



JUSTICE



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. I

New York, N. Y., Saturday, May 31, 1919.

Price 2 cents.

Victory! Victory! Victory!

The settlement committee did some very hard work at the conferences with the manufacturers, but it had little difficulty with the General Strike Committee and the entire body of the strikers. All provisions of the agreement have been adopted enthusiastically and unanimously. The principal features of the agreement are: the introduction of week work throughout the industry; a work week to consist of 44 hours; a minimum wage for all workers employed in the cloak industry. In the case of cloak operators and refcers the minimum wage is to be one dollar per hour, or 44 hours per week. The wages of workers of other crafts in the industry are to be proportionally increased. Practically every worker will get a weekly increase in wages amounting to 4 dollars. Overtime work is to be paid on the basis of time and a half. The agreements that some workers had with their employers by which overtime work was to be paid double the normal, are to be considered as still valid.

Each and every cloak shop must be a Union shop and only union workers may be employed there. The rules and regulations covering the work and conduct of the workers of the individual shops must be drawn up jointly by the employer and representatives of the Union.

Association manufacturers must register with the Union all the contractors and sub-contractors doing work for them and and guarantee the same union conditions in the subsidiary as in the principal shops. Moreover, the Association Manufacturers guarantee the wages of the workers employed by their contractors. Every case of discharge, for whatever reason, must be settled within 48 hours after the time of discharge. If the manufacturer refuses to abide by the decision his shop is to be declared on strike. In case of a shortage of help and upon the failure of the union to furnish it the manufacturers may, with the approval of the Union, hire apprentices and helpers.

No cloak manufacturer may employ fewer than 14 "machines". No manufacturer may do work for a firm against which the Union declared a strike. All cloak workers are entitled to six and a half legal holidays with full pay. If a legal holiday falls on Saturday the workers who celebrate Saturday at the Sabbath day are to get Sunday off with full pay.

During the dull season, if there is not sufficient work for all, the work is to be divided equally among all workers as far as such division is practicable.

The agreement between the committee and representatives of the Manufacturers' Association has been enthusiastically and unanimously ratified by the General Strike Committee and later by the entire membership.

There is not a point in the agreement but spells victory. The workers have won all along the line. They won their demand of week work which is the greatest gain, which is the revolution the Cloakmaker has been hoping for these many years and which at last is a fact. A minimum scale of wages has been won for all workers and it is much higher than their average earnings in the past. And it must be emphasized here that the minimum wage is really a minimum, for many workers have already signed agreements with manufacturers by which they will get \$60, \$70 and even \$80 a week. Following is the minimum scale for the various workers in the cloak industry:

CLOAKS, SUITS, REEFERS AND DRESSES.

Operators, \$44; Cutters, \$39; Top-pressers, \$36.50; Bottom-pressers, \$32; Piece-tailors, \$38; Finishers, \$35.50; Finishers' helpers, \$28; Sample makers, \$32; Examiners, Pinners and Markers, \$32; Bushlers, \$22.

SKIRTS

Operators, \$42; Cutters, \$34; Top Pressers, \$32.50; Basters, \$22; Drapers, \$24; Finishers \$18; Button hole makers, \$1.10 per 100 button holes, the employer to furnish machine, silk and finishing.

The agreement provides for a Board of Sanitary Control and for various improvements in the shops.

Then comes the great victory—the 44 hour week with only 10 1/4 hours overtime in the heat of the season. This means the complete emancipation of the Cloak Maker from the inhuman slavery during the busy season.

Many more demands have been gained, chief among them is the fact that from now on every employer must reckon with the Union and admit a considerable control of his business in so far as it affects the workers. Thus the manufacturers must register their contractors and be answerable for them to the Union in every respect.

Equal distribution of work during the dull season is another of the important gains.

When the Cloak Makers will have given some thought to their present victory they will agree that it eclipses all their former struggles and victories, great and impressive as they may have been.

With all our heart we congratulate the Conference Committee which so wisely and devotedly achievement has made history for steered the strike to victory. Their the Cloak Makers' Union and for organized labor as a whole.

The following persons were on the Conference Committee:

B. Schlesinger, chairman; Morris Siegmans, vice chairman; Max Finkelstein, secretary; I. Feinberg and P. Cutler of Local 1, D. Rubin, local 3; H. Brodsky, local 11; J. Heller, local 17; Harry Wandor, local 23; J. Breslau, local 35; Salvatore Ninfo, local 48; M. Hishman, local 64.

Our congratulations to the General Strike Committee which so ably and tactfully conducted the strike.

Our congratulations to the Joint Board to which we owe the splendid work preparatory to the strike and which deserves the credit for the smoothness and clock-work precision of the strike machinery.

Our congratulations to all the committees that aided in achieving this great revolution.

And last but not least we extend our congratulations to the 50,000 cloakmakers whose calmness coupled with firmness and determination so vastly impressed friends and enemies alike.

Many strikes are recorded in the history of our labor movement, and in these records the strikes of honor and distinction; but the present strike is the crowning achievement of the American labor movement and the culminating point of the glorious history of the Cloakmakers' Union.

We think we hear the cloakmakers calling to their fellow workers of all trades and crafts:

"The secret of our great struggle and greater victory lies in our unity; in our realization of our power, its extent and also its present limits. Every move of ours was calculated in advance. Our epoch-making strike lasted only two weeks because it had consumed many months of tireless preparations.

"Go ye, fellow workers, and do likewise. Strengthen your ranks, ascertain your goals, immediate and ultimate; never lose sight of the living, palpitating realities for the sake of a remote and distant dream. Do this and you will be victorious even as we are.

"We know that we have not yet fought the final battle. Our pact is to last only three years, and there still remain many things to fight for. We have not yet achieved the end of our march. There are still many miles to cover. But for the present, we are happy in the realization that a great portion of the road now lies behind us and that we are nearer than ever before to our final goal—the total abolition of the wage system.

THE WEEK

By S. YANOFSKY

THE ESPIONAGE ACT AND STRIKE

The Weekly News Letter of the American Federation of Labor reports a remarkable case where the Espionage Act was applied against a striker.

A negro, named Denis, a foreman of a section of railway workers, said to his colleagues that it would not be a bad idea to strike for higher wages. The railroad where he and his gang worked was used to carry troops, and he was indicted for the violation of the Espionage Act, because he hindered the government in its war activities. The negro, of course, was quite innocent of the charge. All he wanted was to get a few cents more for his work. But the judge did not see it in this light and the negro was sentenced under the Espionage Act.

THE STRIKE IN WINNIPEG NOT SETTLED YET

Many attempts on the part of the government both of the city and state to settle the strike of Winnipeg, has so far ended in a fiasco, and the strike is still on. The employers insist that the workers renounce the principle of the sympathy strike. Only then will they discuss with the workers the principle of collective bargaining and the recognition of the Union. The workers, on the other hand, maintain that the sympathy strike is all too important in their struggle to be abandoned, and they demand of the employers the unconditional recognition of the Union. Both sides are firm, and all efforts to effect a settlement have failed so far.

At the same time the city government notified the postal and telephone workers and the firemen that if they would not return to work immediately they would be considered as discharged from their positions, and others would be hired to take their places; but the threat had no effect whatever and the strikers did not return to work.

Volunteers offered their services to take the place of the striking postal workers and telephone operators, but little progress has been made. Moreover, when the workers of other cities learned of the threat to force the strikers to return to work, they decided to go out on a sympathy strike and if they carried out their decision, the workers of Calgary, Edmonton and other cities of Western Canada are now on strike.

It is also possible that the strikers will soon be joined by their railway workers.

Government authorities are denouncing the strike as a piece of Bolshevism, as a revolt against the constituted authorities and an attempt to establish a new political system. The strike leaders deny this charge most emphatically. They say that the cause of the strike are clear and their side is just and that they will fight until they win.

The government holds several regiments in readiness in case of need, but as yet it had no occasion to use them. Winnipeg is quiet, perhaps too quiet, because everything there is at standstill.

TWO GREAT MEETINGS

Two great meetings were held in Madison Square Garden last week. The meeting of last Sun-

day was called to protest against Allied intervention in Russia and the continuation of the food blockade. Frederic C. Howe, U. S. Commissioner of Immigration, was the chairman of the meeting. Among the speakers were Dr. J. L. Magnes, Amos Pinchot, John Haynes Holmes and others. A resolution was adopted to the effect that the Allies have not acted rightly towards Russia, violating especially the sixth point of Wilson's fourteen points in which the right of self-determination is promised Russia.

At the other meeting which took place the day before, thousands of persons protested stormily against the Prohibition law. The Chairman of the meeting was Edward N. Hannah, president of the Central Federated Union. He urged the workers to demand of the Republican and Democratic parties the right to personal liberties, and if the two old parties would deny them this right, he advised them to join the American Labor Party. Other speakers spoke in the same vein. One of them said that the question of using alcoholic drinks is a moral question which has nothing to do with law.

A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE "REDS"

Barring the large vote in the House of Representatives in favor of equal suffrage for women, and the opposition of the Senate to the measure, the Congress has not yet accomplished anything deserving comment; but there are rumors to the effect that it will soon set about the task of suppressing the "Reds" who have become quite numerous of late. The alien "Reds" are the chief targets, and a new stringent anti-immigration law may be passed against them; and if this would not suffice it is planned to continue the Espionage Act in operation in the hope that it may be made good use of also in times of peace.

It is thought in some quarters that both of these measures are

not quite American in character and are contrary to our democratic institutions. The fact is that President Wilson refused to sign such an anti-immigration bill, but it is believed that at the present time even Wilson will not hesitate to sign it. It is, indeed, unsafe to leave the gates of America open to all kinds of dangerous Bolsheviks.

And besides, Samuel Gompers, and with him the entire American Federation of Labor, are strongly against immigration. They would want anti-immigration stopped for a period of four years at least.

As to adapting the Espionage Act for peace times, this task was undertaken by members of Congress who know something about these things. Among them are Congressman Graham of Philadelphia, Attorney General Palmer, Congressman Davis of Ohio and other experts of their kind. They may be relied upon to pass a law which will give the "Reds" no living chance. There is only one danger that they may make the law too good, so much so that no one will be permitted to utter a word; but even so, the danger is not very great. In times like these the less talk the better.

ENGLAND FAR FROM CALM

England is still in a state of turmoil. According to recent reports, things do not go so well with the harmony between Capital, Labor and government which has been spoken of much of late and which gave rise to the opinion that England is an exception to other countries and that the present economic system would be revolutionized there in the most peaceful way. The reports from England are very brief. Whether they are abbreviated in the American editorial offices or in England, matters little. But short as they are, they are sufficiently long to tell us that the situation in England is very restless, if not critical.

Some thousands of discharged soldiers and sailors marched to the Parliament with stones and other missiles in their hands. The police succeeded in dispersing them. Later the same unemployed soldiers marched to the Buckingham Palace.

The demonstration was the result of a meeting which soldiers and sailors out of work had held in the Hyde Park. Similar demonstrations took place in many cities in England on the same day.

To make matter worse, the "Triple Alliance" — the railway workers, the miners and the transport workers — are again beginning to cause trouble. They issued an ultimatum to the government demanding withdrawal of English soldiers from Russia and the raising of the blockade against Germany. They also demand the freeing of all conscientious war objectors. In their demands they hint that if the government will not grant them it may expect a general strike.

The government, in its first reply, stated that these demands would not be granted. Thereupon the Executive Committee of the three unions at once called a meeting, and it is quite possible that in the next few weeks England will be in the throes of a general strike. The government will regard the situation as a very grave and the Labor Minister left for Paris to consult Lloyd George.

The situation is aggravated by the police, who have their own union with branches throughout England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, threatening to go out on strike. The police have the promise of the "Triple Alliance" to give them all the support needed in the strike.

At the same time the extreme revolutionary elements in England are wide awake. Last Sunday, at a meeting on Trafalgar Square, Tom Mann, the famous labor leader and Sylvia Pankhurst, the well-known suffragette, spoke quite openly in favor of an immediate revolution.

The situation in England is very serious, indeed; and those who have read the reports of Vanderbilt on the European situation in general, and that of England in particular, know the reason why. England as a whole is plainly bankrupt, and it is possible that the only way out of the crisis is a general revolution which will of itself solve all the grave problems which our present order of things is incompetent to solve and unable to stifle by brute force, as it has been the practice.

PEACE

From the Yiddish of
A. VOHLINER

Peace is near. The peace conditions are worked out. The Germans will probably sign them. There will be peace. So people say.

And there is a legend for you.

When our president for the first time left for Europe to take part in the peace deliberations an old Indian Chief came to him—so the legend goes—and handed him an old Indian pipe and said to him: "Go thou and smoke the pipe of peace."

The Indians have a custom of burying the war hatchet when making peace; then sit in a circle and smoke the pipe of peace which is passed from mouth to mouth. The Indians are savages, it is said. They know of no tricks. When through with war they bury the war hatchet. They smoke the pipe of peace and the war hatred passes in smoke. Of diplomacy these savages certainly know nothing.

So this native Indian Chief, the first of the genuine Americans, the 100 per cent American, decid-

ed that America needs a pipe of peace at the Paris Conference. But he forgot to give Wilson a war hatchet to be buried in Europe, and from this—the legend goes—all the trouble originated.

And when Poland is dealing blows to Ukraina and Roumania wars upon Hungary and all war against Russia; and when on the eve of peace there is danger of war between Italy and Jugo-Slavia and of all against all, it is the best indication that the war hatchet has not been buried.

Properly speaking, we have had peace for some time, since the armistice has been signed, some six months. But the Paris Peace Conference is suffering from a kind of itch. The disease was developed in the trenches and battlefields and it spread throughout the world, especially affecting the Paris Peace Conference.

The disease consists in the fact that it is not a disease at all. The person affected is sound in every

way, is satisfied with the victory and glad of the peace. But he feels an itching and he scratches.

Germany celebrated her holiday of the Revolution and she scratched herself. France celebrated victory and scratched. And Russia gloried in Social Revolution and yet it was worn away by the itch. And the same is true of Italy, Poland and all of them.

It is a peace-itch inherited from the war and like the war itself, it cannot be got rid of.

This itching was later complicated by another disease, a crying disease, also a heritage of the war. People cried and shed tears. They rejoiced over the peace and tears flowed incessantly. They danced in jubilation over the victory and wept aloud.

And all this is probably because the Indian chief forgot to impress it upon Wilson not only to smoke the pipe of peace but also to bury the war hatchet.

But to return to the point. We have peace.

The peace conditions were adopted in the hall of the Versailles Palace which consists of mirrors throughout. And wherever a peace delegate turned he would see his face, and all others present would

When Cloakmakers Strike

By FANNIA M. COHEN

Responding to the call of the Union tens of thousands of them left their shops and marched thru Fifth Avenue to the office of the Joint Board at 23rd Street and thence to Fourth Avenue. Long, endless lines of men and women marched in close formation.

All of them, men and women, young and old, Jews and Italians, represented the living symbol of the solidarity of the working-class of the class struggle which the workers have been waging for ages and by which they intend to make the world safe for genuine democracy.

Passers by stopped to watch this impressive human panorama, and they were curious to know what this march of victims signified, and why the peaceful marchers were. "The cloakmakers are going out on a general strike" they were told.

A policeman stood not far from us. A friend of mine, a waismaker, thought he looked unusually disappointed at the impressiveness and "peacefulness" of the march, which made his chances of using his club very slim indeed. In utter cruelty, to add to his mortification, my friend approached the policeman and said: "Please, officer, who are these people? Aren't they Bolsheviks?"

Various little incidents took place on that morning. Some of them are trivial and amusing; other, again, made one stop and think.

An old man, probably a finisher, turns his head and looks at the long line of men behind him. His face lights up. He remains still for a moment, as if enraptured. Then he casts a glance at the endless ranks in front of him, and a triumphant smile appears on his lips, and his eyes kindle. With his right hand he pushes back his black derby till it is almost vertical, then, a moment later, he pulls it over his forehead, and with the freshness and vigor of a youth he resumes his forward

march. His gait is so lively that his side partner, a pretty brunette, grasps him by the arm and in a tone of feigned reproach she says to him:

"Now look here Mr. Greenbaum, do you think it is right to run away and leave me here all alone!" At this the woman and the three men marching in the line, Mr. Greenbaum included, burst out into a hearty laughter.

Elsewhere in the line two women and an elderly man are marching abreast. From underneath the man's hat a small velvet scull cap may be seen, and a printed red kerchief protrudes from one of his pockets. The saddle of his large spectacles rests practically at the tip of his nose. The two women make sport of him, but they do it good-naturedly and not without tenderness. They laugh heartily over his stories of the former cloakmaker strikes when the operators had to carry their sewing machines with them because the manufacturers would refuse to let them remain in their shops. Reb Moishe becomes heated in the course of his narrative and with his thumb and index finger he takes a hearty pinch of snuff. When the thumb, index finger and snuff have made their way to the nostrils one of the women becomes "offended," and with a gentle tap on his hand she upsets snuff and all, and exclaims with feigned horror:

"Snuff at this moment? In a general strike! Why Reb Moishe it is unthinkable!" General laughter greets this outburst on the part of the fastidious lady, and some of the younger set begin teasing her.

"Well, you refused to march with us, so it serves you right. Now you will have to continue marching with your finishers who can do nothing better than take snuff even in a general strike." Reb Moishe feels somewhat piqued. "What is the matter with the finishers? Weren't they the first ones to urge work, even

though they knew well that it would lead to a general strike!" The operators who offended Reb Moishe are willing to make amends, and with a tap on the finisher's shoulder he attests: "You are all right, Reb Moishe!"

As I look at the marchers I recall the last two historic strikes of the cloakmakers, of 1910 and 1916, and before my mental vision stand up vividly scenes of those strikes.

I see before me the march of the same cloakmakers in 1910. I see them leave their shops with hesitating steps, with bent heads, with a wandering uncertain gaze in their eyes. No self confidence, no faith in their own power—the same that 50,000 organized workers can wield.

The scenes shift rapidly before me, and I see another march. I see tens of thousands of workers marching in every part of the city. There is anger in their eyes, there is bitterness and resentment in the very cadence of the marchers. This is directed against the manufacturers who, after a prosperous season in the course of which the workers had made thousands of dollars for their employers, the latter locked them out of their shops and demanded that the workers renounce their Union which they had built up at such great sacrifices. The employers were impudent enough to demand that the workers renounce their right to be organized in a Union or through it to join the organized labor movement which had aided them in the acquisition of their elementary human rights and had given them a position of prestige in society.

I see them marching with firm steps with a determination to fight to the last drop of blood, to fight till victory. This was the cloakmakers' reply to the impudence of the cloak manufacturers in 1916.

The march of the cloakmakers on Wednesday, May 14, 1919, was

of quite a different character. No signs of bitterness or resentment were visible. In this march of the cloakmakers one felt the certainty, the inevitability of their early triumph.

With calmness and dignity they left their shops, with the profound realization that they are fully entitled to their demands.

And as I stand on Union Square steeped in reminiscences I hear shouts: "Long live the Cloakmakers' Union! Long live the International!" and these shouts echo my feelings.

The ranks are becoming thinner and thinner. I join the last of the band we march into Webster Hall.

In the large hall on the first floor an old man with a silver grey head is seated, and a group of about 50 are gathered around him. The veteran relates incidents of cloakmaker strikes of years ago.

And again I think of the three great historic marches of the cloakmakers within the last decade, and I am happy in the realization that each of these "peaceful" marches has added a glorious page to the history of the labor movement.

500 Scientists Join Federation of Labor

Five hundred scientists and technologists met in the lecture hall of the U. S. National Museum at Washington and voted by a large majority to affiliate, through the National Federation of Federal Employees, with the American Federation of Labor. The gathering included botanists, zoologists, physiologists, pathologists, bacteriologists, chemists, physicists, and various other research workers employed in such branches of the Government as the Bureaus of Plant Industry, Animal Industry, Chemistry, and Entomology, in the Department of Agriculture, Standards in the Department of Commerce, and Patents in the Department of the Interior.

see it too. And it was difficult to hide his face with his secret diplomacy designs written on it, for he had not one face but many. Yet, it is said that European secret diplomacy was in a position to hide its dozens of reflected faces and somewhat fool our American President.

But this is an incidental. The main thing is that we have peace.

Are we satisfied with it? This is of no consequence now. What I want to say is this: Perez wrote a story whose hero is an idiot who could utter only inarticulate sounds of boo, boo. But as he kept on booing in his inarticulate way the gates of heaven were thrown open to him.

And some times it happens just the other way: one pours forth the sweetest heavenly melodies and with no result. The gates of heaven remain locked. And some times it is even worse. The gates of hell open and the devils jig to the tune.

I say this in connection with the perpetual malcontents who say that all the beautiful speeches that were heard from President Wilson and others did not open the gates of a lasting peace but quite the other way, a new hell of

hatred and war possibilities has now opened its jaws. It was a beautiful melody but God our Lord would not receive it with grace. What can you do?

But peace is being made, is it not? Well then, you ought to be glad.

In a speech delivered at Paris Wilson stated two things:

1. That the world cannot be made over in a jiffy, that salvation must come gradually.

2. That his ideals had aroused not too little but too much enthusiasm. People thought that salvation was at hand and he, therefore, found it necessary to warn them: "Go easy, boys! salvation cannot come so fast."

I refer you to Wilson's opinion in connection with those who go about with bent heads as if they are looking for something they lost; with those who go about looking for the 14 points in all their glory and splendor; with those who mourn and weep over the premature death of lasting peace; in a word, with those who suffer from the itching and weeping sickness.

And to those I say: Salvation will not come at once, and ideals are meant for the remote future.

And I further say to them: It is true that Socialism is Socialism, but to have a factory of your own is not such a bad thing, for the time being. And brotherhood of nations may be what it is, but pogroms are pogroms. And lasting peace is a lofty ideal but it has nothing to do with war. And 14 points cannot at will be foisted upon Clemenceau and Orlando.

A wise man Wilson, and he can always say the right word at the right time.

After all, if we want to take it the other way, the world has always been enamoured of peace and all peoples have been ready to cut one another's throat for the sake of peace.

Our prophets preached peace and Wilhelm II. was ardently pacific, and Nicolas II. was anxious to establish eternal peace. For a quarter of a century Wilhelm II. was rattling his sword; for what purpose do you think? Why,

to guard peace. And the whole world is so strong for peace that it is ready to wage the bloodiest war for it. And it is for this reason that after each war an eternal peace is concluded to last till the next war.

This is how the world goes, says Wilson, and you cannot in a moment put it upside down.

We are rejoicing over peace. We are pleased with it, and Wilson; it seems, is also pleased.

And if the Indian Chief will ask Wilson:

"Did you smoke my pipe of Peace?"

Wilson will reassure him.

And when the Indian will ask him: "Have you buried the war hatchet?" Wilson will reply: "Now look here, brother, first of all, you forgot to give me that hatchet, and secondly, all civilized people know that salvation can not come at once."

And perhaps also the Indian will adapt himself to the psychology of the civilized and he too perhaps will be pleased.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

CLOAKMAKER VICTORY AT HAND

At the time of the present writing we are not yet in a position to announce the end of the strike because the conferences between the strikers and the representatives still continue. When they will come to a close the tentative agreement will be submitted to the strikers to pass upon. For this reason it is difficult to state the exact day and hour when the strike will be officially declared an end.

But the progress made at the conferences warrants the prediction that the end of the strike is very near indeed. We are in a position to state that both sides have come to an agreement concerning the principal questions at issue, and that the remaining differences, though of a serious nature, will in all likelihood not stand in the way of a final and complete understanding.

We cannot as yet go into details, but it is safe to say that the Cloakmaker Union is on the threshold of a great epoch-making victory, which will justify the name of "quiet revolution" by which the present strike is generally designated.

A TIMELY WARNING

Evidently we have been mistaken. We thought that the time is past when the workers are to be instructed in the rudiments of trade unionism. We thought that the worker has grown out of the stage of mental infancy, and that it is time for him to put away his primer and take up higher studies.

But a recent meeting of the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union at the Webster Hall, at which we were present, made us realize our mistaken notion. We have come to the conclusion that most of the debaters who boast of belonging to a "Workers' Council of the Waist and Dress Industry" and who consider themselves quite progressive, have not the least conception of trade unionism.

At that meeting we, therefore, resolved to begin again from the first page of the primer. We are sure that a dose of A. B. C. will cure many of these workers of their unfounded views which are a hindrance to the progress of the essential union activities.

But this we do not intend to begin at present. We will devote some space in the Justice each week for this task; and we hope thereby to make better and more intelligent union men and women of quite a number of our readers. Here we merely want to give our earnest warning to the "council" members. Until now the Union treated them with a generous degree of tolerance. They were not deprived of their right of opinion, they were even allowed to

make use of the union platform for their "propaganda" purposes. But the members of the so-called workers' council, who, more than any others, are in need of rudimentary instruction in trade unionism, which we propose to begin shortly, are proving to be malicious obstructors of the Union; and they are even going as far as maliciously slandering it; they are, furthermore bent on knocking the very bottom from under its feet. At this point there is no more room for tolerance. Here the Union can no longer remain a silent onlooker; it must willy-nilly take steps to combat these destructive, undermining forces, and we, on our part, warn these misled, unthinking "council members" that they will get the worst of it.

At the meeting mentioned the question of raising dues was considered. Brother Seidman, the manager of the Union, made it very clear why it is urgently necessary to raise the weekly dues. It was obvious to all who have gray matter and are willing to use it that the Union cannot go on with its work if the dues are not raised. What was the reply of the "council debaters"? Did they attempt to prove that the Union could manage without a raise of dues? Not at all! They spoke of soviets, of sending shop delegates to the council and of similar irrelevant matters, and the question of dues they either ignored or ridiculed. Some of them even said that if the Union would go to pieces they would not regret it. They laughed when the manager of the Union spoke of the debts which the Union had incurred and which it is obliged to pay.

Members of a Union who are cynical enough to state publicly that they are not in the least interested in the Union to which they belong; members who do not understand their responsibility toward the Union and who laugh and jeer when the payment of their union's debts is suggested—such members need not be expelled from the Union, for with their conduct they have expelled themselves. No union can carry out its obligations to its loyal members if it has in its midst enemies hoping for its destruction.

We, therefore, warn these persons, whom we do not consider to be corrupt or hired agents of the manufacturers, but merely silly and hysterical, repeating words and phrases in parrot fashion, without grasping their meaning, to take heed. They have gone too far with their mischief. The patience of the Union is at an end. One more step on their part, and they will have good cause to regret their conduct.

We have before us a hand bill recently issued by this "workers' council". It is entitled: "To the workers of the Waist and Dress Industry: Just read what members of a union permit themselves

to say about their own union: "Comrades! Our long strike is over. But what have we gained! Notwithstanding the efforts of our official leaders to convince us of the contrary we know that the strike ended in a mean compromise, for by the agreement the employers have the absolute right at any moment to send any worker away from the shop. This virtually amounts to a complete defeat of our demands." (Italics are of the original text).

The bitterest enemy of the Union, if only he were in the least informed could not come out with a more silly and vile slander against the Union. Just think of it—to turn a brilliant victory into defeat! Think of the impudence to brand all Union leaders as liars who seek to convince the Union that it had gained a victory which in reality is defeat. And this is written by union members and by such who would be satisfied with nothing short of a Soviet. But this slander must be pilloried. The hand-bill states that, "by the agreement the employers have the absolute right of sending away any worker from the shop." We say here that the one who wrote those words is a scoundrel and a fakir, for everybody knows that just the opposite is the case. Here is paragraph 19 of the collective agreement which goes right to the reading, "Review of discharges." We quote here the relevant parts of that paragraph in order once for all to nail down these lying slanderers of the Union.

The paragraph begins: "Each member of the Association may discharge his workers under the following conditions."

Well, you lying sons, does it mean that the employers may at any time discharge any of their workers? When one speaks of absolute right and of anytime there can be no question of conditions. But in the agreement it is stated explicitly that an employer may discharge a worker only under certain conditions, which means that the right to discharge is neither absolute nor can it be exercised at any time.

And now, you slanderers, read further:

"The first two weeks of the employment of any worker shall be considered the trial period and there shall be no review of discharges of any worker discharged during that period. In case a worker is discharged after the trial period the discharged worker is entitled to review which shall be at first made by the clerks of the Association and the Union and if the latter fail to agree the case shall be brought before an impartial chairman."

"In such a review it must be established whether the discharge was just or unjust, and in case the impartial chairman rules that the case was unjust, it must be dealt with in accordance with the category under which the case falls."

Shortly after the strike was settled, we explained in these columns the difference between the discharge of workers for Union activity or for other reasons. And we will therefore not take up time to repeat what we then wrote. The important thing is that the Union suffered a crushing defeat and that the employers may at any time discharge any of their workers is a base, vile piece of slander which no Union can tolerate. Such slanderers would be dealt with summarily in the Lenin camp, so much so that they would not be in a position to do

any more slandering. But here we tolerate such creatures, and a mad like Scott Nearing makes speeches before them only because those libelers and slanderers grab themselves in the name of "workers' council."

The entire hand-bill is full of lies and idiocies. But we consider it important to point out only one more case of idiocy and baseness. It is asserted in the hand-bill that the strike ended successfully because of the bad-Union leaders and their wrong acts.

"Take for instance the practice of the International of making settlements with individual manufacturers and contractor associations. As a result of it, twenty seven thousand workers returned to their shops leaving only 8,000 in the field to conduct the hard struggle against the Manufacturers Association."

Well, on the surface of it, it may have a semblance of sound argument, but in reality it is a lie. The Waist and Dress Makers' Union properly speaking unites two industries which have but little in common. One is the dress industry and one is the waist industry.

As soon as the strike broke out, most of the Manufacturers both the independents and those belonging to the Association were ready to agree to the demands of the Union. There was no reason why the Union should let 27,000 workers go idle for with their idleness there were no aid to the remaining 8,000 who were employed in an entirely different industry.

On the contrary common sense demanded that the 27,000 go back to work and by contributing a certain per cent of their earnings aid the remaining 8,000 to go on with their strike as long as necessary. No secret was made of it. President Schlesinger and other leaders explained it at many meetings; and yet these individuals now come out with their denunciations of the Union because it sent 27,000 dressmakers back to work, as if their remaining on strike would in the least aid the strike of the waist makers!

Yet if this argument would be advanced by people who at all recognize agreements with associations, there would perhaps be some sense to it. But the writers of the hand-bill favor only guerrilla warfare of the individual shops and do not approve of agreements at all. And when they make out a criminal case against the Union for sending back 27,000 workers to work under the best conditions, it is plain that these people are babbling without knowing what it's all about.

We believe that the two extracts from the hand-bill are sufficient to give the intelligent reader a clear idea about these "soviet adherents", for whom the Union is not revolutionary enough. We hope that for some of them these lines will serve as a timely warning. But those who will not heed the warning and will go on with their pernicious talk and action will have occasion later to reproach themselves for their obstinacy. We have done our duty, we have warned them in time, before it is too late, when they still have a chance to become good and useful members of the Union instead of being a destructive element in it. It is up to them to heed the warning.

A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER

Concerning the decision
of local 25 to raise the
membership dues and
the obstructions of a few
extremists.

The waist maker strike cost our Union upward of half a million dollars. About \$250,000 was paid out in strike benefits alone, \$125,000 was spent to stop the work of the country shops and no less than \$40,000 was spent on bail, court fines and legal aid in connection with 3500 arrests that took place during the strike. When the financial report of the strike, now investigated by auditors, will be made public we will first have an idea of how expensive a war the waist makers waged and won.

It is quite natural that the treasury of local 25 should be rather depleted as a result of a strike of this magnitude. Some of the manufacturers are taking advantage of the present financial condition of the Union and are dodging the control of the Union.

To remedy this the waist maker Union decided to raise its dues to the amount of 25 cents per week, an increase of 5 cents over the present dues.

Little effort is required to sput about a "soviet" and a "council of workers, soldiers and sailors" in the waist and dress industry. The waist and dress manufacturers are not scared or even impressed by these empty phrases. To make them comply with every provision of the agreement quite a different weapon is needed—a strong Union and wealthy treasury.

I, therefore, urge every shop chairman and chairlady to see to it that the workers of their shops pay their arrears in dues. The new rate of dues will soon become effective and those who will have failed to make good their arrears by that time will have to pay in accordance with the new rate.

We hereby serve notice upon the manufacturers that we are going to make them observe the provisions of the agreement and submit to the control of the Union. They may as well know that if necessary the recent strike will not have been the last.

Brothers and Sisters! The future is ours. But we will take possession of it not by phrases and pious wishes but by organization and unity.

BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER,
President, International Ladies'
Garment Workers' Union.

The International Labor Bureau

By A. ZELDIN

The labor clause drawn up by the Paris Conference met with the same luck as all other hopes with which the world has been consoling during the war years.

As in the case of other clauses of the peace pact only an abstract of the labor clause has been made public. This abstract is sufficient however to give an idea as to what the workers can expect in reality even though its declaration of principles as regards labor sounds very good. The conference was lavish with principles and made no exception of the workers.

This declaration of principle may give one the idea that a new epoch is to begin in the life of the wage workers. The declaration adopted for its basis the principle that the "material and moral welfare of industrial workers is of highest international importance." Among the nine principles which the labor clause proclaims we find the following: that labor must not be considered a mere commodity; the right of labor as well as of employers to organize is recognized; a working wage should be established that would enable the worker to maintain a reasonable standard of living; an eight hour labor day or forty-eight hour week; a period of rest of 24 hours consecutively each week, and, if possible, this period of rest to be on Sunday; the abolition of child labor; equal pay for equal work for men and women; equal treatment of all workers of a country, non-citizens included; a system of inspection in which women should take part.

These principles, as we see, are not very radical in nature, but if they would be really carried out they would surely constitute an improvement in the condition in labor, though they would not bring about social salvation. But when we analyze the methods by which the Conference proposes to carry out these principles, we see at once that they are nothing more than empty phrases which have no substance behind them.

The one exception clause inserted in the Declaration of Principles renders them void at the very start. The Conference recommends the above labor reforms "with the exceptions made necessary because of difference in climate, custom and economic development." The exception of "climate" excludes all the workers of tropical countries; where most of the colonies lie, from the benefits of the proposed reform.

Well, we might have ignored these disadvantages of the Negroes of Africa or the Hindus of Asia if only we, Europeans and Americans, could derive some benefit. But the other provisions of the "exception" destroy most of the proposed reforms also for America and Europe. The exception of custom and economic development admits of a very wide interpretation. The Italian workers, for instance, is "accustomed" to living on bread and vegetables, to sleep 20 in a room. It will not be the duty of the International Labor Bureau to break his "custom." As to the exception of economic development, if we take the canning industry of New York State, it requires women and children to work in its canneries 14 to 16 hours a day, and in the spirit of this exception this industry may continue with its former working conditions.

But let us imagine that these

exceptions were not made in order to destroy at the start all of the reforms planned, and let us consider the mechanism which the Conference adopted to carry out these reforms. Upon examination of this mechanism, we will see that it will not only not be in a position to carry out these reforms, but that it was as if intentionally created to prevent these reforms from being carried out.

The mechanism or the International instrument will consist of an Annual International Labor Conference and of an International Labor Bureau.

The conference will consist of four delegates of each country, irrespective of the extent of the labor population in that country. Of the four delegates two will be appointed by the government and two by employers and workers, one delegate by each side.

The workers will thus be able to send only one fourth of the delegates to the conference and the other three fourths will be sent by the governments and the employers. This means that the conference at the very start took care that the greatest majority of the Labor Conference should consist of elements controlled by employers and governments, and for still greater safety it was decided that the decisions of the Conference must have a two-thirds majority.

These precautionary measures would insure that great powers are really vested in the conference. But this is far from being true. The only obligation on the part of the governments toward the International Labor Conference will be to propose its decisions as projects of legislation in the legislative bodies. Each government will have a right either to adopt the proposed recommendations and incorporate them into law or to adopt them in principle but not to carry them out in accordance with their local needs. In the case of a Federal State (the United States, for instance) the Federal Government will have the right to leave the matter to the local legislative bodies. In addition to this, each government will have a right to reject the recommendations of the International Labor Conference without giving reasons for the act.

In other words, the choice is left entirely with the governments. If a government is strong enough not to reckon with the demands of the workers, it may entirely ignore the recommendations of the Conference; but if it cannot ignore the workers of its country, it has every opportunity not to comply with the demands of the workers. Take the United States as an instance. The International Labor Conference adopts, let us say, the 8 hours work day. The Federal government refers it to the local legislatures which in view of their "local conditions" reject the project. The result is that the Federal government has acted honorably and complied with the decision of the Labor Conference, and the recommendations of the latter are rejected.

The International Labor Bureau will consist of 24 persons, three-fourths of whom will represent governments and employers, and one fourth labor.

The principal function of the Bureau will be to issue bulletins in view of the labor conditions throughout the world. Its chief powers

will consist in making interpellations to governments that will refuse to submit to the decisions of the Labor Conference, that is, will refuse to propose the decisions of the latter as legislative measures. And in case the Conference will not get a satisfactory reply it will have a right to publish the fact "swindlers' conference." In other words, the Bureau in such cases will have a right to appeal to public opinion and say to the government involved: "You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

How the Paris Conference intends by such an instrument to quiet discontent of labor is really inconceivable. Still more inconceivable is the fact that some labor leaders agreed to this plan.

A WORD TO THE SO-CALLED "COUNCIL OF WAIST MAKERS"

May 27, 1919

Dear Editor:

In discussing the conditions in our Union a well known labor man asked me what was the matter with us. "One group calls meetings in Carnegie Hall to Americanize your Union; another group calls meetings to revolutionize it. Where does your organization stand anyway?" And just to be cute, I answered, "We don't stand, we grow." Of course that was no answer, but it means that one element called the Council, effectively sees to it that we shall not grow but stand.

The Council avowedly aims to break up our Union in order to rebuild it according to its own pet ideas. If it continues to act as it has acted in the past few weeks, it is assured of success—success to break, at any rate. But is this denunciatory body the one to build a better union, or even to improve on the one we have? For the most part, its enthusiasts are for the most part persons who delight in hearing some people call other people bad names. They know little about trials of the labor movement. According to their "idealistic" intellects a Union should be the kind of machine that automatically produces shorter hours and more wages and everything else that is good. This machine should be a sort of Open Sesame. Since it is not that it ought to be destroyed. Our officers and active members should be guillotined for calling upon the membership to knead the dough if it would have cake. Our intelligent members don't like to knead dough, and insist that the organization is "fundamentally wrong" because it does not give enough cake.

The Council wants no business agents. But why is our office overstocked with complaints? Do you know of shops that are capable of adjusting their own troubles? If you don't say what the Council does if all business agents were to resign in a body? You say you would have committees—but all shops have that to-day, and yet they clamor for delegates.

When the bosses wanted to break our Union, we struck twelve weeks. Now we have members in our own ranks who are ambitious to break our Union, and shall we help them?

The Council has been issuing circulars of destructive nature. It is easy to destroy—a mob can do that. I shall line up with you if

ON THE ROAD TO THE UNITY HOUSE

Summertime will soon be here, whispered the hot breezes of last week. And straightway everyone begins to dream of a cool, green spot under the shade of an apple tree. For the workers the problem of a real vacation has always been a hard one. Even in the summer it is hard to find rest and beauty and solitude. The stuffy boarding house, the overcrowded rooms, the high prices for both living and railroad fare have prevented most working people from taking a vacation at all even in normal years. And this year it seems beyond hope. Not only must the worker spend his day-light hours in unremitting toil in the shop but he must see his beloved little ones fading away on the hot streets of the great city like flowers under the summer sun. An occasional day at Coney or some other beach beset in with hundreds of thousands of his fellow-workers in the best that most working men can dream of. And what of the girls? They have languished all winter in the close sunless air of shop and store until the roses have fled from their cheeks and the light from their eyes. Other girls whose fathers reap their profits from this exploitation are spending their time in the natural pursuits of girlhood, studying, resting, exercising, going to college, with no thought for the morrow, no worry about money. And the four months of summer are one long picnic, rowing, canoeing, tennis, dancing, that send them back to town with happy brown faces, rosy cheeks and rested brains and nerves. How cruel is an economic system in which not only comfort, not only education, but health and therefore life itself, is denied those who toil.

We are beginning in our own unions to solve this problem of obtaining not only more wages and shorter hours, but also more joy, more health, more life. Through the principle of co-operation we are learning to secure more of the good things of life than would ever be possible if we each lived simply and solely for ourselves. We are finding that by combining we can secure not only cheaper food, better houses, better clothes, as the workers of Europe do thru their co-operative movement, but also more true education and recreation, better art, better music, more of the beauty of Nature, more of the joys of leisure. That is the basic idea of the educational movement of our international, that is the basic idea of our Unity House!

Locals in three great cities have taken up the idea of a co-operative home with enthusiasm. No Local 25 belongs the honor of the

you have a program by which you can put into effect all that you lead the gullible membership to expect of you. In the meantime, if you are a responsible body, please be informed that it has taken years of endless struggle to establish what advantages we enjoy today in the industry; and that our aim is to fight on and on for more. We don't want to travel the same road over again.

Yours for a sane and progressive Union,

JENNIE MATYAS

first Unity House, for it was three years ago that with some doubts but many hopes the New York waitmakers climbed to the top of Pine Hill and found what seemed Paradise indeed to them. Only fifty could be crowded into that first house but they were fifty proud and happy workers, and by the end of the season 350 had tasted the joys of a real home. All sorts of dreams began to buzz in their brains. Why not a great place where the whole waitmakers union could live while out of the shops? Why not a great Unity House in New York that would bring joy all the year round, and would show the world what co-operation could accomplish. For the next two years the Unity House suffered terribly with growing pains. It grew so fast that it burst through its shells. The committees had to hustle to find a place large enough to accommodate all those who wanted to taste the new joys of co-operative life, and last year at Overlook Mountain there were three hundred at Overlook Mountain still living on dreams, still hoping for the day when there should be no more landlords, when Local 25 should have the house which should combine comfort and inspiration. And so this year Local 25 is going to the Promised Land, to find at last a home in Unity Village.

To Local 15 of Philadelphia, however, must go the credit for first having courage and enterprise enough to own her own home. It was almost two years ago that Local 15 under the energetic leadership of our Brother Silver set about raising money to buy its own country house. A beautiful estate near Philadelphia was purchased and remodeled to make it the most comfortable home possible. Local 15 soon owned her \$30,000 home free and clear. This summer the ambitious Philadelphians are planning a more enjoyable season than ever before.

The Boston waitmakers were the next to put a Unity House on the map. This time it was to be a seashore house. A fine villa not far from Cap Cod in the most exclusive section of the coast was rented last year by the Boston local, and hundreds of their members experienced the joys of a co-operative vacation. Rumors have been heard that Chicago too may do surprising things in the near future.

The idea of Unity is one that is bound to grow. Our men's local will soon realize that the co-operative idea is at least as good for them as for the girls. One hears many of our men members say now: "Yes, that is a very good idea for the girls but it would not do for us. We are family men." It is just for family men that a co-operative summer colony would be of inestimable benefit. They could send their wives and children to stay in the country for the whole summer at less cost than in New York. Rent would be nothing as soon as the house was paid for, and food would be bought at co-operative prices without the retailer's profit. A country home is as good an aid as necessary a thing for the workman and his family as it is for the capitalist. And from such a home the workers would come at

last to realize that they need not live in dirty hovels in the city. They will start co-operative societies to build clean, beautiful homes for themselves in the city, just as the workers of Germany and Belgium and other countries have done.

Dresses and waists have been flowing in to the headquarters of Local 25 all the week to be sold at the Call Bazaar for the benefit of the Unity House. Each shop is doing its bit to pay for the Unity House. Georges and silks, organdies and gingham, are all ready to be put on sale at the new

Star Casino this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 30, 31 and June 1.

Sunday, June first, will be Waitmakers' Day at the Call Bazaar. In the afternoon at two o'clock a beautiful concert will be given with Yida Milholland as soprano soloist and Maurice Nitke as violinist. A special feature will be 75 beautiful views of the new Unity House which will be thrown on the movie screen. The pictures have just been taken and show the new house in all its glory to those that are wondering what it looks like.

June is always a clean vacation month. If you want a quiet time and a splendid rest, register for the Unity House for the middle of June. Many shops will be busy in July this year and the workers will take their vacations at the end of June.

AMERICAN LABOR ITEMS

MINIMUM WAGE LAW IN TWELVE STATES

The minimum wage law is established by law now in twelve states in addition to the District of Columbia.

The twelve states having a minimum wage law are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin. The minimum measure for the district of Columbia became effective in September, 1918, its purpose being, as defined in the law itself, "to protect the women and minors of the District from conditions detrimental to their health and morals, resulting from wages which are inadequate to maintain decent standards of living."

Perhaps no inquiry into the subject of the minimum wage brought out a greater volume of opinions and data than the hearings before the committee of Congress which drafted the bill for the District of Columbia. The most striking feature of the hearings was the lack of opposition to the bills on to the principle of minimum wage determination for women and children employees.

Mr. Filene, of Boston, told how his department store established a minimum wage of \$8 per week in 1912, and of the new spirit and efficiency which came into his organization of 3,000 employees following that change. So successful was the scheme that the minimum wage was increased in 1918 to \$10 per week.

The minimum wage law of the District of Columbia follows the general lines of the Oregon law, which has been upheld as constitutional by the United States Supreme Court.

INDUSTRIAL MORTALITY RATE LARGE

Mortality rate from accidents in the shipyards of Seattle, Wash., is almost as great as the casualties in the front line trenches, according to officials of Boilermakers, Shipbuilders and Helpers' union. Thirty members of the local died since January 1, the large majority thru accidents while at work.

There have been 327 hospital cases through accidents principally, and because of sickness brought on in the course of work. Thirty-four members of the local are now in hospitals.

CANADA TO TRY AN IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT

The Canadian Government recently announced, through Minister of Labor Robertson, that a commission had been appointed with Chief Justice Mathers of Manitoba, as chairman, to investigate and report upon the feasibility of forming industrial councils throughout Canada, involving the representation of labor upon the directorates of industries.

SHIPYARD MEN TO STICK

Shipyard employees will not be thrown out of work. No shipyard will be forced to suspend. New types of ships will supplant canceled contracts. These assurances are given by Chairman Hurley of the shipping board. He explained that the prospective cancellation of 2,000,000 deadweight tonnage of shipbuilding contracts would be followed by the substitution of contracts calling for the construction of more desirable types of vessels.

UNITED PRESS TIED UP.

As a protest against violation of the seniority clause in their written agreement with telegraphers, the leased wire service of the United Press was completely tied up by the refusal of every telegrapher from San Diego, Cal., to Vancouver, B. C., to permit the service to start until the order was rescinded.

The United Press then receded from its position, and the operators resumed work pending a final adjustment of the situation by mail from the New York office.

Construction Projects Held Back

According to statistics gathered by the Department of Labor, there are now being held up for various reasons 2,326 public projects, approximating more than a billion and a quarter dollars. There are also 2,999 private projects upon which work is being delayed. These approximate five hundred million dollars of construction work. Together, there is nearly two billion dollars worth of public and private construction work held up in the country, apportioned among all the states, from Vermont's four public projects, valued at \$1,032,500; to the 220 public projects in Illinois, worth \$130,977,476.

The Cortina System

The attention aroused throughout educational institutions devoted to the study of languages by the Cortina System of teaching cause a representative of the press to interview one of the heads of the Cortina Academy. In response to the question as to why the Cortina method is more efficient and easier to learn than the ordinary methods pursued by the schools and colleges, Mr. Wupperman said:

"The great advantage of the Cortina system lies in the ability of the pupil to listen to the language he is studying. He has the teacher in his home—the phonograph—and can refer to it at any time which is most convenient to him.

"In addition to this great advantage, in learning by a method that has been carefully and scientifically worked out after years of experimenting, he has also a book to refer to. With these advantages he learns the language he is studying in a methodical way. The Cortina method is now endorsed by almost all the leading educational institutions throughout the country.

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2 MEETINGS OF CUTTERS UNION LOC. 10

CLOAK AND SUIT BRANCH

DRESS AND WAIST BRANCH

Monday, June 2nd

Monday, June 9th

Meetings start at 7.45 P. M.

at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOC. 80.

The Executive Board has decided to prolong the time of the payment of the \$5.00 assessment until the first of June. Any member who will not have paid the \$5.00 assessment will have to pay \$1.50 more, which is the International Assessment included, at present, in the \$5.00 for the special strike fund.

After June first, in other words, any member who will not have paid the assessment in full, will have to pay \$6.50 instead of \$5.00.

Executive Board, Local 80.

H. HILFMAN, Secretary

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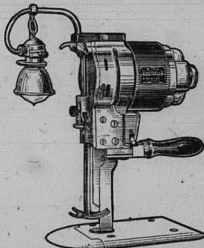
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READJUSTMENT OF THE DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS UNION, LOCAL 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The Dress and Waist Branch of the Cutters' Union is Local 10 is completing plans for the control of shops in the dress and waist trade. This districts will be apportioned among the busiest agents and then will begin a survey of the conditions as they exist under the agreement signed recently.

This is the first time that the trade will be completely controlled since the general strike. Up to now the office was flooded with complaints for back pay. Seldom since the dress and waist branch was organized were there so large a number of complaints filed. The agreements signed with the independent employers and with the Dress Contract Manufacturers' Association provided that pending the final settlement of the strike with the entire trade, the increase in wages shall be retroactive to the date when the agreement was signed.

UNUSUAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS

Wherever there are cutters who were retained since the signing of the agreement there was little difficulty in the collection of back pay due. The greatest difficulty was experienced in cases of cutters who were hired after the signing of the agreement and laid off before the final settlement was effected. In such cases the employers were, invariably, of the opinion that cutters thus laid-off were not entitled to the increase, hence the difficulty. However, up to date

every such complaint filed has been properly adjusted.

In the coming control the office expects to find a few cases where cutters did not as yet receive their back pay, partly because the notification sent out by the union did not reach some employers and the cutters are ignorant of the proviso, and partly because of individual understandings between cutter and employer. In the former cases the official will notify the employer and will secure the amount due the cutter, and in the latter cases the employer will be compelled to pay the necessary amount and the cutter will be dealt with accordingly by the Executive Board.

RIDDING UNION OF EMPLOYERS

Another problem that will very likely confront the agent is to compel employers who have recently entered the dress business to establish proper sanitary and working conditions. A number of these employers are very sure to be ex-members of the cutters' union. It has come to the attention of the organization that quite a number of cutters have entered the dress and waist business. The grace formerly allowed ex-union men to do their own cutting for the first few months of their new endeavor has been abolished and the business agents will insist upon their resignation and the employment of a union cutter. In order to effect this more thoroughly the Executive Board has decided to have its Attorneys visit

the Hall of Records at least once a week with the view of unearthing cutters who have become employers and still retain their membership in the union, and insist upon the hiring of a union cutter.

CONTRACT ASSOCIATION AND THE UNION

As to the gains—one of the factors largely at creation for them is the creation of the Dress Contract Manufacturers' Association. The organization of this class of employers has somewhat solved the problem of placing cutters to work where employers were in the habit of doing the cutting. Among the provisions in the agreement with this new association is one which makes it a violation of the agreement for an employer to cut. Thus far the union has had the proper co-operation in the carrying out of this clause. This also made it possible for the organization to place cutters to work in quite a number of shops which formerly could not boast of cutters.

IMPORTANCE OF WORKING CARD

The membership will recall that when the \$3 tax was decided upon by the membership the Board decided to charge this weekly tax against every cutter whether or not he was employed at that time. This assessment has been in force for ten weeks. Should a cutter prove to the satisfaction of the office that he has not been working these ten weeks, he will be credited accordingly. However, a number of men failed either to procure

a working card when they started to work or return it when they were laid off. And the furnishing of the necessary proof generally resulted in a good deal of trouble for some of these men.

Another result of the failure of some cutters to secure working cards is underpayment of wages. As the agreement has been drawn an employer is required to pay the cutter in accordance with the scale written on the working card. Hence where cutters fail to secure a working card they usually find it difficult to secure their proper scale of wages, which results in the filing of complaints.

CUTTERS LIABLE TO FINE

It can, therefore, readily be seen how important it is to secure a card. Aside from this, failure to secure a card is a violation of the Union rules and cutters are liable to fine. In order to avoid all this it cannot be too strongly urged upon the membership to observe this provision of the union's rules.

The Business Agents have been instructed by the Manager to look up cutters who fail to have in their possession their dues books and working cards. Hence every cutter is urged to have his working card and union book with him in the shop during the coming shop control.

MEETINGS

Reports of the coming investigation will be rendered at every branch meeting, as well as reports of the trade and the dealings with the employers.

Cutters are urged to attend the coming meetings, one of which will take place Monday evening, June 9th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place.



GRAND CONCERT AND CELEBRATION of the Opening of the UNITY HOUSE

of the
LADIES' WAIST AND DRESSMAKERS' UNION, LOCAL 25
SUNDAY AFTERNOON JUNE 1st, — at 2 P. M.
NEW STAR CASINO, 107th STREET AND PARK AVE.

CONCERT

Maurice Nitke, Violinist Vida Milholland, Soprano
Lantern Exhibition of 75 views of the new Unity House
Special admission to members of the International 10 cents
Get tickets at office of your local.

