet have been foreseen and that the government will not send masses of conscripts to Russia.

In Spain

The Spanish General Union of Workmen is a federation of the most important labor unions of Spain. It was organized in 1889, and at its inception had a membership of not more than 3000. Ten years later the membership of the General Union grew to 20,000; in the course of another ten years the membership increased to over 40,000, and now the General Union has a membership of almost 150,000.

The General Union has always been in sympathy with and supported the Socialist Labor Party, for the workers of Spain have long ago recognized the necessity of fighting their enemies with both arms, political as well as economic. In fact the organization of the General Union can be traced directly to the activities of the Socialist Labor Party, which has been in existence much longer than the Union. Organized in 1879, the Socialist Labor Party has ever since been the champion of the cause of labor.

The world was has netted the Socialist Labor Party and the General Union of Workmen still closer. The Party and the Union have made a joint campaign, with large street demonstrations and strikes, to demand measures against unemployment and against profiteering. And it was the concerted action of the Socialist Party and the General Union that prevented Spain from entering the war on the side of the Kaiser, although the Kaiser's "personal friend" and his government were "favorably disposed" toward junkerdom and the

ruling classes were ready to plunge "their country" into the war.

The end of the war has found the workers of Spain in a most critical situation. Unemployment has increased, the employers have initiated a campaign of "retaliation" for the increases in wages which the workers have won during the war and at the same time the cost of living has risen enormously. In several places the workers struck. They were immediately branded as Bolsheviki and dealt with in the regular "Kaiser fashion." Nevertheless the strike movement spread and it became so threatening that in several places constitutional guarantees have been suspended. Many strikers and labor leaders were shot or thrown into jail.

And now the government of Spain has introduced in the Parliament (cortes) several bills "for relief of the workers." Spain is now officially "pro-labor."

Labor and the League of Nations

The executive committee of the British Labor Party at its meeting last week passed a resolution criticizing sharply the draft of the League of Nations constitution as read by President Wilson before the Peace Conference. The resolution calls the attention of labor to the fact that the draft of the league does not fulfill the vital conditions for such a league as laid down in program of the Labor Party, and in the statement of Inter-Alleed Labor war aims, and that the constitution of the League as presented in the draft, in its permitting the continuation of conscription, vast armaments, high prices, unemployment and discrimination against certain nations might prove a menace to the interests of labor.

A sub-committee was appointed to consider the convoking of a national conference of labor to discuss the League draft for the purpose of reaffirming the labor war aims, particularly those regarding the right of all civilized states to enter the league on equal terms, the establishment of an assembly representing the peoples instead of the governments, the abolition of conscription, the open door policy, etc.

The attitude of French labor toward the league is even more hostile. L'Humanite, which usually voices the opinion of the majority of the Socialist Party and the Federation of Labor, has come out openly against the league as proposed in the draft. The proposed league, according to L'Humanite, is nothing more than a second edition of the Hague conference with the difference that the proposed league unlike the Hague conference admits not all the nations but only those that are favored by the "Big Five."

French Union-Men on Trial

Every now and then we are permitted to know something of the conditions prevailing in Europe. Last week we were permitted to learn of the trial of 41 members of labor unions of France which has begun at Clermont-Ferrand. The principal defendants are M. Andreux, the secretary of the Metal Union and

Bolshevism As a Weapon of Employers

The cry of "Bolshevism!" has now become the best weapon in the hands of the employers against striking employees. The latter may belong to most conservative unions, the strike may be supported and led by the most conservative union leaders—the employers raise an alarm that the strike is nothing short of a revolution, an attempt to overthrow the government and establish Bolshevism.

We had an instance of it this week in New York. The port workers went on strike after they had tried for weeks to come to an understanding with their employers. They demanded shorter hours and better wages. Soon after the strike had been declared the attorney for the employers gave out a statement to the press to the effect that New York was in danger of "Red Terror," and that the strikers intended to overthrow the government and establish Bolshevism.

The history of the strike is worth noting. The trouble began in the month of January. The workers demanded a 48 hour week, and higher wages. The employers refused the demands, and a strike ensued. The harbor and rivers traffic and hence also the rail traffic in and around New York was paralyzed, and the city was menaced by famine. President Wilson, from Paris, appealed to the workmen to return to work, and he at the same time directed the Labor Board at Washington to try to settle the dispute.

The strikers agreed to the suggestion. A representative of the War Labor Board, after a hearing, made an award in which the demand of shorter hours was granted while that of higher wages was denied. (The arbitrator was the same Mr. Macy who made a similar award in the case of the shipbuilders' strike at Seattle).

The workers refused to accept the award and again went on strike.

The second strike began on Tuesday morning, March 4th. The employers refused to arbitrate. The Government Railroad Administration and Navy Department were among the employers.

A government representative came hurriedly from Washington to bring about a settlement. A few days later the Railroad Administration settled its part of the strike by granting all the demands of the workers. The Navy Department also offered a settlement; but the union refused to terminate the strike on government ships unless the private companies also give in. And it is around these companies that the struggle now centers.

The longshoremen refuse to load and unload the ships operated by scabs. This show

a socialist of long standing, and M. Perical, secretary of the trade union committee of defense, organized for the purpose of defending the rights of labor.

The labor men are accused of having planned a general strike, to have taken place in May, 1918, for the purpose of the government to state its war aims and peace terms.

of solidarity on the part of the conservative workmen is a cheering sign.

A Strike Broken

The shipbuilders at Seattle and Tacoma lost their strike in which 40,000 workmen were involved. They have been waging a struggle for three months, and early in February all workmen of Seattle and Tacoma went out in a sympathy strike to aid these brave fighters. The mayor of Seattle succeeded in breaking the strike. But the shipbuilders remained in the field a few weeks longer. Finally they decided, by a referendum vote, to give up the strike and return to work under the old conditions.

A Microscopic Dose of Executive Clemency

A ray of hope appeared for the hundreds of political prisoners who had been sentenced to serve long terms of imprisonment for speaking against the war or for expressing views hostile to the draft or other war legislation. Before sailing for Paris President Wilson pardoned some of these prisoners and commuted the sentence of others, altogether 52 persons were affected by this executive clemency.

Among those pardoned are some socialists of the moderate wing. None of the K.Austrian Workers or of the revolutionary socialists has been pardoned.

Wilson acted on the recommendation of the ex-attorney general Gregory, and this explains why among the 53 persons affected there are no radical socialists. Gregory is known to be a confirmed conservative who has little sympathy for revolutionists.

At about the same time that President Wilson showed a degree of clemency to political offenders the Supreme Court of the United States rejected the appeal of comrade Debs. It must be admitted that no one expected the Supreme Court to act otherwise. The appeal was founded on the contention that the entire Espionage Act is unconstitutional, and it could not be expected that the Supreme Court would annul of the most important gag measure directed against the opponents to the war.

Immigration—Which Way?

While some congressmen want to shut the gates of this country to immigrants for fear of invasion on the part of the impoverished Europeans, thousands of workmen are seeking a way to leave the country for Europe. The offices of the Customs House are besieged by thousands of persons asking for a chance to sail. They are willing to pay \$75 for a steerage ticket. Most of them are Italians. Among them there are also Poles, Greeks, Spaniards, Roumanians and Slavs.

The prophecy of the New York Immigration Commissioner may come true, that after the war the tide of immigration will move from, and not to America.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALL OVER THE LAND

By MAX D. DANISH

Chicago Raincoatmakers

Louis Greenspun, manager of Local No. 54, writes:

"The Chicago Raincoat Makers' Union is the same beehive of activity today as it ever was. I can scarcely remember a time when the Chicago raincoat makers were resting on their laurels with arms folded. When there is little to do at home, our boys do not hesitate to go out of town to organize wherever they possibly can.

"Just recently the firm of Samuel Meyers, which was a Union shop for eighteen months here in Chicago, decided to part company with us and went to Milwaukee. The Union, quite aware of their intentions, went after them and before they succeeded in finding a snug nest for themselves in Milwaukee, made them feel that the arm of organized labor is enough to reach everywhere. Today this firm, we are informed, is seeking another "haven of refuge."

"We have plenty to do in Chicago to organize non-union shops and we are relentlessly going ahead with our work. Our conflict with the firm of Rosenwald & Well, one of the strongest Union-baiting concerns in this city, gave us the opportunity to expose them in their true colors before the public opinion of Chicago. The hearings before the Board of the War Department on the demands which we have presented to this firm gave our local a lot of prestige, and the part played by President Schlesinger at these hearings will have a lasting influence upon our trade conditions.

"There is a good deal of idleness in our industry in Chicago at present. When the making of army slickers came to an end a large number of workers remained without jobs. In order to solve this problem we endeavored to the utmost to divide the work in the shops equitably between all the workers and thus relieve the unemployment. At present there are only a few people without jobs, and we believe that very soon everyone will be employed. A very good fall season is expected, and as a number of workers who have come into our trade during the last year have returned to their former occupations, we have reasons to hope that the problem of unemployment will not be a vexing one in our organization.

"If ever the raincoat trade required assistance from the International in the form of a general organizer for this industry, the urgency of it is felt very strongly at the present time. All through the West, particularly in the states of Ohio and Wisconsin, there are large numbers of unorganized raincoat makers who work under miserable conditions. During the past year and a half thousands of additional workers have been attracted into the rubber garment industry. At present the employers, especially the trust firms, are laying plans to use this reserve army of labor as a whip against the organized men in the trade. The fact is that the Union workers are incomparably better off and earn a great deal more than the workers in the trust shops

that are located largely in the smaller towns of the Middle West. The necessity of organizing these shops as early as possible is therefore not too obvious. We here in Chicago believe and hope that the International will see the importance of this problem and will solve it in the best interests of the organized waterproof garment workers of the country."

Boston Ladies' Tailors

Brother Jacob White, Boston Joint Board manager, writes:

"We have started a campaign to organize the ladies tailors of Boston, and have encountered considerable success. We have had several well attended meetings and at each meeting large numbers of tailors signified their intention of joining the Union. Boston has had, during the past few years, two locals of ladies tailors. It is difficult to state in one breath the reason why they have failed to flourish. Organizing ladies tailors, many of whom consider themselves the artists in the needle trades, in spite of the fact that they are among the poorest paid, was never an easy enterprise even in New York. We believe, however, that the time is ripe for their organization and we intend to push the campaign as fast as possible. We have recently applied to the International for the renewal of their charter.

"At the time of the Hickson strike in New York just lately, Brother Magnavita of Local No. 80, New York, came to Boston to pay his respects to the Hickson branch in this city and without difficulty took down the entire shop; which is quite convincing proof that the ladies tailors here are learning fast, and that they are as good at organizing material as any body of men in any other industry.

"We visited the Worcester cloakmakers recently, and found things quite satisfactory among them. We succeeded in signing up new agreements with the employers, who conceded a number of improvements to the workers."

The New Agreement of the Cincinnati Cloakmakers

Brother Abraham Snyder, manager of the Cincinnati Joint Board writes us:

"Two years ago, the International, after a lapse of several years, started a campaign to organize the cloak trade in Cincinnati. After weeks of preparatory work, a general strike was called, which resulted in victory. The employers signed agreements which were considered very favorable to the workers, and recognized the Union.

"These agreements expired early this year, and we lost no time to press new demands to our firms. We demanded material increases in wages, from \$2 to \$4 to week workers and a corresponding increase to piece workers. On the whole, our demands were moderate, and we did not, at the outset, anticipate any resistance on the part of the employers. We were, therefore, quite astonished when we failed to receive the expected reply from our manufacturers after the time limit set in our letter

had expired. A special meeting of the Joint Board together with the Executive Boards of all our locals was called together to consider the emergency. The meeting was one of the most remarkable that I have ever attended in Cincinnati. Reports from all shops were rendered, and after we intelligently took stock of the situation, we knew that the employers, instead of meeting our modest terms with a conciliatory spirit, have resented our demand for an increase in wages, claiming that now that the critical conditions which faced the country are over, the workers had no right to demand a living wage. Just think of it! The Union actually insists on operators earning not less than 90 cents per hour, pressers not less than 85 cents, skirtmakers not less than 75 cents, and finishers not less than 60 cents per hour! Moreover, the Union insists that wherever prices were settled below the standard base rate, they be resettled to meet these rates!

"The situation after that meeting was quite tense. The employers ostensibly made ready for a fight. Yet every eye in the trade was directed towards the firm of Bishop, Stern & Stein, the biggest in the city, employing about 250 Union workers, as if no one wanted to take a definite step until the attitude of this firm becomes known. Meanwhile, the Joint Board adopted a resolution to the effect that unless the agreement is signed by February 15th a strike be called, and the shop committees were instructed to stop over time work in the shops and to hold the workers in readiness. This firm attitude produced the desired effect. The following day every shop in Cincinnati got in touch with the Union and agreements began to be signed up. The firm of Bishop, Stern & Stein, after two short conferences consented to all the demands of the Union. Shortly afterwards all the other shops fell in line and the tension was over.

"The Cincinnati cloakmakers are fully satisfied with this settlement. They foresaw the coming of the forty-four hour work week in the industry, and they felt that with such a display of solidarity as they have just now shown, this great reform will not be long delayed. They are doubly satisfied because we managed to come to a settlement amicably and without a fight.

"The remarkable change of working conditions in the local industry during the past two years leaves no doubt in the minds of our cloakmakers that the Union deserves all their unqualified support. The Joint Board celebrated the signing of the agreement by a concert and dance on February 28th, which drew a large crowd and was a signal success from every point of view."

Boston Waist and Dressmakers

Brother Samuel Jacobson, manager of Local No. 49, writes:

"Since the calling of the general strike in the dress and waist industry in New York, we have

been on the lookout here in Boston and vicinity for shops where work would be attempted to be made for the New York strike-bound shops. Every once in a while we would come across a suspicious place or report and would at once trace it down to the ground.

"Quite recently we were informed from New York that there is strike-work being made in Fall River by the Order Made Waist Co. of that city. The workers claimed that the garments belonged to a New York manufacturer whose shop was on strike. We made a thorough investigation and found that while the work belonged to a firm on strike in New York it was contracted for a long time before there was any outlook for a strike in the New York industry. In order to avoid a stoppage in this shop, however, the firm agreed to send back 350 dozen cut and uncut waists to New York City which we found on the premises.

"I also went to Worcester to look over the situation and see what could be done in order to renew agreements with the employers for Local No. 43, and also to investigate whether there was any strike-work being done for New York. From what I learned from the situation I advised the local organization that the time was not quite opportune for settlements, as the local shops were not very busy. I expect shortly to return to Worcester and to give whatever aid I possibly can to the local to get new agreements and better conditions for the workers."

"DADDY" ON THE PICKET LINE

This is "Daddy," the idol of our brave, spirited pickets. Never mind that his name is Henry Werner, member of Local No. 10; he is "Daddy,"—dear, good, kind Daddy, and the girls refuse to know him by any other



appellation, and he, himself, answers to this name most cheerfully.

We confess to our inability to convey to the readers of the "Justice" the spirit of admiration and love the pickets have for this lovable man and staunch defender of our just cause.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

Our rich ladies, who have been in the habit of buying the most expensive waists on the market, are gradually beginning to realize that waists, as a rule, do not drop from the sky to the storekeeper ready made; that, strange as it may sound, waists must be made by human hands. They made the astounding discovery that in order that they may doll up in pretty waists and show them off to their envious friends, and hide the cruel pranks that capricious Nature played with their forms, many young, tender, blossoming girls must stay in the factories day in, day out, ply their needles and exhibit, in addition to the vast amount of patience, a great deal of taste and talent.

Our rich ladies are angry. And they are quite right. They want the very best in waists. Prices are no consideration. But the cruel storekeeper shrugs his shoulders. "What can you do? You'll have to put up with what you can get."

"What, a strike?" My, but that is a shame. They have no business to strike! Poor, innocent ladies. They think that to make waists is just as much of a pleasure as to wear them, and they cannot understand why the girls should be so silly as to refuse making waists. They take it as a personal insult, for they are told that the manufacturers are only too willing to accommodate them, and spend heaps of money on police, gangsters and all sorts of thugs just so the ladies can get waists to suit them. But all this is of no avail. The thugs can't accept money for their "services," the police may succeed in furnishing "protection," but they cannot make waists, the nice, pretty waists the ladies love so much. And all on account of those silly girl-strikers who took it into their hands to stay out of the shops and go idle, and live on dry crust rather than stay in the shops and make artistic, fashionable waists.

And the remarkable thing about it is that our strikers are not in the least disconcerted by the indignation on the part of the rich ladies. On the contrary, they are glad of it, and in a measure, it compensates them for all the hardships they have to suffer on the picket line. Not because of the feeling of malice and vengeance against the rich ladies. Oh no, they have no quarrel with them but with the bosses. And the despair of the rich ladies who like to dress well re-echoes the despair of the bosses. This is clear to the striking girls. They realize full well that if the ladies must leave the stores without getting anything like a decent waist it

shows plainly that the manufacturers cannot supply those waists to the storekeepers; it shows that the industry is totally paralyzed, in spite of all the desperate efforts the bosses are making to keep it going. And they become inspired anew with the wonderful power of solidarity and determination.

It is true, the complete victory has not yet been won. But we do not for a moment doubt that it will be won. It is unavoidable. What we have accomplished so far is in itself a great victory. What has become of the determination of the bosses to deal the union its death blow? A fizzle. The union is now, even before the final victory has been won, a hundred per cent stronger than it was before the strike began, and the Bosses Association is now in a sorry, mutilated condition, and it is really a question of days when the entire Association will come down with a crash and the bosses will once again come crawling on their knees and do penance and beg for a chance to continue to stay in the Ladies' Waist business.

This result, which is sure to come, exceeds the brightest hopes of the strikers. They naturally were confident of winning their battle, but it was not within their hopes to break the Bosses' Association. We will permit ourselves to say that they did not intend to break it. The union workers never feared the Association to the extent of planning for its destruction. They thought that after they will have gone out on strike the Association will realize its costly error and will say to its advisers and ring-leaders: "Stop hantboozing us. We are in the waist business. We can gain nothing by the strike and we will give it up as a foolish and ruinous caprice."

This is what the strikers thought the bosses would do, and it stood to reason, for who could have expected that the bosses would take leave of their senses and work ardently for their own destruction?

It was common sense to expect that the Bosses Association, realizing that the entire waist industry has been disorganized by the strike and that the smaller manufacturers who competed with them through lower wages and longer hours have been dealt a knock-out blow by the strike, would be only too glad of the boost the strike gave them indirectly and would lose no time in conceding the demands of the workers.

This was the common sense of it. It occurred to nobody that the bosses would suddenly become possessed of a mania for suicide and insist on keeping up the hopeless, ruinous struggle.

But the unexpected did hap-

pen. The manufacturers, driven by a blind and brutal passion, lost all sense of their own interests, and—we must give the devil his due—the Association deserves the credit for its own inevitable downfall.

The strikers do not claim the credit, for the union, in truth, did not intend to bring this about. The existence of the Bosses' Association was not in the way of the union's growth and activities. The union is innocent of the destruction of the Association. But if the latter insists on its own destruction, the union will not mourn it.

A Little Self-Criticism

The other day B. Schlesinger received a letter from Mayor Hylan which the latter received from a union member. In the letter a grave charge is made against the union. The writer complains that in addition to an assessment the union asked him, pay for Chicago and another assessment for Cleveland, he is forced to pay 10 per cent of his wages for the strikers, so that his raise in wages is reduced to nothing.

We trust that our president, B. Schlesinger, will, if he finds it necessary and worth while in the present moment of intense struggle, have no difficulty in proving that the letter has not been written by a union man, but is another stupid stunt on the part of the bosses, to discredit the union in the eyes of the mayor as a band of robbers, who do nothing but extort the hard-earned dollars from the poor workers under all sorts of excuses.

The surprising thing is how the mayor himself did not realize that the whole thing was a trick of the bosses. The letter has all the earmarks of a piece of slander written by an employer, who forgot to hide his tracks. The first few lines are written in bad English, but as he went on, the slandered obviously forgot that he was impersonating an unlettered man, and began writing a pretty good "lawyer-like" English. But this is not what we are concerned with. We mention this letter because the action on the part of some of our workers who are now at work under union conditions makes it not impossible that this letter of a callous boss in a measure expresses the feelings of some workers. And it is this that we regret.

We hear that in some of the settled shops it is not an easy task to get some of the workers (the ten per cent of their wages as a contribution to the strike fund—something that would be difficult to believe, if it did not come from reliable sources). This is really astounding. The men and women who are on strike are on the firing line not for themselves alone, but also for those who are back in their shops working under the new conditions; for should they lose their fight it will be lost also for those who have gained the 44 hour week and a considerable advance of wages. How is it, then, the intelligent workers, who boast of being progressive, consider it a burden to contribute ten per cent of their earnings so that the strike may go on with unabated vigor?

We ask these workers, small as their number may be: "don't you realize that with your petty selfishness you may harm yourselves in the long run? Is it not clear to you that you must be

interested in the struggle just as much as those still out in the field? That you will retain and enjoy the new conditions you have gained only when the same conditions will be gained by all?"

We will not appeal to these workers in the name of fairness and solidarity, that as union men and women it is their plain duty to aid with all their might their brothers and sisters still on strike. Nor do we want to remind them of the fact that when they returned to their shops they did not in so much as a word object to the decision of the union that they are to contribute ten per cent of their wages, the very ten per cent that were won for them. No, it is useless to appeal to such workers in the name of fairness and justice. We appeal to them in the name of their own interests. We want them to realize that if the strike of the ladies' waist makers should be abandoned because of lack of funds, because the strikers will be unable to go on with the struggle, for sheer lack of bread, they, too, will lose all their gains.

This is what we should like to impress upon those laggards, who are slow to contribute the ten per cent of their wages that have been won for them; who are reluctant in aiding their brothers and sisters to gain the victory which will be a common victory. By thus appealing to them in the name of their own interests we may make them realize the disgraceful aspect of their attitude, their total lack of solidarity and gratitude to those who fought their battle and won their victory.

We want to remind them that, but for mere chance—they might have been among those still out of the shops. How would they now feel about the unwillingness on the part of their brothers and sisters to aid them in the common cause?

Fortunately such ungrateful, unreasoning workers are, of course, a small minority of those who are back at work. The majority of them do their duty and more than their duty. But it is vexing that the International should include even a few members who fail to realize both their duty as union men, and women and their interests as workers.

We hope that the above will be sufficient for all the 20,000 waist makers back at work to fall in line and prove that they are one hundred per cent union men and women.

DESERVED HONOR TO A SINGER OF THE PEOPLE

Our Yiddish-speaking members and indeed, all the Jewish working people of New York celebrated last night the twenty-fifth anniversary of the literary activities of Abraham Lessin, the eminent Yiddish poet.

Mr. Lessin more than deserves the honors accorded him by his many friends and admirers in and out of the labor movement.

We take this belated opportunity to join in the expression of best wishes to the poet to whom the cause of the poor and oppressed has been a source of inspiration for a quarter of a century.

IMPRESSIONS OF WOMAN'S FREEDOM CONGRESS

By JULIET STUART POYNTE

The first congress of the Woman's International League which was held last Saturday gave great promise for the future of the American woman movement. The new organization has risen like the phoenix from its own ashes. It was formerly the Woman's Peace Party before the war made peace on earth and good will to men an improper subject for discussion. At a time when all intelligent forces in this country were bending their energies toward an avoidance of entanglement in the European conflict, the Woman's Peace Party stood forth an ardent champion of the war against war from the standpoint of woman. The Woman's International League is preparing not only to continue the work of its illustrious predecessor, but to strengthen and extend it. Through this league the voices of women of all classes will be heard for the abolition of war and its economic roots, and for the building of a new social order in which woman will be freed from the shackles that have prevented her from rising to her true human stature and lifting with herself the children of men. The war has opened a new world to awakened womanhood, and women are preparing to enter into their heritage.

The Congress was designed to bring together all sorts and conditions of women for the planning of this new role in all its aspects. The problems of middle class feminism were well to the fore, and the audience at the various sessions numbering from 200 to 500 were composed entirely of middle class women. The name itself of the Freedom Congress smacked a bit perhaps of the older-fashioned idea of breaking down barriers rather than the newer one of building afresh. But the spirit and matter of the discussions was forward-looking and positive: economic independence with all that that implies for the middle class woman, for the working woman economic emancipation and protection through all and above all the freeing of the woman spirit for the betterment of a much-troubled world.

Education and Industry

These two important subjects were taken up in the morning session. The difficulties and opportunities of women in the various professions were recounted by women who had encountered them. The teacher, the doctor, lawyer, farmer, actress and journalist in turn pointed out the position of women in their respective fields, while others dwelt on the subject of modern education for girls and the degree to which it prepared women for the problems of life. The educational system of today was the object of energetic attacks which elicited heartfelt applause from the audience. Henrietta Rodman, the militant defender of the teacher's rights and women's rights, spoke with despair of the deadening effect of the modern school system on children and teachers alike, and ascribed the highly neurotic condition of teachers to the suppression of freedom in the schools, and the lack of opportunity for the exercise of the

constructive and creative instinct. Her conclusion was corroborated by Agnes De Lime, recently secretary of the Public Education Association, who complained of the bureaucratic spirit in the school system and the lack of vision and open-mindedness among educational administrators. Dr. Frances Shostak pointed out the great opportunity which the medical profession offered to women to make themselves, as it were, mothers of the community. In the field of dietetics, maternity, and child care, woman would find a field in which to express her special gifts of insight and sympathy. Agriculture was recommended as a wholesome and attractive occupation for women by a representative of the Women's Land Army who announced that this organization was about to be reorganized on a permanent peace basis, and was preparing to promote the occupation of women as farm workers. She spoke with passionate enthusiasm of the possibility of dovetailing farm work in the summer with seasonal trades such as garment making to the great advantage of the health of the workers. Elinor Byrns recently Socialist candidate for Congress, who spoke for the legal profession, made a stirring plea for women to break away from the traditions established by men in the professions, and to prepare for the development of a new type of woman lawyer with a vision of a new social system. The paths marked out by men she believed were too often merely a contribution to the world of capitalism. Equality in competition with men should not be the standard of success at which women should aim, but rather service to a new social ideal.

Women in Industry

This, the most important subject of the entire convention occupied the latter half of the morning session, but due to the absence of several speakers did not receive the full discussion which it deserved, especially in view of the fact that the audience was not familiar with these problems. The need for the organization of working women was emphasized by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn who drew a vivid picture of industrial conditions today. She pointed out how the working woman had suffered not only from her own weakness but from the discrimination and prejudice on the part of her brother man. She emphasized how important for the success of strikes was the loyalty of the women relatives in the home. Organize! Organize! Organize! was her plea. The present writer pointed out how backward was the movement for the organization of working women in this country, where too little progress had been made, outside of the garment trades, and called for intelligent and aggressive action in the organization of working women to meet the difficult economic conditions of today.

The discussions of the morning session concluded with a talk on the problem of the colored women by Mrs. Minnie Brown. Her demand for justice and decent treatment of the Negro woman was spirited enough but hardly seemed animated by a realization of the great economic and industrial issues involved. It reduced itself to a protest against racial discrimination toward "refined and educated colored women."

The Family

The ancient and honorable institution of the family was pretty well disrupted by the end of the afternoon session which was devoted to the various aspects of this question. The pillars of the bourgeois family system were tottering visibly. A large and interested audience listened to a number of five-minute speeches, the subjects of which ranged from Birth Control to the Cooperative Movement. The economic and social aspects of the family system were examined as they affect the freedom and happiness of women. The speakers were for the most part of the younger generation of feminists who have been clamoring for the emancipation of women not through suffrage alone but in a radical rearrangement of the social system and of family life. An amusing incident illustrates the spirit of the meeting. At the conclusion of an animated plea from Fola La Follette, the daughter of Senator La Follette and the wife of George Middleton, playwright, for the right of married women to retain their own names, one well-known Socialist woman was visibly agitated and exclaimed: "But that threatens the institution of the family!" "What of it?" responded a nearby feminist. "But the family is the basis of the social system!" exclaimed the socialist, who had evidently never read August Bebel's attack on the bourgeois family system in his "Woman: Past, Present, and Future."

The importance of the economic independence of married women was emphasized by Margaret Lane, business manager of the Liberator. Women should earn their own livings as wives and mothers and not have to depend economically and therefore spiritually on their husbands. Children should be taken care of by women who understand the business of motherhood better than most mothers was the opinion of Margaret Naumburg, who practices what she preaches by running a Montessori school of her own for children from the age of two to ten. Voluntary motherhood through birth control was advocated by Mary Ware Dennett. Independent citizenship for married women was demanded by Signe Toksvig of the New Republic.

Of most interest from the standpoint of working women was the discussion of the cooperative movement by Agnes D. Warbase, educational director of the Cooperative League, who pointed out how greatly cooperation would simplify the work of housekeeping and reduce the cost of living for the family, while Ines Weed told of the great value of the cooperative stores in the Seattle strike, and of the tremendous strides which the cooperative movement has taken in recent years in this country.

The subject of illegitimate motherhood which has assumed a great importance through war was discussed by Katherine Anthony, who attacked the reactionary laws of the United States against the illegitimate child and demanded a

system of maternity insurance for mothers of the working class which would place the United States on a level with other civilized countries in this respect. Marjorie Collison of Australia spoke of the achievements of woman suffrage in Australia as "not so bad," mentioning the legislation there for maternity insurance, and the movement among Australian women at the present time to prevent the return from the army of men, the large number of afflicted with venereal disease, a subject on which the press had preserved a conspiracy of silence, she said. Louise Bryant and Mrs. Tobenson told of the interest in legislation for women and children under the Soviets in Russia, and mentioned the newspaper account of nationalization of women and other absurdities.

The Congress was concluded by a dinner at which phases of the woman movement were discussed:

"Women and International Government," by Marjorie Allison; "Women and Civil Liberty," by Caroline B. Lowe; "Women and Political Action," by Doris Stevens; "Women and Direct Action," by Crystal Eastman, and "Women Under the Soviets," by Bessie Beatty.

The business session of the Women's International League which met on Sunday elected officers for the coming year, and passed resolutions supporting an international organization of peoples on a democratic basis, the political and industrial organization of working women, the federal suffrage amendment, abolition of all restrictions on independent citizenship, for women, the abolition of the Espionage Act, and amnesty for political prisoners.

The spirit of the first Woman's Freedom Congress was more important than its transactions. Policies will undoubtedly be worked out with care later. The matter of great promise was the militant enthusiasm which pervaded the whole proceedings. Events of recent years seem to have awakened women as never before to the necessity of concerted action to save the world. A determination to win freedom for themselves and to use their power to regenerate life animated all the women present. The absence of working women from the sessions and the limited attention given to industrial problems was the conspicuous defect of the congress. The labor movement is not yet the question of immediate and practical importance to all women that it should be, and it is to be hoped that the Women's International League in the work of organization now to be undertaken will remedy this weakness, and will rally to the support of its program the great forces of the working women who would give the reality and power to discussions of social problems which otherwise threaten at times to become academic.

SIX OF ONE AND HALF A DOZEN OF THE OTHER

Before federalization telephone and telegraph employees had the privilege of coming hat in hand to Mr. Newcomb Carlton. Today the situation is unchanged, except that they may come hat in hand to Mr. Burleson.—Commercial Telegraphers' Journal.

OUR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

By S. LIBERTY.

It will surely please our members to learn that a new feature long promised, has now been introduced and has already proved a success. The Moving Picture is now a fact for our organization. We have started it in the Bronx Unity Center, Public School 54, Intervale Avenue and Freeman Street, and so far we have given two shows. Pictures will be shown every Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Movies will not be the only feature on the program. A good lecture and a musical program and sometimes a dance will add to the interest and entertainment of the afternoon. Next Saturday we will have a very interesting film and all members and their friends are urged to come. Admission is free. A special room for children has been equipped and is in charge of a competent person. If you must come with your children, they will be well taken care of. But, kindly do not bring children under five.

The swimming classes which we have announced recently will soon be a fact. Please register at once for these classes because we have room only for a limited number of people.

Dr. Goldenweiser's course on Modern Social Problems starts Friday, March 21st, in Room 635, Washington Irving High School, and members of the International wishing to attend are requested to register now.

Friday evening, March 14, we will have a very interesting evening in the auditorium of the Washington Irving High School. There will be motion pictures, a concert, and a lecture by Dr. J. B. Andrews on Social Insurance. Members of the International may bring their friends. We have plenty of seats.

Special attention is called to the Public Speaking Class for our members conducted by Gustave F. Schulz, of the City College of New York, every Sunday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Room 119, Washington Irving High School. There our members may learn how to debate, how to address their own meetings intelligently. Remember that these classes which are perhaps the best Public Speaking Classes in the city are entirely free of charge to our members. On the same afternoon we also have the class in Advanced English, Correct Pronunciation and removal of Foreign Accent.

Our work as previously announced is continuing regularly in each of the Unity Centers, as well as at the W. L. H. S. Dr. Everett Dean Martin, on Evolution and the Labor Movement, every Monday evening, and Dr. Henry Newmann, on Social Interpretation of Literature, every Thursday evening. Here we may mention, Dr. Wm. Durant's lecture course on Sociology and Civilization every Friday in Bronx Unity Center and Dr. Olin's lectures which have been resumed in Public School 40, every Friday.

Local 10 has elected a special educational committee and very soon some remarkable programs will be worked out. Local 9 has asked us to arrange five lectures

for all its branches to begin March 22nd. This makes ten locals getting the Extension Service. We will soon have them all. We are only too glad to hear from them and do the best we can for them. Another new feature has been started as an experiment and seems to bring good results. We have started visits to the museums, the first of which took place last Saturday with Mr. Saxon, our East Side Unity Center Director, leading. More than 60 members

NOW WE KNOW WHAT IT IS

By Alfred La Porta

Before Mr. Gompers sailed for France to attend the Peace Conference, he addressed a message to American Labor urging them to refrain from any manifestations that might further the cause of Bolshevism in this country.

Later Mr. Marrison, the secretary of the A. F. of L. sent a warning to all affiliated organizations against the "Red Peril" mentioning also Bolshevism as the menace to the standards of living of the American workingman.

Of course we all were scared to death. We pictured in our imagination all the horrors of Dante's Inferno, and we were terrified the more since we had but a vague notion of that monster, Bolshevism.

And because of our ignorance as to Bolshevism, we were unable to prepare to meet the possible onrush of this unknown, formidable foe. We were all anxious to be enlightened on the nature of this evil that threatened us.

Now, at last, this enlightenment has come. We know what menaces us, and we may get ready for the defence. For the light shed upon this dreadful Bolshevism, we are indebted to Mr. Gordon, the brilliant lawyer of the Dress Manufacturers' Association.

In a statement made public in some of the New York dailies, Mr. Gordon informs us that the striking Dress and Waist Makers who demand higher wages to meet the present cost of living, and shorter hours to give rest to body and recreation to the mind, are acting under the influence of Bolshevist doctrines with the intent of infecting the minds of American workers with the poison of revolution.

The definition is clear: A Bolshevist is one who demands adequate compensation for his labor.

We hate to offend Mr. Gordon, but we feel compelled to say that he and those like him are all but ignorant in calling us Bolshevist for no other reason than our demanding better wages and shorter hours.

The name Bolsheviki was imported from Russia only recently. But our demands for better wages and shorter hours are of much longer standing—we have been making them for the last 15 years and not in vain.

According to Mr. Gordon our 16-year-old girl strikers are Bolsheviki. Well, if this is not stupid of him, it is worse.

same. After a trip through the museum halls with a special lecturer they remained for the regular Saturday evening concert. The next visit will take place this Saturday. Other Centers should follow the example. It is surely worth while. We will help them arrange these visits, Museums of Art, of Natural History, Public Institutions, etc. as on our list.

It might be well for our strike committees of all locals to know that we have the machinery to arrange educational features at the strike meetings and that all they need do is apply to us.

Suggestions and inquiries of the part of our members are invited.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE SPEAKING

By Fannia H. Cohn

Shop chairmen frequently complain of the troubles they have in persuading their shop-mates to pay their dues promptly, to attend meetings and take a more active interest in the affairs of the Union. They "talk their lungs out"—and all in vain.

Others, again, find very little difficulty in attaining the very same ends. The theory is that the latter have "a better class of people to deal with."

Many of our active members and even business agents complain of their failure to convert the workers to their views. The fault, however, is very often with our members and business agents, rather than with the rank and file. While it may be true that the shop chairman tries his level best to make his shop-mates do their duty as members of a labor union, and while it may also be true that he is "talking his lungs out," and all without results, in many instances the shop chairman does not know how to impress and convince his mates.

We all know the importance of the first impression—frequently it means the success or failure of our efforts. And what counts in the first impression is not only what we say but also, and chiefly how we say it.

To promote intelligent and effective speaking the Educational Committee of our International decided to organize a class in public speaking for our active members. Such a class was organized last year and proved a great success. The same course is continued this season. Those our members are instructed in effective speaking and also in the use of correct English. The members of the public speaking class meet every Sunday afternoon to discuss labor questions, organization matters and also topics of general interest.

We have been fortunate in securing an instructor of this class, Mr. G. S. Shultz, of the faculty of the College of the City of New York, who, through his devotion to and interest in this class has contributed much to its success.

We urge those of our members who appreciate the value of effective speaking, and who wish to speak a better English to join a class in Public Speaking. Classes meet in Washington Irving High School, every Sunday afternoon, from 3 to 6 o'clock.

EMBROIDERY WORKERS' UNION LOCAL 6

The Embroidery Workers' Union, Local 6 has been in existence in New York since 1915. We really do not know why it has been given so little publicity in our press. The Local is well organized and has established one-hundred-per-cent union conditions in the embroidery shops of New York. Brother Wise, the Manager of the Local, is, we admit, quite right in complaining that the union has not been given the prominence and attention it deserves, and on our part we will make amends for it in the future.

In 1916 the Embroidery Workers' Union, Local 6 conducted and won a strike. The embroidery shops, most of them in the Bronx, were fully unionized. The collective agreement that the union had concluded with the employers of the trade expired last February. No new agreement has yet been signed. There is no Bosses' Association in the trade union movement. We tried to come to an understanding with a certain group of manufacturers, but nothing came of it. The demands of the workers have been denied, and preparations are being made for a general strike. In fact, the preparations are practically completed, and the calling of the strike is only a matter of days.

About 1,200 workers, mostly women, are employed in the embroidery trade in New York, and all of them are members of the union in good standing.

The demands of the union affect all phases of the trade. They want the system of piece work entirely abolished and week work introduced throughout the trade. They demand a 48 hour week instead of 51½, as until now. It goes without saying that they demand higher wages to meet the cost of living.

This refers not only to the shops in New York; there are many embroidery shops in New Jersey, especially in Hudson County, and these really constitute the center of gravity of the union.

New Jersey once had its own local of embroidery workers. In 1916 the general strike extended also to New Jersey, but there it was, unfortunately, lost, and the local went out of existence.

Some time ago our International turned its attention to the New Jersey embroidery unions, and brother M. Wise, the Manager of Local 6, with the aid of the International and the Central Federation of Labor of New Jersey, started a lively campaign to organize the embroidery shops of the state under the jurisdiction of Local 6. Mass meetings were held, and many embroiderers joined Local 6 of New York. This work of organization and unionization is still on.

When the general strike will be called in New York it will also apply to New Jersey. The embroiderers of both states will fight side by side.

The "war department" of the International has already perfected the plans for the impending conflict. The strike will begin soon, unless, of course, the bosses realize the futility of opposing the union in its just demands. In the next few days the thing will come to a head.

ACTIVITIES OF CUTTERS' UNION

By SAM B. SHENKER

The Dress and Waist Cutters held their regular monthly meeting last Monday at which, aside from the action taken on the routine business, Manager Israel Lewin reported on the outlook of the strike. He said that even from a conservative point of view the strike situation could not be better.

It was also pointed out that the treasury of the union is well able to care for those still out on strike. The men who were working or returning to work were urged to help the men still out to picket their shops, since the majority of the men are back at work.

Miscellaneous Meeting

The Miscellaneous Branch, which controls the wrapper and kimono, children's dress and underwear cutting trades, will hold their regular meeting this Monday. Members of this Branch are urged to attend, since the entire industry is being at the present time reorganized and the Manager will make a report on the conditions gained in the three trades.

According to all indications the big fight that was expected in the underwear trade, is proving to be an unfounded fear. The strike in this industry is well in hand and many settlements have been made.

Victory Ball Huge Success

The Tenth Annual Ball, which was held last Saturday night, March 8th, surpassed all expectations. While the arrangements committee expected the ball to be well attended and while it looked to a large profit, the affair surpassed the hopes even of the most optimistic.

However, in view of the strides which the union is making in the matter of improving the conditions of its members, and considering the many gains, one need hardly wonder at the outcome of the affair. It was, from all angles, a real "Victory Ball." The beautiful large hall of Palm Garden was splendidly decorated and crowded to capacity. The band did not play "Home Sweet Home" until the wee hours in the morn. In fact the milkman was some two hours ahead of the big crowd.

Despite the fact that there is a strike on at the present time, the Executive Board will lay aside the proceeds of the Ball for its regular relief fund. That is, this money will be used to relieve the suffering of these members who should happen to be in dire need in peacetime. And the Board has on quite a number of occasions, helped members in need even when there was no strike—despite the "large" earnings of the cutters, of which the employers so often boast.

A CORRECTION

In the last week's issue of this paper a report appeared relating to the assessments levied by the union, there it was stated in an article that cloak cutters who were employed past of February would have to pay the \$12 assessment levied at the recent special meeting, and those who worked the entire month would have to pay the \$5 Joint Board

tax, which takes in the \$1.50 international tax. This is obviously incorrect.

What was intended was this: That the cloak, suit, skirt, reofer and raincoat cutters, who worked the whole of February, should have to pay \$3 per week for the four weeks, or a total of \$12. These men, in the trades mentioned, who did not work at all during February, will have to pay the \$5 assessment, which includes the tax of the general office. Special cases, such as where a cutter worked one or two weeks during the last month, will be handled by the Secretary to the Executive Board, who has received the necessary instruction from the Board.

Dress and Waist cutters, it will be borne in mind, will continue paying \$3 per week for the duration of the strike, since this is their fight. This also applies to cloak cutters who work on dresses or dress cutters who work on cloaks.

GROWTH OF FORGANIZED LABOR

The continued growth of organized labor in the face of the most bitter opposition proves that it is economically sound. This point should be appreciated by the most prejudiced investigator of labor. But the employer who has never had dealings with trades unions, whose associations have been such that it would be impossible for him to hold other than biased opinions regarding these institutions, will claim that organized labor, if he should enter into contractual relations with it, would insist upon running his business and dictating what he should or should not do, in addition advancing all the stock arguments against collective bargaining.

The principles and policies of organized labor may be condensed and explained in the one word "co-operation." Co-operation cannot be forced—it must be given voluntarily and is the out come of mutual confidence and respect. Where the relation between employer and employee where the future of the worker may be said to lie in the hands of the master, there will be friction, distrust and—the important thing with the manufacturer—reduced production.

Where organized labor is employed, where conditions and wages are satisfactory, where the workingman knows he cannot be discharged unless the cause for such dismissal is furnished by himself, he then comes to look upon the factory, shop or store in which he is employed from the same angle as does the owner or manager, evincing the same lively interest in its success as does the latter. The result is that the worker concentrates but there is a decided improvement in the quality of the output.

The above is only one of a thousand advantages that accrue to the manufacturer through the employment of organized labor under proper conditions, and gives an idea as to the reason for the continued growth and expansion of the trades union movement.—Labor Review.

AMONG THE LADIES' TAILORS AND WORKERS

By Harry Hilfman, Secretary, Local 80

It is a long time since our members had a prosperous season on like the present one.

The season prior to this, we expected a big rush, but it turned out quite differently. This time there is plenty of work. Tailors are not to be gotten. Many firms, even unorganized, call upon our office to furnish them help.

Our members know how to make use of this rush, and a movement has begun for higher wages.

The movement started by the workers of the smaller firms and was soon joined by those of the larger firms.

It is a known fact that the demand of higher wages is a result of the high and rising cost of living. Rent, food and other vital necessities keep mounting. The Union has succeeded in procuring raises for the workers of from 2 to 3 dollars per week in a number of shops.

Members of Locals 1, 3, 9, 11, 23, 25 and 48 who work in our shops also benefited by the raise of wages. The rush in the trade is also reflected in the office, which is busy with shop meetings, conferences and with collecting dues and assessments.

The Union also started a campaign of organization among unorganized tailors, so that by next season all the workers of our trade belong to the Union. If you know of an unorganized shop or store speak to the workers, show them the advantages of belonging to the Union, and tell them that when they join the Union we will start negotiations with their employers and get Union conditions for them.

JERSEY TROLLEYS AT A STANDSTILL

At four o'clock Wednesday morning, all the conductors and motormen of the trolley lines in Northern New Jersey promptly quit work in response to a strike order of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America.

The strike affects 12 counties, and the trolley traffic there is at a complete standstill.

There are twenty-six sections in the demands presented by the men to the company. They include recognition of the union, a system of arbitration of disputes, no discrimination against the union or its members; the men to agree not to discriminate against employees who refuse to join the union; provisions for discipline of workers breaking rules; a day's work for all conductors and motormen to be nine hours consecutively, with pay as at present for ten hours; all runs to be straight runs; runs of six hours and less than eight hours to pay nine hours' pay; runs of eight hours and less than nine hours to pay ten hours' pay; all work in excess of scheduled runs to be considered overtime and to pay time and a half; the company to pay all extra men who answer the roll call at the rate of \$20 per week, \$5 more than the men are getting now; men on snow sweepers, sand, cars, and special work to be paid time and a half.

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March 23—"Intellectual Terrorism in the Schools," Addressed by Prof. Duggan, Miss Lenora O'Reilly and Dr. Linville.

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"Civilization in America"

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TO ALL LOCALS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE
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Greetings :

The New York Call is the only English daily paper which has fought loyally the battles of our workers and has made our cause and aspirations its own. It has always rendered valuable service to us in the hour of need and we must do our utmost to protect it from all possible harm and to insure its future existence.

We are informed that its existence depends upon the good will of a private printer; that it could be made self-supporting, that it could treble its usefulness and become a great organ and mouthpiece of labor, if it obtains its own press and printing plant and is made independent.

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Individually and as an organization it is our duty to come to the assistance of the Call. It is our duty to buy bonds, and we plead with you not to fail to respond to this call.

Remember, the press is the greatest weapon in the hands of the enemies of the workers. It is also our greatest weapon. Let us strengthen it by all means at our command.

Fraternally yours,

AB. BAROFF,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

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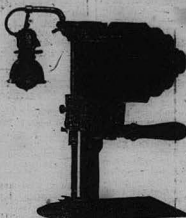
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